

CLARK

Partners

WINTER 2019



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STORY

5000
VOICES



— PLUS —

Washington's education senator
Future of this world | Energizing ambitions





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– U.S. Rep. Dennis Heck

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COVER: 5,000 Voices is an initiative aimed at securing 5,000 donors to give to Promising Pathways: The Campaign for Clark College, and to share why they give to Clark College students.

Learning for a lifetime

Clark's Mature Learning program has been an integral part of our community since it was introduced by Professor Alfred Apsler, 46 years ago. Today, Clark offers a variety of courses for those aged 55 and older, from the story of the Nez Perce to painting with watercolors to iPhone basics. Mature Learning is part of our Promising Pathways fundraising campaign. Help ensure our lifelong learners continue to have access to these enriching courses.



A local artist practices her watercolor technique.

"Nineteen Pears"
by Carolyn Gunderson



"Twinkles and Crinkles"
by Katie Bradley

"The Sanderlings"
by Sharon Schwane



CLARK’S ALUMNI RELATIONS TOP 7 IN U.S.



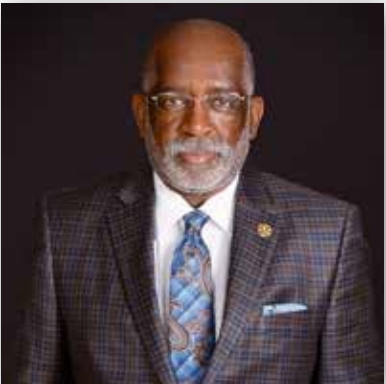
Clark College Foundation’s Alumni relations program was recognized in October as one of the seven best in the country for community colleges for the last five years. This is a new nationwide initiative by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The metrics consider fundraising, boards, alumni awards programs; and quality and types of communications like the foundation’s magazine, electronic newsletter, podcasts; affinity programs like the athletics hall of fame and graduation, as well as student-alumni interactions such as career services involvement and mentoring. The foundation hit it out of the park for alumni fundraising—16% of the total amount raised over the past five years came from alumni. Compare that to the national average of about 4%.

Mature Learning’s Reilly Kelly bids adieu

Tracy Reilly Kelly, program manager for Clark’s Economic and Community Development department, bid adieu in September. It was the end of a 40-year run at Clark starting as a Nursing student in the 1980s. By 1992, Kelly was teaching Health, Human Sexuality and Women’s Studies. She managed Mature Learning for 21 years, and Continuing Education and its cooking school for 10 years. “Doing the work of creating a quality experience for our community has always been my goal. It has been easy to decide on high quality versus mediocrity. I shudder to think of the times that I may have let someone down. There was always a new day, a new term to make things better, and to assess and become magnificent—what a fantastic career I have had,” she said.

New alumni director joins foundation

Ed Boston, of Atlanta, Ga., is Clark College Foundation’s new alumni director. Boston is coming to the Northwest from Fort Valley State University where he served in a similar role. Prior to heading the alumni program in The Peach State, he served as the senior director of the office of career and alumni services at Fort Valley State University. He comes with a great deal of knowledge on the foundation and college side of operations. Boston also brings vast corporate knowledge and background to Clark. For 25 years, he served as a regional leader for Mars Incorporated, focusing on team training and development. He will officially begin at the foundation on January 13, 2020.



Ed Boston will take the alumni director reins in January.

SWEET SUCCESS FOR CLARK GRADUATES

If seeing students succeed is the proverbial yeast that makes teachers’ spirits rise, then the faculty in Clark College’s Professional Baking and Pastry Arts program must be the emotional equivalent of the world’s fluffiest, puffiest brioche. In the past year, the program has placed its students in internships in locations as far-flung as Disneyland and Montana’s Glacier National Park. Even better, those graduates have gone on to land jobs in some of the most prestigious bakeries and restaurants in the region, including St. Honoré Boulangerie, Papa Haydn, Fleur de Lis, Grand Central Bakery—and in Vancouver, the pint-size café and bakery called Treat.



“Those are some of the top bakeries in the Pacific Northwest,” said department chair Alison Dolder, herself a Clark alumna. “It says a lot about our students, a lot about what they’ve learned and that we’re on the right track with how we’re educating them.”

Since the institute opened in 2018, students have been learning in a production bakery. Dolder recounted a visit from the owner of St. Honoré, Dominique Geulin, who was awarded the Meilleur Ouvrier de France for his artisanal baking. “We basically had this pastry god walking into our facility,” she said. “And he said, ‘Wow, you have all the equipment here you’ll have to work with in the professional world.’”

One not-so-secret ingredient to the program’s success is the Tod and Maxine McClaskey Culinary Institute’s professional-grade teaching facilities.

tidbits

PATEL IS A NEW FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER



Akesh Patel, a Clark alumnus and Vancouver resident, joined Clark College Foundation's Board of Directors. Patel '90 is the chairman, CEO, founder and spiritual leader of Evergreen Hospitality. Evergreen Hospitality is a development group that builds branded hotels like Hilton, Marriott, IHG and Hyatt. Prior to founding Evergreen Hospitality, Patel served as the 2012-2013 chairman of Asian American Hotel Owners Association, an association of hotel owners with over 16,000 members owning more than 20,000 hotels with \$128 billion in property. He has also served as a board member of the American Hotel & Lodging Association's Council of Inns & Suites, and the Washington Lodging Association. Patel has extensive experience in the hotel industry. His leadership has earned him recognition and awards from a wide variety of associations.

PENGUIN CHATS PODCAST WINS SPOTLIGHT AWARD



Left to right, Clark College Foundation's Rhonda Morin, APR receives a Spotlight Award from Brad Hilliard, APR.

Clark College Foundation won a prestigious Spotlight Award for a podcast from the Public Relations Society of America's Oregon chapter in November. The award recognizes premier communication campaigns and tactics in Oregon and Southwest Washington, and is a benchmark for best practices in communications around the country.

Penguin Chats is in its second season. Topics covered this season include a conversation with Sen. Al Bauer, Washington's education senator; defining moments from the 2019 scholarship reception; teaching and cooking styles of two Clark chefs; and local educators exploring equity, inclusion and curriculums of humor in early childhood education.



LISTEN [Clarkcollegefoundation.org/penguin-chats](https://clarkcollegefoundation.org/penguin-chats) or [Google Play](#), [iTunes](#), [SoundCloud](#), [TuneIn](#) or [Spotify](#).

Bank of America supports student-veterans

Bank of America Charitable Foundation recently provided Clark College Foundation with a generous \$20,000 grant in support of Clark College's student-veterans.

"Creating a safe and supportive environment for veterans at Clark College is critical for their success. It is an honor for Bank of America to give back to those who have given so much for their country," said David Reiter, senior vice president, Bank of America.

The funding provides for textbooks, on-campus dental services, career assessments, emergency grant funds and certification exam fees through Clark's Veterans Resource Center (VRC). The

grant counts toward a fundraising priority to raise \$2 million for Clark's Veterans Resource Center. Promising Pathways: The Campaign for Clark College is a \$35 million campaign aimed at transforming the lives of students, providing opportunities and sharing the legacies of Clark's partners and donors.

"From textbooks to emergency housing support and even dental services through Clark's Dental Hygiene program, the VRC performs the work of angels every single day," said Lisa Gibert, CEO of Clark College Foundation. "Financial support from Bank of America Foundation guarantees our student-veterans will not be forgotten."

New athletic director named



Laura LeMasters is the new athletic director at Clark.

Laura LeMasters is Clark's new athletic director. LeMasters joined Clark College as assistant athletic director in 2016 and most recently served as interim athletic director since June 2019. She has a master's degree in Kinesiology with a focus in Sport Management from California State University - Long Beach and a bachelor's in Sport Management with an emphasis in Communication from Washington State University. LeMasters brings a wealth of experience in student success, college athletics, marketing, operations and recreation from her prior roles at Occidental College, Central Wyoming College, and Lewis & Clark College. "Laura is a strong student advocate and has played an important role in ensuring our compliance with state, federal and NWAC regulations," said Vice President of Student Affairs Bill Belden. "Laura is committed to continuing our focus on academic and athletic excellence in our athletic department."



COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE COMMITS TO VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe committed to a \$246,000 grant over three years in November through its Cowlitz Tribe Education and Arts Fund in support of Clark's Veterans Resource Center (VRC). The commitment from the Tribe demonstrates a significant level of trust and partnership with Clark College and Clark College Foundation. This support demonstrates the foundation's commitment to expanding and building upon relationships with non-dominate communities in support of students. To date, \$1.1 million has been raised to benefit the VRC and Clark College student-veterans.

New vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion



Rashida Willard is Clark College's new vice president of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. "Rashida has earned the respect of her peers, our students and the community as a strong and effective leader," said Clark Interim President Sandra Fowler-Hill. "She has created and developed structures, spaces and programs to help remove barriers for students and she's leading the effort to create a culturally competent campus to help students succeed." Willard joined Clark four years ago as an operations manager in Administrative Services. For the past 17 months, she served as interim associate vice president of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. "I am deeply invested in this work, and am passionate about creating inclusive, safe and welcoming environments where all students have maximum opportunities to succeed," Willard said. "I am eager to move forward in community and collaboration, building on our team's momentum of the last several months."

Bingo for Vets is a success

The community came out strong in support of Clark College's Veterans Resource Center (VRC) during a fundraising event in November. The proceeds from the Bingo for Vets event, presented by Columbia Credit Union, will help support the VRC over the next year. Suzanne Donaldson, a member of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, opened the program with a beautiful land acknowledgment and honor song. During the evening, the college also celebrated recent grants it received from Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Anna C. MacAskill Schwab and Dwight L. Schwab Sr. Charitable Foundation, and Cowlitz Tribe Education and Arts Fund. Retired Maj. Gen. Les Burger, chair of the veterans advisory board and one of the founders of the VRC, was lauded for his commitment. More than 200 people including sponsors, speakers and guests were thanked for supporting student-veterans and active duty service members who attend the college.



EQUITABLE COVER STORY

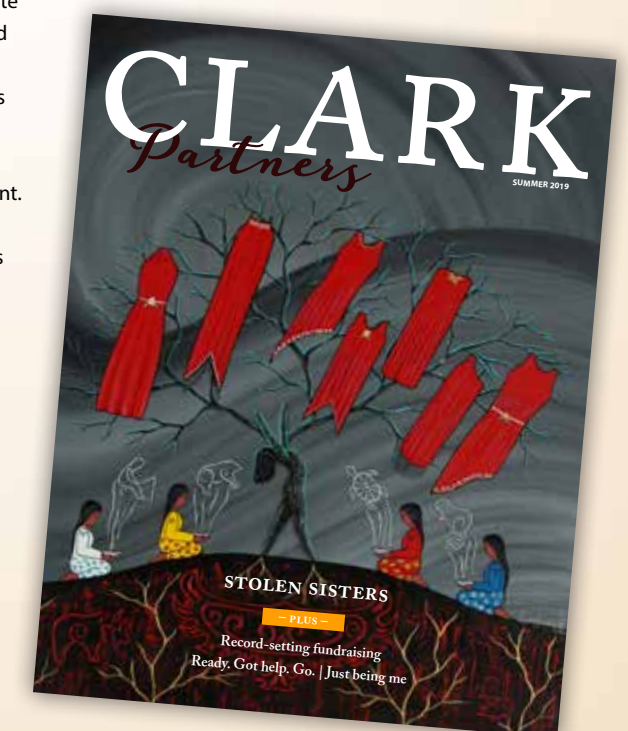
I really appreciated the [Clark Partners] cover story "(Stolen) Sisters." It was wonderful that you did it. It was great timing too, because of what's happening at Clark around equity. I felt so strongly about it I wanted to call you. I appreciate your efforts to make the area a more equitable place.

Derya Ruggles '00, former Clark College Alumni Board member

VICTORY FOR MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Kudos to the Clark Partners Magazine, summer 2019. The astonishing front cover by Mi'kmaq artist Loretta Gould is a dramatic punch to the title of the story "Stolen Sisters." The story by Claire Sykes explains that the red dresses symbolize the thousands of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, a growing phenomenon across this country ignored by the media, until recently. The movement of native families tormented by lost loved ones erupted onto the national stage and a brave Washington 14th District representative, Gina Mosbrucker, R-Goldendale, felt called to take this crisis into the State Capitol in Olympia in 2018. She won a victory to have the Washington State Patrol begin compiling information in this state. Without waiting for the results (which proved heartbreaking), Mosbrucker began the real battle to make changes. Bolstered by a warrior in the movement, Earth-Feather Sovereign of the Colville Tribe, Mosbrucker and Rep. Mia Gregerson, D-Seatac, pushed a second bill into passage in April of this year. It requires the state patrol to hire Indian liaisons to work directly with tribes to find the missing women or find out what happened to them. A reliable statewide database to record cases of missing females is part of the requirement. In July, Mosbrucker made a trip to Clark County to meet with law enforcement agencies, called together by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's Public Safety Department. They talked about complicated jurisdiction issues like how to handle cases when multiple jurisdictions are involved, such as state, county, city and tribal law enforcement agencies. There is no short way to tell this story or even begin to describe the valor of native women who relentlessly pursued this change or report about what pushed Mosbrucker into full battle. In the first instance, Sovereign's story would bring anyone to their knees. Mosbrucker's mission seems laden with omens and otherworldly coincidences. Mosbrucker, by the way, is an alumna of Clark College.

Tanna Engdahl, elder, Cowlitz Indian Tribe



YOU'RE SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF THIS WORLD

"I was born and grew up in a small community in the northwestern part of Kenya in East Africa. I grew up with a family of a doting mom with about six siblings. By age of 6 or 7, I lost my dad; that was the beginning of a tragedy in my life. After my dad died, we had a horrifying moment of trying to survive."

That was how Evans Kaame, president of the Associated Students of Clark College, began his address to the nearly 350 scholarship recipients, donors and family members at the 22nd annual Scholarship Reception in October. He went on to tell such a compelling story that guests rose to their feet as they applauded.

"I watched my younger siblings crying as my mom left early in the morning and came home at 9 p.m. We didn't know if we were going to eat at night or not. It really got my heart to see my siblings crying; I had to make a decision that impacted my life. I decided to leave and live on the streets in order for my mom to take care of my younger siblings. The street was a new life with so many barriers...but because tragedies happen in life, I had to do this. I had no other option. I fought cold nights in the street...being on drugs and breaking into people's homes. I had to survive. I had no choice."

In 2009, an opportunity changed the trajectory of Kaame's life forever: a nonprofit group accepted him into a program for street children to get housing and enroll in school. Kaame excelled at school, graduating in 2016 at the top of his high school class.



Evans Kaame, of Kenya, shares his educational journey story at the 2019 Scholarship Reception in October. Photo by Jenny Shadley

"I studied so hard, because I believe in education. The transformation that education does for other people, the aspirations, the sacrifice and determination people go through; I yearned for that."

After graduating, another opportunity transpired; a chance to study in the United States. Kaame was able to secure a visa and for the first time in his young life and set foot in another country—America.

"Today, I am speaking to you because Clark College Foundation really made an impact in my life."

Kaame is the recipient of three scholarships made possible from Clark College Foundation: the Shirley Caswell Rude, Clarence and June Irwin, and the Ralph B. Sackman Family Honors Program scholarships.

"You're not just supporting us... you are supporting dreams, books, the future of this country, the future of this world! Thank you so much for your support." 🙏

PENGUIN CHATS
Podcast



*Listen to the podcast
of the defining moments of the reception at*

clarkcollegefoundation.org/promising-dreams

by JOEL B. MUNSON

New Penguin supporters flock to Promising Pathways fundraising campaign

\$23 million already raised, **4,545** unique donors have joined

Clark College is more than halfway into its \$35 million fundraising campaign known as Promising Pathways, and the numbers are looking very promising indeed. Not only has the campaign already soared past the midway mark—nearly \$23 million in donations raised—but more first-time donors are joining Clark College in this critically important effort.

Of the approximate 4,545 unique individuals and entities that have given at least one gift to the campaign since July 1, 2015, sixty-five percent of the donors (alumni, friends, corporations and foundations) had not previously donated to Clark College Foundation—ever. Stated another way, the majority of donors giving to the current campaign are first-time donors to Clark College.

"This is extraordinary," said Eric Merrill, chair of Clark College Foundation's Board of Directors. These donor numbers "tell us that we are reaching out to more people, communities and organizations than ever before and that they are positively receiving the messages about the importance of this campaign to our students, the college and the community," he explained.

One of Clark College Foundation's goals related to the Promising Pathways campaign is to triple the number of donors from the previous five-year initiative that ended in 2014. This means securing unique gifts from 5,000 donors before the end of 2021.

Since the current campaign is already fast approaching this goal, the foundation will likely decide to move the bar higher. Clark College Foundation officials believe this will result in more gifts to support scholarships, Clark's guided pathways initiative, the Veterans Resource Center, advanced manufacturing, culinary, Mature Learning and other programs.

We're calling the effort to welcome 5,000 donors into the current campaign, 5,000 Voices. As part of this initiative, Clark College Foundation encourages donors to share the reasons why they support the college and its remarkable students and faculty. Read some of the affirming and heartwarming comments from people supporting Promising Pathways by logging onto clarkcollegefoundation.org/5000-voices. Leave your own message and join other proud Penguin supporters.

For more information on Promising Pathways: The Campaign for Clark College, and how you can participate, contact Joel B. Munson, chief advancement officer, at jmunson@supportclark.org. 🙏



OF ALL THE DONORS GIVING TO THE CURRENT PROMISING PATHWAYS CAMPAIGN, 65% ARE PROVIDING GIFTS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

SHARE YOUR GIVING STORY

5000 VOICES

Share what inspires you to give to Clark College.

#ipromiseclarkcollege

clarkcollegefoundation.org/5000-voices

Cattle rancher, lawmaker, teacher, education advocate and donor upped access for students across Washington

by LILY RAFF MCCAULOU

WASHINGTON’S EDUCATION SENATOR



Sen. Al Bauer, who divided his career between teaching, cattle ranching and legislating, is known as Washington’s education senator. Like Ryan Assay seen here on horseback in Idaho’s Teton Valley, Bauer used his time on the prairie to think about how best to serve his community and the state. Photo by Natalie Behring

In 1948, regretting his decision to work in a cannery for 80 cents an hour and feeling jealous of friends who had gone to college, Al Bauer showed up at Clark College with his transcript in hand. He didn’t think he’d be accepted since one year earlier Bauer had dropped out of high school.

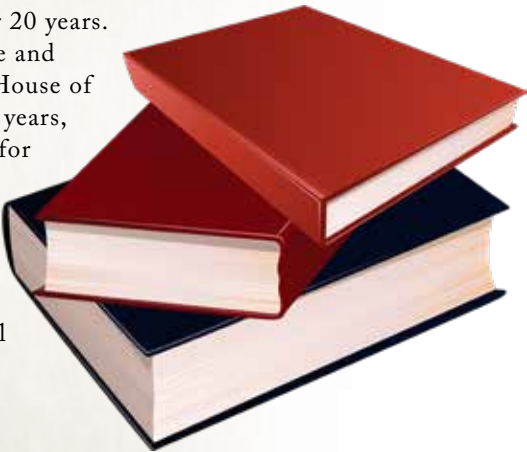
“I thought I wanted to be a farmer so I didn’t need an education,” he said. “So I did no homework (in high school) and ended my junior year with about a D average.”

He later took a correspondence course to earn the equivalent of a GED, but wasn’t sure if it would get him into Clark. To Bauer’s surprise, the credential wasn’t necessary. The registrar congratulated his effort, helped him enroll and even gave him a pep talk.

“That was a turning point in my whole life,” said Bauer ’55, who is now 91. “I attribute whatever I’ve done to my family and to Clark for encouraging me to keep going.”

Whatever Bauer has done is—by any measure—a lot. He served in the United States Navy, then earned a master’s in education and taught for 20 years. In 1970, he ran for office and served in Washington’s House of Representatives for nine years, then in the state Senate for 20 years.

He helped launch Washington’s successful Running Start program, which allows high school



students to earn college credit. He paved the way for Washington State University to open a campus in Vancouver.

“I think it’s true to say that without Al’s advocacy, there would be no WSU Vancouver,” said U.S. Rep. Denny Heck, who considers Bauer to be his lifelong mentor, in politics and in life. “There are a lot of people who significantly helped make that happen but pull him out of the equation and the campus would not exist.”

Gov. Gary Locke dubbed him “the education senator.” Bauer Hall, at Clark, is named after him. He has donated more than \$20,000 to the college over the last 23 years, so more students can come to Clark and find their own promising pathway.

RURAL ROOTS

Bauer was born on a Montana homestead in 1928. At age 8, he moved to Southwest Washington after his father, a German immigrant, purchased a dairy farm. Bauer grew up close to his parents and four siblings. He loved the farming life so much that by high school he didn’t see much

point in education. He figured he’d learn what he needed to know in the field.

“I dropped out of high school because I was bored to death,” Bauer said. Some of his high school classmates could barely write a paragraph, he added. With so few of his peers taking class seriously, he said it was easy to believe that school didn’t matter. After his junior year, he spent the summer working in a cannery then stayed on as his friends returned to school. The following year, he got laid off.

In a correspondence course, Bauer applied himself and earned As. At Clark, he felt encouraged to work even harder. One of his professors—Herman Foster, after whom Foster Hall is named—recognized Bauer as a bright kid with sizable gaps in his understanding.

“He had a lot of patience; he was just a good old teacher,” Bauer said.

Foster recommended tutoring to help Bauer get caught up. So he stayed late, immersing himself in his studies and finding satisfaction as he mastered subjects.

“I learned more in the five courses I took in those three months than I did in all of high school,” he said.

Bauer spent a second quarter at Clark, taking classes and running track. He finished second in state in the 2-mile race—an accomplishment that later earned him a spot in the Northwest Athletic Conference Hall of Fame.

Then Bauer enlisted in the Navy. As a petty officer, he trained lower ranking

*Listen to the podcast
with Sen. Al Bauer ’55 at*
clarkcollegefoundation.org/education-senator

**PENGUIN
CHATS**
Podcast



recruits in The Bluejacket’s Manual, a guide to nautical navigation.

“I felt so good about how they reacted to that, I thought, ‘I’ll be a teacher,’” he said.

After six years of military service, Bauer returned to Clark College to pick up where he left off. He graduated from Clark in 1955. He transferred to Portland State University to complete a bachelor’s degree and Oregon State College for a master’s in education.

EDUCATION SENATOR

Bauer taught in the La Center School District, at Columbia River High School, Shumway Junior High School and Jason Lee Middle School. His teaching spanned from the 1950s to the 1980s. Bauer quickly became active in the teachers’ union. He first helped lobby to require school districts to provide a 30-minute lunch break for teachers. Soon, Bauer was elected president of the Vancouver Education Association.

Then, in 1970, he challenged Bob O’Dell, a Republican incumbent, and won a seat in the state House. For years, Bauer continued to teach high school in the fall and then left for Olympia during the spring term. In his second term, Democrats took control of the House and Bauer became chairman of the education committee. As a practicing teacher, he saw firsthand the many problems in need of legislative solutions.

Bauer earned a reputation as a creative and pragmatic supporter of education. Despite his background as a union representative, he wasn’t afraid to stand up to teachers’ unions.

He noticed, for example, that one-third of his high school class couldn’t write well enough to compose a proper essay. That prompted him to sponsor a bill to lower class sizes in early elementary school, when students need

individual attention to learn fundamentals. The bill meant larger classes for high school teachers like him. He felt confident the move was the right thing to do, and it would mean students arrived at high school better prepared.

“The easiest thing to do is to advocate on behalf of your base. But it takes guts and integrity to look someone in the eye and say, ‘I know we usually agree but we’re going the other way on this,’” Heck said. “I don’t know that I ever served with or know of anybody that has more integrity than Al.”

Heck said Bauer was an especially effective legislator.

“Every year he’d have one thing that he wasn’t going home without,” Heck said. “And he’d drive those stubborn German heels into the ground so far... he never came up short.”

As a lawmaker, Bauer thought about what would have kept him from dropping out of school and what pulled him back into the education system. The result of that reflection was a bill he sponsored as a state senator in 1993 to launch the statewide Running Start program.

Lisa Gibert, chief executive officer of Clark College Foundation, said Running Start is a successful and popular program because it can be tailored to individual students. Clark has more Running Start participants than any other community college in the state of Washington.

“Running Start is such a creative program...” she said. “It’s not for everyone, and sometimes it’s a hybrid of both... the high school setting and the college setting.” A student may take some high school

“

“I attribute whatever I’ve done to my family and to Clark for encouraging me to keep going.”

— Sen. Al Bauer ’55

”

Below, center, Sen. Al Bauer accepts a Presidential Coin from then-President Robert Knight at the 2018 State of the College address. Photo by Jenny Shadley



Continued on page 18

Continued from page 17

classes and some college classes during the same quarter.

Bauer retired in 2001 and often rides his recumbent tricycle around Vancouver. He still gives back by donating to Clark College Foundation primarily for scholarships. At one Clark event, Bauer sat next to a 44-year-old woman of color who went back to college after her children had grown. Bauer was inspired by her, realizing the entire community benefits when nontraditional students have the support they need to pursue higher education. In 2005, he started the Patricia E. and Senator Al Bauer Transfer Scholarship Endowment, named after his late wife. Bauer attends an annual Clark College Foundation reception to meet his scholarship recipients. He published a memoir in 2007 ("Fairview to Salmon Creek: A Community Spirit"), the proceeds of which he donates to Clark. He also gives books to his friends and tucks a donation envelope between the pages to encourage them to support Clark scholarships. More than 40 gifts have been made in his honor from these friends.

STILL GIVING

U.S. Rep. Denny Heck was a teenager working for a local strawberry farmer when he first met Bauer. His older brother was one of Bauer's students, so the boy recognized the man when he walked up and asked if Heck had any extra strawberry flats.

"I thought it was kind of weird that he ran out of flats," Heck said. "I was like 13 and I'm thinking, 'hey, who's planning that operation over there?'"

Clark County was small enough, in those days, that Bauer knew who Heck was, too.

"He was polite and kind and he treated me like I was a lot older than 13, and I'm pretty sure he made some reference to my brother," said Heck.

Later, Heck also had Bauer as a teacher and worked for him in Olympia. Heck said Bauer became his "lifelong mentor," encouraging him to enter politics and to this day inspiring Heck to live up to the example set by Bauer. The two men speak on the phone about once a week.

"Now that my own father has passed, he's the closest thing to a father figure that I have," Heck said.

Bauer's late wife, Pat, and fellow state Sen. Joe Tanner, sought—without Bauer's knowledge—to have a Clark building named for him. He said he was shocked when he learned his name was emblazoned on Bauer Hall. For a while, the building housed the new WSU branch until the university moved to a permanent campus in Vancouver.

"It's more than I deserve," he said.

In a similar act of modesty, Bauer noted that he gives to Clark College Foundation for selfish reasons, too. He attends fundraising events at the college, he said, and looks around in admiration at the storied community leaders who support Clark College.

"I want," he said with a laugh, "to be one of them." 🤔

Lily Raff McCaulou is a journalist whose writing has appeared in The New York Times, The Atlantic, The Guardian and Rolling Stone. She lives in Bend, Ore. Visit her online at www.lilyrm.com.

Promising learning pathways for UPCOMING GENERATIONS

Linda Marie Gilliam is a discerning and wise investor. While living on a teacher's salary in Vancouver for more than 40 years, she carefully and astutely accumulated numerous residential rental properties. If that isn't impressive enough, during her retirement Gilliam has reinvented herself as an author and presenter. Her latest book is titled "Magical Management in the Classroom."

Gilliam spends less time managing and overseeing her properties these days, and more time pursuing her new passions. She's come up with a way to secure personal financial security while supporting early learning at Clark College. A charitable remainder trust (CRT), set up with help from Clark College Foundation, redirects proceeds from property sales to Clark College. As a result, Gilliam benefits in many ways, she

- 🌍 Avoids paying taxes on the property sale,
- 🌍 Receives a charitable tax deduction that reduces her annual tax bill,
- 🌍 Gets quarterly payments from the CRT that equal or exceed the amount she received in rental income, and
- 🌍 Doesn't have to worry about managing the property.

Most importantly, Gilliam knows that one day her CRT will help guarantee that teachers at Clark College will continue to provide promising learning pathways for upcoming generations.

Contact Clark College Foundation for more information on how you too can support Clark College faculty and students while securing your own financial future.



Linda Marie Gilliam with little Penguins at Clark's Oliva Family Early Learning Center. A charitable remainder trust allows Linda to support what she cares about the most—teaching kids—while avoiding the hassles of property management.

CONTACT CLARK COLLEGE FOUNDATION TODAY.

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Energizing Career AMBITIONS

by CLAIRE SYKES



**LOCAL PHILANTHROPISTS HELP
CLARK STUDENTS AVOID DEBT,
STAY IN COLLEGE**

Hailey Runyon, seen here in one of Clark's STEM labs, is in Clark's pre-Nursing program. A KMR Group Foundation scholarship allows her to be self-reliant. Photo by Jenny Shadley



Hailey Runyon wanted to prove she could support herself and earn her own way, just like her father had done at her age. Ian Williams' parents were flat-out unable to pay, so he had no choice but to be self-reliant. And Madison Rooney said that without student financial aid, she might never have gone to college at all.

Runyon '20, Williams '14 and Rooney '19 join the dozen or so students each year from Clark, and as many from Washington State University Vancouver (WSUV), who are awarded \$3,500 scholarships directly from Vancouver-based KMR Group Foundation. Twenty-five more KMR scholarships go to Vancouver-based Legacy Health employees on their way to Clark and WSUV for careers in health care, technology and other areas.

Ninety-nine percent of KMR recipients get \$3,500; anything less is supplemented with other types of financial support. Their scholarships are renewed for up to four years while they're attending Clark or WSUV.



Kate Jones and Marty Rifkin oversee the KMR Group Foundation. They are also small business owners and are seen here in their Vancouver, Wash., warehouse. KMR is dedicated to the education, health and overall well-being of children. Photo by KMR Group Foundation

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“Many of KMR’s recipients are the first in their families to go to college. A scholarship impacts not only the students, but also their families and future families as they pass on to their children that college is meaningful and valuable.”

— *Kate Jones,*
executive director,
KMR Group
Foundation

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“There are a lot of smart graduating high school students, and going to college or not is a fork in the road for many of them. If they don’t have a financial path, they have to start working and maybe they’d take college classes at night. We want the least amount of debt for students and the greatest chance of staying in college and graduating, and then getting employment,” said Kate Jones, executive director of KMR Group Foundation, which she cofounded in 1991 with her husband, Marty Rifkin, director. KMR is dedicated to the education, health and overall well-being of children.

Jones and Rifkin have a close association with Clark College Foundation; for years, they have helped the foundation promote and identify scholarship recipients. KMR scholarships are distributed separately from Clark College Foundation awards; however, both entities share a common goal of increasing access to higher education for deserving students. Clark College Foundation awards more than \$1 million in scholarships and other financial support each year.

ENTREPRENEURS AND PHILANTHROPISTS

Jones and Rifkin grew up with charitable parents, Jones in Florida and Rifkin in New York. After graduating from college, the couple remained in New York until 1987, when they moved to Vancouver, Wash. That’s the year they also founded Northwest Natural Products, later named Avid Health. It was when their 2-year-old daughter recoiled at the taste of her nutritional supplements that Jones got the idea for children’s gummy vitamins. The company continued to grow, expanding to 150 products, and in 2012 they sold the business for \$650 million. The following year, Jones and Rifkin founded Coremix Capital, a corporate investment firm. Their newest business is MyBite® Vitamins, nutritional supplements encased in chocolate, caramel, peanuts and nougat, and packaged in Gresham, Ore. The product is sold nationwide through Target.

As philanthropists, the couple participates in existing programs offered by local nonprofit

organizations and launches new KMR initiatives with them. One of those organizations is Share, in Vancouver, which serves individuals experiencing hunger and homelessness. There, during the summer and holiday season, KMR’s Essential Pack Program provides about 1,000 people with toothpaste, shampoo, socks and other everyday necessities; also stuffed animals, coloring books and crayons for the kids.

The most gratifying philanthropic endeavor for Jones and Rifkin is awarding scholarships. Since its beginning, KMR has provided scholarships to students at community colleges, nursing schools and major universities around the country. In 2012, in keeping with their ties to Vancouver, they added Clark and WSUV.

“Clark’s reputation is very well known and respected, and we were impressed with the great job Bob Knight (former president) had done in expanding the college. The majority of students who go to school locally here end up staying and working in the area after graduating. So if we can help get bright kids into college, it’s also an investment in our community,” said Jones.

She and KMR staff confer with guidance counselors from 15 accredited high schools in Clark County to select high school seniors enrolled in fall classes at Clark or who are preparing to do so. Those with the greatest financial need, a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher, and involvement in student activities and community service have the best chance of receiving a scholarship.

“We interview each candidate at our offices, asking them multiple questions in various ways to get to know them better, looking for someone who’s likely to succeed,” said Jones. “Can they make the appointment on time? How are they dressed? Have they shown that they can stick with things in high school and handle the greater responsibility and attitude needed in college and for their future? How serious of a student are they?”

Runyon, a student in Clark’s pre-Nursing program, said KMR is most interested in who she is as a human being.

“Numerous other scholarships focus on income and Free Application for Federal Student Aid



reports, and not the student’s character or their aspirations on their educational journey. KMR is different. They wanted to hear about me and the course I wanted to take in life as a senior in high school. They wanted to know me.

“[KMR] knew my career goals were ones they could invest in, giving me this money to help me better society,” said Runyon, who expects to graduate in 2020 and has plans for a bachelor’s and master’s in Nursing, specializing in anesthesia.

While at Clark, Runyon worked for the past two years as a certified nursing assistant at a memory care center. “My passion to be a nurse has only been strengthened,” she said.

COMMON GOALS

Clark’s degree programs in health care, mechanical engineering and writing for careers in education and business excite Jones and Rifkin the most, given their promising employment opportunities and less financial strain on students. The two are especially fired up about Clark’s plan to expand some of their programs to four years, and have talked with the college about offering more scholarships specifically for those baccalaureate programs.

KMR’s relationship with Clark College Foundation gets stronger every year. Jones has spoken at the foundation’s annual scholarship reception, and Clark and foundation staff have attended KMR’s summer luncheon for awardees.

Clark student Hailey Runyon is one of a dozen students who each year are awarded a \$3,500 scholarship from the KMR Group Foundation. Photo by Jenny Shadley

Continued from page 23

“Clark College Foundation is a valuable resource for our scholarship recipients. It does a great job initiating first-time students in its organization,” said Jones. “And we both have the same goals. We want kids to be successful right out of the gate, so they’ll more likely stay in school.”

Rooney, who received a KMR scholarship four years in a row, said, “It gave me the freedom to figure out what I wanted to do with my future. I wasn’t someone who was ready to go to college after high school. I had a plan, but I wanted to explore other options. It turns out I decided to follow my plan.” She received her Science transfer degree. Now a Mechanical Engineering major at WSUV on track to graduate in 2021, she is actively searching for an engineering internship.

Jones and KMR’s community relations specialist, Lexie Knight, herself a KMR scholar, stay in touch with students every few months via email. They also make themselves available by phone and in person.

At the holidays, students volunteer at Share to help with the Essential Pack program.

“It’s so much fun,” said Runyon of assembling the packs. “I get to meet all the KMR scholars. It’s a great environment to be around people who have the same goals and drive. We have a lot in common. And, we’re taking a break from our studies and putting it to good use helping other people.”

PROMISING PATHWAYS

Meanwhile, throughout the year, KMR and Clark College Foundation keep each other informed about recipients’ progress. Jones said, “Our strong partnership with Clark helps to keep students on the right path. As a team, we make sure they feel supported, as we watch them succeed.”

Recalling his time at Clark, Williams said that his KMR scholarship “inspired me to be a better student. By not having to worry about where my tuition was coming from, and mortgage my future to complete school, I was able to focus on keeping my grades up and preparing for a transition to a four-year program. I got the

best possible education at Clark. Additionally, having the scholarship encouraged me to stay active in my school and community, participating in a variety of activities on campus, including our student government organization and volunteering with KMR Group Foundation to help carry out their mission.” Williams’s experience is exactly the kind KMR strives to foster for its scholarship recipients.

Students participate in internships with KMR Group Foundation’s marketing, accounting, and facilities and operations departments, as well as some area businesses.

“KMR gave me experience in foundations and nonprofit organizations, which was useful during my tenure as a Clark student government officer and also later on in my career,” said Williams, who earned his associate in Computer Science, with highest honors. He now works as a penetration tester at a leading cybersecurity company.

Williams said he values scholarships, in general, because they break down barriers to post-secondary education for historically underserved communities, increasing access for students overall.

Scholarships like KMR’s help students who might not otherwise be able to get a college education and pursue their dreams. “Many of KMR’s recipients are the first in their families to go to college. A scholarship impacts not only the students, but also their families and future families of their own as they pass on to their children that college is meaningful and valuable,” said Jones. That message couldn’t be more important for her and KMR.

“It’s really a generational thing, and that’s the level we’re trying to impact,” she continued. “Kids come out of college more educated, with more communication and interpersonal skills, and getting better jobs because of a scholarship. And then the community as a whole is affected. That’s when it all comes together.” 🐧

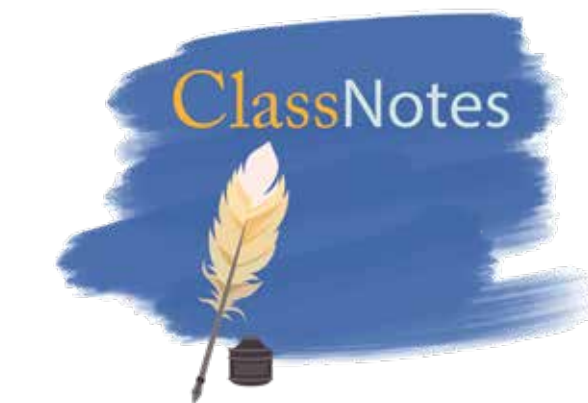
Claire Sykes is a Portland, Ore., writer whose articles appear in *Philanthropy*, *Ruralite*, *Communication Arts*, *Chamber Music Magazine* and many alumni publications.

THE 80S

Christine Eagon ’87 is among a group of artists whose work will be displayed in a new multimedia art exhibition in the guest artist exhibition space at the Historic U.S. Coast Guard Boathouse on Tillamook Bay in Garibaldi, an Oregon Coast heritage landmark. Eagon is part of the Nehalem Bay Artists Coalition, a group of artists that live and work in North Tillamook County.

MarkeTeam Foodservice was featured in *The Vancouver Business Journal*. MarkeTeam was founded in 1968 by Bill Miles who eventually relocated it from California to Washington. Today, the company is led by Miles’ son, Dan Miles, and his wife **Cindy Miles ’84**, who has worked in sales for the company since 2003. Their son **Riley Miles ’11** works as the territory sales manager. The business serves the foodservice industry in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, Hawaii and British Columbia.

Burgerville debuted a new hyper-local shake menu this



fall. One of the new flavors is a peppermint patty shake that uses peppermint candies from Seely Farms in Clatskanie, Ore. Seely Farms is the last family mint farm on the Lower Columbia River and is owned by **Candy Seely ’83** and her husband Mike. Burgerville estimates that featuring locally sourced ingredients for their milk shakes will keep about \$400,000 in the regional food economy.

THE 90S

The *Columbian* featured the Firstenburg Homeschool Community Program, a new initiative by Vancouver Parks and Recreation offering supplemental programs for families who

home-school their children. The program is the brainchild of Clark alumna **Stacey Allington ’96** and two other home-school parents. In their first home-school session, Firstenburg offered 29 classes with 120 students enrolled.

Janie Lee Corbett ’93 was inducted in to the Seaside (Ore.) High School Hall of Fame on September 21. Corbett was a 1983 member of the softball Little League team that finished as a national runner-up. She was also inducted into the Clark College Athletics Hall of Fame in 2019 for her participation on the women’s basketball team from 1991-93.

Nelson Holmberg ’90 was hired to serve as executive director of the Southwest Washington Contractors Association. He previously served as vice president of innovation at the Port of Ridgefield.

Kandi Lukowski ’99 was featured in *The Columbian’s* Working in Clark County column. Lukowski is the Braille program specialist and coordinator at the Ogden Resource Center, the fee-for-service business arm of the Washington State School for the Blind. She oversees the center’s 145 projects with businesses and governmental departments from across the country. Lukowski earned her associate degree at Clark in Special Education and Teaching, graduating with honors. She has served on Clark College’s Business Technology Advisory Committee since 2016.

Local civic leadership development program Leadership Clark County announced its 2019 Outstanding Alumnus Award recipient as **Tracey Malone ’97**. Malone graduated from the 2014 class

Outstanding Alumni Awards RISING STAR/ALUMNI AWARDS

Clark College alumni are doing remarkable things. We celebrate those who are making a difference on the local and world stage, and at Clark. They are proven leaders. They make substantial contributions to their communities. They produce exceptional achievements. They are truly inspiring people. The distinguished Outstanding and Rising Star alumni are among a group of exceptional individuals who are the pride of our Penguin Nation.

Submit your nominee for Outstanding Alumni and Rising Star Alumni online in December at clarkcollegefoundation.org/alumni/awards

and serves on numerous local boards including Southwest Washington Contractors Association, Camas School District and Cascadia Tech Academy. Tracey has been the vice president of Halbert Construction Services since 2011.

THE OOS

Tony Lothspeich '09 was among three Clark County Fire District 6 firefighters honored July 16 at Clark County Fire Station 61 for their roles in a dangerous rescue of a rafter on the Washougal River on May 4. Lothspeich was one of more than a dozen emergency officials who responded to a woman whose foot was trapped between two boulders with water up to her neck. Lothspeich also received a Meritorious Service Medal.

Vic Marcus '07 and **Karina (Marcus) Zaher '09** were spotlighted in the Vancouver Business Journal. The two co-own NWI Global, a company based in East Vancouver that helps businesses, government agencies and organizations communicate in more than 200 languages. The company was founded in 1992 and transitioned ownership to Marcus and Zaher in 2015. They have worked at NWI since 2003.

Holly McKeen '06 was sworn in as a general practice attorney September 20 and became Clallam County's newest deputy prosecuting attorney. She did so without attending law school, choosing instead to complete the Admission to Practice Rule 6 curriculum, an unconventional path to the legal profession. McKeen earned an associate degree at Clark and a bachelor's equivalent at Peninsula College before taking a position with the Port Angeles City Attorney's office.

Brad Richardson '06, executive director of the Clark County Historical Society and Museum, was quoted in a Columbian article about the historic Webber Building in downtown Vancouver and its uncertain future. The building is in a swath of land that leaders see as a key to connecting the downtown to the new buildings on the waterfront.

Corwin Beverage employee **Dustin Meyer '07** was acknowledged with a place in the 2019 Pepsico Chairman's Ring of Honor, a recognition reserved for one out of every 1,000 front line sales associates globally. He and his spouse Yulya joined 200 honorees from across the globe at a conference in New York City hosted by Pepsico Chairman Ramon Laguarta. Meyer joined Corwin Beverage in 2012 and supports large format stores for the company.

Washington State Representative **Brandon Vick '04** was recognized by the Washington Association of Education of the Talented and Gifted with its 2019 WAETAG Advocacy Award. The award is in honor of his continued support and efforts in Olympia to ensure that all students get the education they deserve. Vick introduced House Bill 1641 in the 2019 legislative session aimed at addressing inequities in gifted student programs. The bill passed the House Education Committee, though it did not clear the House Appropriations Committee.

THE IOS

Sara Angelo '11 was interviewed by The Columbian about a new community-based health workforce that aims to connect health systems to people who use them. Angelo is a coordinating committee member with Southwest Washington Community Health Advocate

and Peer Support Network. Community workers like Angelo can complement the health care system by connecting people to medical services, acting as recovery coaches, or approaching legislators and law enforcement to ask for change.

Vita Blanco '19 was featured in the Hechinger Report, a collaboration with a New York Times supplement known as Learning. The article focused on new routes to achieving high school diplomas and college credits simultaneously. Blanco was a high school dropout who experienced periods of homelessness and was working long hours in a dentist's office to support her family before enrolling at Clark in 2017. She earned her high school diploma and completed her associate degree in June 2019.

Dena Brill '16 is currently a live-in caregiver for developmentally and intellectually disabled people. Brill will be moving into a new facility in Beaverton with her employer, L'arche Portland. She will work to knit together the communities at the new location with the existing facility in Montavilla in Southeast Portland.

The Columbian profiled the Jack, Will and Rob Center, an activities center in Camas operated by the Camas School District. Children participate in activities, read, do homework and take classes.

Olivia Eagle '12, activities program director, was quoted in the story.

The Northwest Association for Blind Athletes, helmed by **Billy Henry '14**, hosted a Paralympic Games for children with visual impairments on October 4 in Salem. The NWABA is a Vancouver nonprofit that was founded by Henry in 2007. The

activities included Goalball, a sport for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, as well as tandem bicycling and beep baseball.

Joe Marshall '10 was featured in the Camas-Washougal Post-Record in a story about an October event called Our Bold Voices. The event celebrated National Coming Out Month with a resource fair, coming-out stories and a question-and-answer session. Marshall is a trans man who found few resources available to him as a teenager and now volunteers as a mentor at Triple Point, a Vancouver support group for queer and trans youth run by the Children's Home Society of Washington.

Veronica Marti '10 was featured in The Columbian about her work training a 10-week-old Labrador retriever named Jamboree for a career as a service guide dog for C-Tran. Marti, C-Tran's lead travel trainer, will be training the pup.

CLASS DATES UNKNOWN

Nick Richey, Los Angeles-based independent filmmaker, was interviewed by The Columbian in the leadup to the release of Richey's film "Low Low." The film, which is Richey's writing-directing debut, is set in his hometown of Vancouver.

Mark Tishenko opened the doors of his company, Edge Networks, in September to a group of tech-minded visitors in downtown Vancouver. Edge Networks was one of 14 businesses that participated in the third-annual Vancouver Tech Tour.


SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

Online: clarkcollegefoundation.org/alumni/class-notes

Phone: 360.992.2301

Email: alumni@supportclark.org

 facebook.com/ClarkCollegeAlumni

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Calendar of EVENTS

JANUARY

16

State of the College
Gaiser Student Center
11 a.m.

FEBRUARY

8

Hall of Fame
Gaiser Student Center
7 p.m.

APRIL

16

Sakura Festival
Royce Pollard
Japanese Friendship
Garden
1 p.m.

MAY

12

Outstanding & Rising Star Alumni Awards
Clark College
11:30 a.m.

Savoring Excellence

13


Savoring Excellence
Hilton Vancouver
Washington
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

SUBMIT AN IN MEMORIAM

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THE 40S

Lowell Hart '49

THE 50S

Sue Cannard '51
Roberta Ferguson '56
Wayne Hamilton '56
Gerald Hard '56
Merle Prouty '53
Gordon Purviance '53
Maude Ryan '54
David Skeans '59
Fred Veith '52

THE 60S

Carl Akre '66
Richard Brookshire '60
Jeanette Burckhard '66
Perry Cardott '60
Walter Gear '66
Myron Hastings '60
Kirk Horn '60
Lowell Kimsey '61
Elmer Kraft '68
Robert Kroner '68
Charles Olmstead '66
Nancy Rader '69
Jeanette Schmid '66

THE 70S

Keith Bailey '72
James "Jim" Belton '76
Catharine Byrd '75
William Clark '74
Ada Collier '75
Jean Cooper '73
Jeffrey Cox '76
Carl Goetz '71
Leslie Hallstrom '70
Glenn Harding '70
Don Heikkinen '76
Clint Hokanson '71
Marilyn Horrocks '71
Roxanne Lloyd '75
Robert Mulcrone '73
Patrick Murphy '76
Shirley Schafer '71
Karen Schmidt '70
Bessie Sparhawk '74
Lois Spear '75
James "Jimmy" Stevens '74
Laurie Walker '75
John Zavodsky '71
Clarence Zitterkopf '74

THE 80S

Nancy Chandlee '82



Masayoshi "Maco" Matsumoto, 49, of New Haven, Conn., passed away unexpectedly on August 16, 2019, at home. He was born on January 4, 1970, in Tokyo, Japan, and was the son of the late Hiroaki and Yukiko (Endo) Matsumoto. Matsumoto '92 was loved by many including his

brother Yoshiaki Matsumoto of Japan; his partner of nearly 10 years Frank Stellabotte; and his canine companions Pico, Lula and especially the late Louise Piccolina. Matsumoto graduated from Clark College and studied harpsichord and piano at the Conservatory of Grand Avignon. He began his career at the Virgin Megastores of Tokyo prior to moving to his second home in Los Angeles, where he was employed by JTB International for over 15 years. Most recently, Matsumoto worked for the Kitano Hotel and Rakuten of New York City. Photo by Frank Stellabotte

THE 90S

Eugene "Gene" Anderson '98
Tamara Auburg '99
Nancy Baker '90
Scott Barton '91
Tyson Gibson '94
Brian Goldsmith '93
Carolyn Hanley '95
Greg Lathrop '99
Masayoshi "Maco" Matsumoto '92
Scott Moore '90
Jean Westrand '92
Karen Williamson '92

THE OOS

Arlene Joe '00
Gerald Martin '00
Kimberly Schwaebe '03

THE IOS

Andrew Harig '17


CLASS DATES UNKNOWN

Carl Burkheimer
Virginia Cassa
Beverly Cooperman
Martha Craig
Quannah Davis
Michael Dickerson
Elizabeth "Beth" Eggett
Colleen Frank
Anne Garlinghouse

Bonnie Graham
Steven Harshman
Donna Higgins
Priscilla Hughes
Duane Milton Koski
Marvin Lea
Jack Leach
Kathleen Lewis
Geraldine Lonergan
Elvera Luttrell
Rudolph "Rudy" Luepke
Melanie Maiorino
Carl Mathews
Oerdel Matlick
Jean Miller
Darwin Moody
Norma Pack
Alan Douglas Schurman
Krystyna Sims
Dennis Smith
David "Dave" Sommer
Charles Swift
Benjamin Tibbs
Quynh Truong
Dick Lee Wills
Diane Wuitschick
Marcielle Zoller

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PROMISING PATHWAYS

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Our Penguin Chats podcast offers fascinating conversations with Clark alumni, partners, donors, faculty and students. Thank you to our sponsors Vesta Hospitality, Ginn Group, Waste Connections of Washington and Quail Homes.

SEASON TWO



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