

CLARK

Partners

SPRING 2021

Environmental Verve

- ⊕ MORE ENTREPRENEURS = MORE LIVING-WAGE JOBS
- ⊕ GEOLOGISTS WHO LOOK LIKE ME
- ⊕ CREATING SUPER GREEN CITIES WITH DENIS HAYES '64



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MORE ENTREPRENEURS = MORE LIVING-WAGE JOB

Entrepreneur Mark Zimmerman is eager to show Clark students what can happen when they find meaningful work that they love. He and his wife, Sharon, are committed to matching students with industry internships while being paid a fair hourly wage.

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“As a business, I need trained people that are thinking about the future. They need skills to do what they need to today but their mindset needs to be, ‘What’s next?’”

– Mark Zimmerman, business partner with Clark

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Clark College alumni are playing an active role in local and national eco-friendly efforts. They’re teaching the next generation of environmentalists by changing public policies and raising awareness about the relationship between the economy and pollution.

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GEOLOGISTS WHO LOOK LIKE ME

Geology professor Michelle Stoklosa explains how she and other Clark science instructors are creating a sense of belonging in the classroom and making their courses more welcoming to all students.

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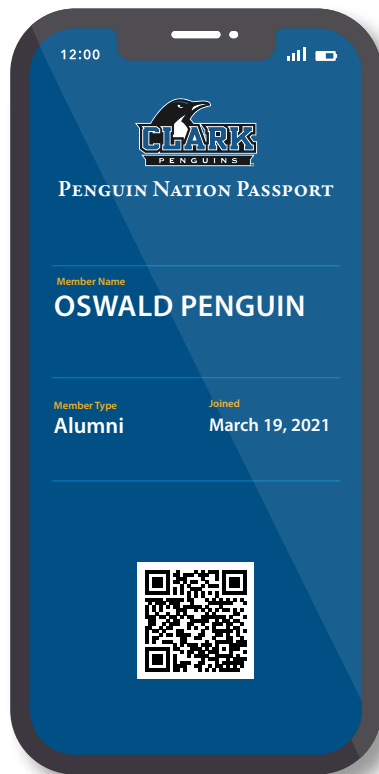
COVER: This edition includes several stories about the interdependence humans have with the environment. Photo by Freepik.com

NEW PENGUIN NATION PASSPORT IS DIGITAL

Introducing the new Clark College Penguin Nation Passport. This digital passport easily uploads to a digital wallet feature on Apple and Android smartphones, and provides access to an array of benefits including Clark's alumni career services, discounts and special offers with local businesses. The digital passport also has links to a directory of alumni-owned businesses, audio and video resources, special events, social media connections, donor portals and surveys. By downloading the passport, you gain easy access to all of the benefits available to the Penguin Nation.

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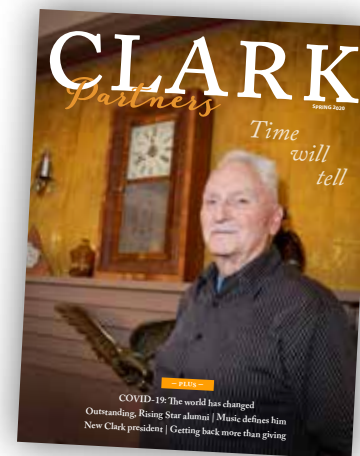
Newest member joins Clark College Foundation Board of Directors

Sharif Burdzik joined Clark College Foundation's Board of Directors in December 2020. Burdzik is a vice president and commercial relationship manager at Lewis & Clark Bank and a former executive at Riverview Community Bank. He has worked in local community banking since the early 2000s after moving to the Pacific Northwest from his home state of Kansas. He is part of Clark College's Veterans Advisory Board, where he serves as the chair. Burdzik is also one of the founders of the International Festival on Fourth Plain and currently serves on the Washington State University Diversity Advisory Board. He is also a director for the Friends of the Elder Justice Center and Partners in Careers. A graduate of the University of Kansas and Pacific Coast Banking School, Burdzik enjoys skiing, hiking, reading and spending time with his son, who is a junior at Oregon State University.



Sharif Burdzik joined Clark College Foundation's Board of Directors in December. Photo by Aevum Images

"Time will tell" story wins awards



A Clark alumnus is again in the spotlight. George Oberg Jr.'s inspiring story about how he shaped the Pacific Northwest LGBTQIA+ movement won a bronze award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District 8. Additionally, the story was recognized with an Opportunity and Inclusion Endorsement for the topic and its writers. The feature story "Time Will Tell" appeared in the spring 2020 edition of Clark Partners magazine.

"We felt this was a strong story, tackling a very critical issue in society today. This was a good way to profile how one alumnus impacted the movement," said the judges of the award when it was announced in January 2021.

The feature, which was the cover story for the spring edition, details Oberg's 50 years of activism beginning with the fundamentals he learned at Clark College. Oberg, a 1958 alumnus, is a pioneer and a hero to many who helped bring about significant social and cultural change in the region. In the wake of the 1969 New York City Stonewall riots, Oberg and a close-knit group of people knew they needed to shake up the perception about LGBTQIA+ and take a stand. That's exactly what they did. In 2020, Oberg received Clark College's most prestigious alumni honor, the Outstanding Alumni Award, for his activism and commitment to the college.

Dedicated Penguin Jock Coombe passes



Frederick "Jock" Coombe II, 71, of Vancouver, Wash., died Dec. 10, 2020. He was a member of Clark College's class of 1969 and continued to the University of Washington and University of Portland, where he graduated in 1972 and 1976, respectively. He worked

as an engineer at Bonneville Power Administration, as an accounting and information systems manager at Portland General Electric, a finance systems supervisor at General Dynamics, served in various operations positions at Associated Technologies Inc. in California and Mexico, and as a comptroller for Uniband Inc. in North Dakota. Coombe was a site manager for immigration and naturalization in Los Angeles and a senior finance and accounting manager for the Computer Sciences Corporation at Edwards Air Force Base. He's also a former Air Force program manager and flight test engineer. Coombe always felt the calling to serve. He supported the college and its students for more than 15 years. In 2018,



Left front, Jock Coombe '69 with other past and current members of the alumni relations board. He died in December.

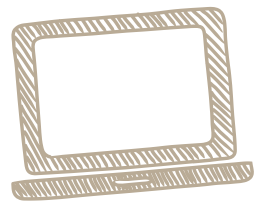
he joined Clark College Foundation's Alumni Relations Board and served on the athletics committee. His passion for Clark College reconnected him to his hometown community after retirement and was surpassed only by his love for car collecting, including a rare, mint-condition Sunbeam Tiger. The alumnus was an inspirational and powerful force in Clark's community.



MORE ENTREPRENEURS = MORE LIVING-WAGE JOBS

Local business helps Clark students find meaningful work

by LILY RAFF MCCAULOU



Left, Sharon and Mark Zimmerman stand with Chris Hartnell, an air medical and firefighting pilot, in California in 2017. Right, a Bell 407 helicopter using a Simplex Agricultural Application system spraying fertilizer in New Zealand in 2007. Photos courtesy of Mark Zimmerman

F

or the first decade or so of his career, Mark Zimmerman stuck to his own rule: never stay in a job for longer than two years.

After graduating from Oregon State University, he went to work for a large accounting firm, where he specialized in the manufacturing industry. He then switched to various manufacturing companies and with each new job, he learned as much as he could to snag a promotion—or find a new opportunity elsewhere.

“I had an ‘up-or-out’ philosophy,” he said. “I wanted to learn and contribute to the business but I wasn’t willing to let myself get bored.”

He eventually did settle in with a company, and it was during that time that he forged a connection with Clark College.

In 2001, Zimmerman was approached by the new owners of a company called Simplex Aerospace. They had recently purchased a small, family-owned business and were looking to help it grow and diversify. Simplex makes aviation mission equipment—sprayers for crop dusters or for fighting wildfires, for example—and contraptions to service remote wind turbines and power lines. It was

founded 75 years ago by a self-described “tinkerer.” The culture of experimentation and camaraderie matched Zimmerman’s own entrepreneurial spirit. When Simplex was developing an accessory for dump trucks, Zimmerman said, a longtime employee drove her pickup truck to work and then watched as coworkers outfitted it with pneumatics to test their new device.

Zimmerman said he was also drawn to Simplex’s deep commitment to safety. In a previous job, working for a wood products manufacturer, Zimmerman lost a coworker who died on the job; he worked closely with his coworker’s family to help them claim their survivor benefits. It was a heartbreaking experience that Zimmerman vowed never to repeat.

As the years ticked by, something strange happened to Zimmerman: he stayed put. Simplex grew from 15 employees to nearly 60. It developed new products and expanded its business overseas. Zimmerman got involved in product development, and he holds patents on products such as the SkyCannon, which allows small aircraft to shoot water horizontally into high-rise buildings to extinguish fires that can’t be reached from the ground.

As his career with Simplex flourished, he began hosting interns at the company, eager to show Clark students what can happen when they find meaningful work that they love. He volunteered with Clark’s Entrepreneurial and Aeronautical clubs. He encouraged his wife to get involved with the college, too.

Continued on next page

PANDEMIC TIMELINE

Starting here and on the following pages, is a list of some of the major milestones at Clark during the pandemic.

Eight outstanding educators are the newest members of the tenured faculty at Clark College.

MARCH 11, 2020



MARCH 17, 2020

Gov. Jay Inslee mandates that all state community colleges move to remote operations.

Laptops and hotspots made available to Clark students to learn virtually.

APRIL 6, 2020



APRIL 20, 2020

Clark switches 2,000 courses to online for delayed spring quarter.



CALLING CLARK ALUMNI

When the college returns to in-person operations, there's a need for volunteers. Sign up to assist with a college event or program. Help connect the college with new resources.



Contact Ed Boston, director of alumni relations, at alumni@supportclark.org or 360.992.2767.

"As businesspeople," Zimmerman said, "we have to partner with Clark."

ENTREPRENEURIAL CULTURE

At first, someone from the college contacted Zimmerman and asked if Simplex would be interested in having interns from the school's drafting department help draw up technical designs.

"They said, 'we just want them to get some work experience, you don't have to pay them,'" Zimmerman recalled. Zimmerman agreed to the interns, on one condition: he was going to pay a fair hourly wage—about \$12 an hour—to anyone who interned at Simplex. The decision was rooted in a firm belief.

"You don't work for free," he said.

It soon dawned on Zimmerman that he could do more for the college—and get more in return—than host interns. One of his suppliers mentioned having difficulty finding skilled machinists in the area. Zimmerman reached out to a handful of community colleges in and around Portland that taught machining.

"Clark was the only one I heard back from," he said.

Zimmerman invited his colleague to join him on a tour of Clark, where the person noticed that Clark's machining program didn't train students on quoting or estimating the cost of a job.

"He said, 'you need to add quoting to the curriculum—and I'll help teach it,'" Zimmerman recalled.

For Zimmerman, that moment highlighted what can happen when local businesspeople partner with Clark. Experts in their industries can ensure that Clark students receive a comprehensive and relevant education so they're qualified to work after graduation. Businesses then provide jobs for these graduates. And when local businesses find the well-trained employees they need right here at Clark, instead of having to move people in from other areas, the region's economy gets a boost.

Zimmerman was introduced to Nathan Webster, director of the club Clark Entrepreneurs, who inspired Zimmerman to do more for the college. He invited Zimmerman to participate in the club, as well as a second club, Aerospace.

Webster owns a marketing firm called N&W Associates, where he, too, has hosted Clark interns. Webster said more and more industries are moving away from unpaid internships. Particularly for a community college like Clark, paid internships offer equity, as many students can't afford to work without pay, according to Webster.

"And a lot of Clark students already have skills," he said. "Many of them have been displaced from other jobs and they're training for new careers but they already have work experience."

Webster said that partnerships with local businesses are a win-win for the college and for the local economy. He pointed to Clark's Nursing and Dental Hygiene programs as model departments

that already enjoy close connections with local employers. Hospitals and dentists in the area help shape current students' educations and then stand ready to hire them upon graduation.

There is a similar opportunity, he said, to forge connections with a variety of other private businesses to help develop a diverse workforce. And it all comes at an opportune moment, according to Webster, as downtown Portland—which historically outshined surrounding communities like Vancouver—struggles with a reputation for rampant homelessness and disruptive protests.

"This is possibly the first time Vancouver has had to... stop hiding in the shadows of Portland and stand on its own merit," Webster said. "We need to encourage, promote and provide the type of culture that is going to create entrepreneurs, which is going to create businesses which is going to create living-wage jobs."

FAMILY INTEREST

Mark Zimmerman shared his Clark experiences over dinner. His wife, Sharon Zimmerman, had her own personal experience with community college. She went to a four-year university but then she and Mark got married and had children. Ten years later, when Sharon Zimmerman decided to go back to school, she enrolled in a community college close to home.

"The education that I got there was wonderful, just a great foundation," she said. "And I liked that the other students were so serious about it." Many were older, like her. Even the students who had recently finished high school were working part time and spending their own money on tuition, so they took their studies seriously.

After an introduction from Mark, Sharon Zimmerman connected with the college and began meeting with groups of students. Her professional background is in municipal engineering, which means she often works on projects that people don't even realize require engineers—city parks, roads, sewer systems. When she spoke to Clark students, she made sure they knew of the broad spectrum of engineering careers.

"My interest is in trying to inform and educate people about what the engineering profession

is and how critical it is to our economy, our transportation, our public health," she said. "There is so much diversity in engineering."

Trisha Haakonstad, a career adviser at Clark, said internships are just one example of what she calls "work-based learning." The college has an online job board, called Penguin Jobs, where students can browse opportunities. And the career services office can help students find opportunities beyond those listings, too.

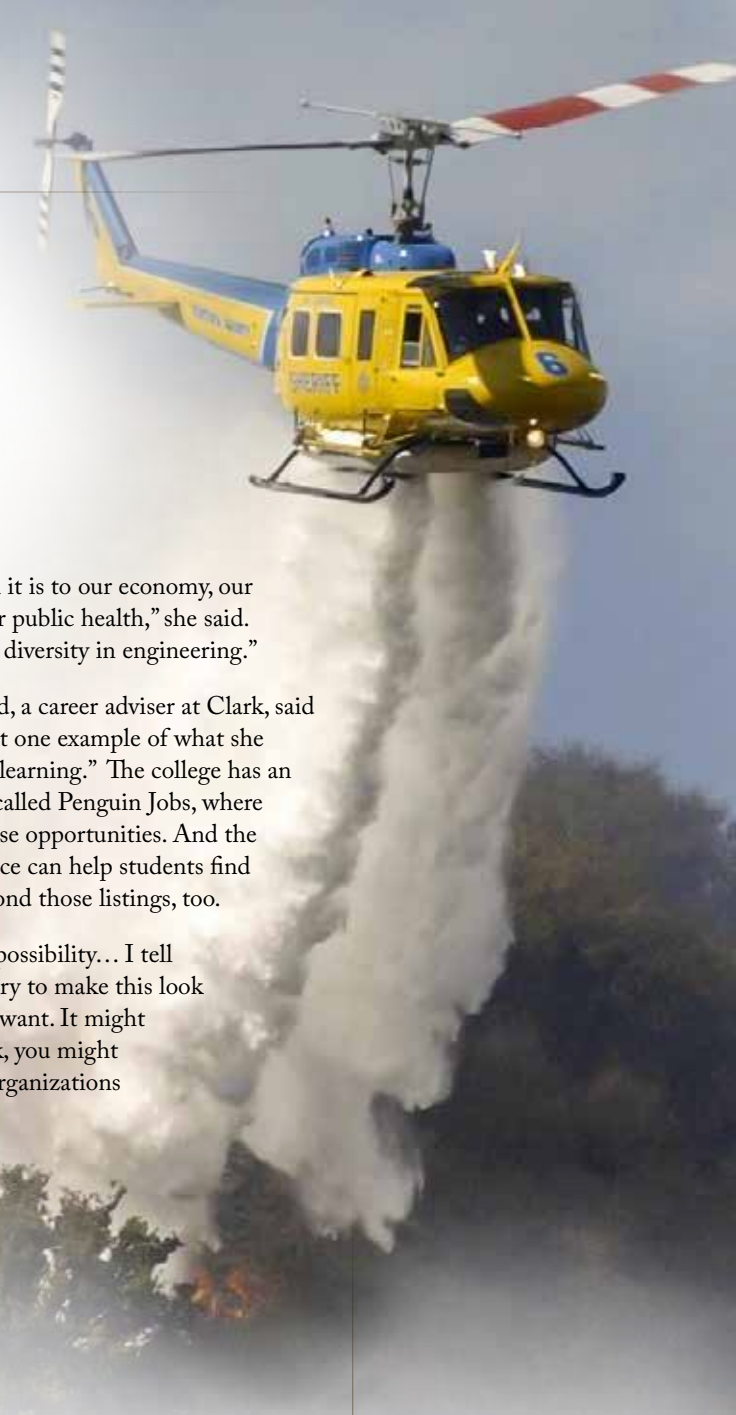
"There's so much possibility... I tell students, 'we can try to make this look like whatever you want. It might require some work, you might have to research organizations and get

your materials together.' But that's a valuable experience in and of itself," Haakonstad said.

She added that community members like Sharon Zimmerman have a lot to offer Clark students by meeting with them and talking about their careers. In fact, Haakonstad said that finding individuals like Sharon Zimmerman who will sit down and meet with a curious student can be more difficult than finding specific internships or companies.

"It could be a job shadow or an informational interview, it doesn't always have to be a formal internship," she said.

Continued on next page



A Bell 212 helicopter from the Ventura County Sheriff's Department in Calif., using a Simplex 304 Fire Attach system in 2010. Photo courtesy of Mark Zimmerman



INSPIRED TO GIVE

When Mark Zimmerman first connected with Clark College, he decided he wasn't going to give a donation.

"What I would rather do is give an opportunity to students, give them a leg up," he said.

But the Zimmermans eventually decided to give money to the college, too, as they heard about other ways to support students.

"We heard about some of the struggles that some students have today, like deciding between eating and going to school," Sharon Zimmerman said. "That just floored me."

She added that she felt compelled to donate money because she was impressed by specific college initiatives, such as the Penguin Pantry, which was founded to alleviate students' food insecurity. That's another thing Sharon Zimmerman said she gains from her connection to Clark College: inspiration. The students inspire her with their hard work and determination. And the college inspires her with its creative solutions.

Sharon Zimmerman is still finding new ways to give to the college. She was recently elected president of the Washington Society of Professional Engineers. She said the organization offers a \$5,000 annual scholarship specifically for community college students transferring to a four-year university to finish their engineering training.

"It's something that we don't always get a lot of applicants for," she said, "and I'd really

like to have the Clark College students take advantage of that."

Mark Zimmerman is finding new ways to connect with Clark, too. Last year, Simplex sold again and while Zimmerman still does some consulting for the company, he puts most of his energy into his own startup, Centaur UAS. The company is designing multi-mission aircraft—helicopters that are big enough to do something like deliver COVID-19 vaccines or help with construction that can be controlled remotely, as drones. As Zimmerman launches this next venture, he wants to reboot his internship program with Clark.

"I want to do it again but I want to do it more holistically," he said. "As a business, I need trained people that are thinking about the future. They need skills to do what they need to today but their mindset needs to be, 'What's next?'"

Mark Zimmerman has seen firsthand how businesses can benefit from working with Clark. Energized by his new business venture, he looks forward to bringing in Clark students and getting them excited about their own futures—whether they go on to work for Centaur UAS or elsewhere.

"You've got to be constantly changing and adapting to the future or you're out of business, you just don't know it yet," he said. "It's a process of continuous improvement." 🧐



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.

The heartbeat goes on

Reflections on my five years at Clark College Foundation

by JOEL B. MUNSON

Five years is a long time to remember anything clearly. But, I do remember that day, like it was yesterday.

I was interviewing for a leadership position at Clark College Foundation. It was a typical Vancouver, Wash., winter afternoon. The air was damp and what sunlight did exist behind the curtain of clouds was quickly receding. Still, the atmosphere was charged with excitement, for me at least, and I definitely had that so-far-so-good feeling after a full day of meetings and campus tours.

My last interview was with members of the foundation's board of directors, and I was looking forward to it very much. After 25 years in higher education, I had come to understand that there's a lot to learn about a nonprofit organization from its key volunteers. This interview would prove to be more revealing than I could have anticipated thanks to the insights of Nanette Walker, Clark College alumna and daughter of one of its most renowned professors, Dr. Antonio "Chick" Scarpelli.

A successful businesswoman and long-time donor to the institution, Nanette and her family had established a significant endowed scholarship in honor of their father. The fund will continue to generate financial assistance for generations of students to come.

When I asked why she and her family had decided to make this extraordinary legacy gift, Nanette replied with a statement that she had locked and loaded.

"If you get this job, Joel, you'll soon learn that Clark College is the heartbeat of this community," she said with confidence and pride. "It's up to Clark College Foundation to make sure that heartbeat goes on."

In my years of working for five other universities and colleges, I had never heard community leaders describe their institution in such corporeal terms. Sure, I heard them referred to as a key cultural and educational center, an intellectual hub or even a lab for economic development, but never in such indispensable—even biological—terminology: the heartbeat of a community? I was experiencing something fundamentally unique between a community and its college. Each partner was profoundly and respectfully dependent upon the other, like a long-time romance that was destined to carry on. The more I heard, the more I wanted to be part of this relationship.

"If you get this job, Joel, you'll soon learn that Clark College is the heartbeat of this community."

– Nanette Walker '75, Clark College Foundation Board of Directors

After I took the post, it didn't take me long to see what Nanette and the others were saying to me during the interview. Now, after more than five years of helping to lead the largest fundraising campaign in the 88-year history of the college, I truly understand the relationship.

Equally important, I've come to recognize how critical Clark College Foundation is in strengthening the link between the people of our community and its notable college. And while it's true that most community colleges have some kind of foundation or fundraising component

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PANDEMIC TIMELINE

The 2019-2020 Outstanding and Rising Star Alumni recipients are announced.

APRIL 23, 2020



JUNE 3, 2020

Clark alumnus Alexis Madrigal speaks about his seminal work tracking COVID-19 data during a virtual event hosted by alumni relations.

Clark holds virtual commencement for first time. 2,500 graduates

JUNE 12, 2020

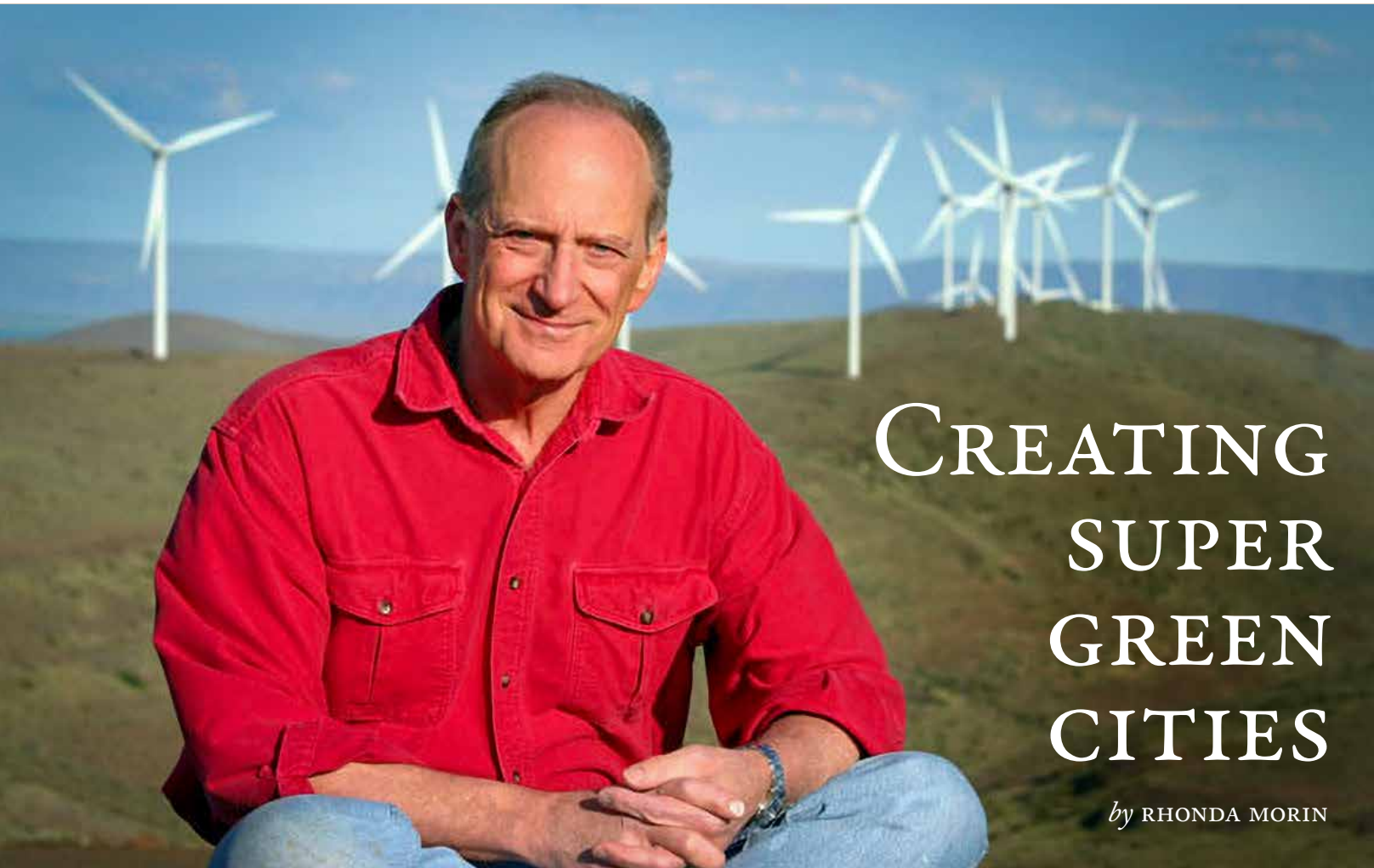


JUNE 25, 2020

For the fourth year, CCF awarded \$1 million in scholarships to Clark students.



Watch the entire interview online. Visit [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for Clark College Foundation.



Clark College alumnus Denis Hayes is CEO of the conservation group Bullitt Foundation. Photos courtesy of Denis Hayes

Denis Hayes '64, inspirational organizer of the first Earth Day, speaks at a Clark virtual event about how the Pacific Northwest can take the lead in building healthy human ecosystems.



When Clark alumnus Denis Hayes was in his early 20s, he went on a quest to find his calling, hitchhiking around the world for three years. His adventures took him throughout Africa, from its west to east coast; throughout the Middle East, then south-southwest; and finally to Southeast Asia.

"It was a profoundly important period for me. It was an awakening for me," said Hayes, a 1964 Clark graduate and CEO of the conservation group Bullitt Foundation in Seattle, during a virtual event on February 23, 2021, presented by Clark College Foundation's Alumni Relations office.

While on that journey, he had ample time to think about his future and the effects humans were having on the planet. At one pivotal

moment, he came to understand that humans live inside ecosystems just like all other animals, but with a central difference: people had tapped into cheap, abundant energy that allowed us to take advantage of and abuse the Earth. Because of how we were using energy and extracting it, the world in the 1960s was teeming with environmental problems.

Hayes, now 76, grew up in Camas, Wash., where pollution from the town's paper mill permeated his childhood.

"Camas is in one of the most spectacularly beautiful and biologically diverse parts of the planet. But the mill filled the air with unregulated poisons; it poured enormous volumes of toxic effluent into the river; it mowed down the surrounding Douglas fir forests in devastating clear cuts, losing rich

topsoil and decimating fragile ecosystems," Hayes told the Camas-Washougal Post-Record newspaper in 2015.

Those formative years left an indelible mark on the future environmentalist. Later, when he enrolled at Clark College in Vancouver, he recalls how his instructors helped him ignite his inquisitiveness and harness his enthusiasm into critical thinking.

"Some of the teachers that I had at Clark were as superb as any teachers I encountered anywhere. They took a real interest in their students [and] took a real interest in me. I started to ask a whole lot of probing questions about the assumptions I had taken on faith before then. It was the first part of my intellectual awakening."

Stanford Law School and Harvard Kennedy School followed. But, it was the hitching trip across Africa and the Middle East that proved to be his clearest compass bearing.

SUPER GREEN CITIES

The year 1970 was significant for Hayes. On April 22 of that year, the first Earth Day was held bringing an estimated 20 million people together and launching a cohesive environmental movement from what had been disjointed groups of random activism. Hayes was the lead organizer behind the Earth-friendly event. What started as a teach-in that he was organizing for Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, turned into a global affair.

"What we did on that first Earth Day was to take all those individual strands and weave them into modern environmentalism," he said.

What followed that epic event changed the way the world thought about and interacted with the planet.

Hayes discussed this topic and many more during the virtual question-and-answer event in February called Creating Super Green Cities. Recent graduate Kenia Torres-Rosas '20 and current student Justin Hymas asked Hayes questions submitted by guests before the event.

Hayes talked about the intersections between creating super green cities and being homeless,

overpopulation, job growth, alternative energy sources and socially conscious corporations. He also suggested ways Clark students can make a difference in the climate.

In the years following that first ambitious Earth Day, a rapid succession of legislation unanimously voted in at the federal level—clean air, safe drinking water, endangered species acts, marine mammal conservation act, toxic substances control act—put in place the framework around new corporate behavior.

There was a long dry spell following those laws, but in recent years, there has been an uptick in corporate responsibility around the environment, with a particular focus on sustainability. Companies want to endure for the next 30 to 50 years; to do that, they must improve their behavior to survive.

"Microsoft pledged it'll be net-carbon neutral by 2030, and by 2050 it will be sufficiently carbon negative—that means it will have taken out of the atmosphere as much carbon as it has put into the atmosphere during its entire corporate existence," said Hayes, citing one example.

Another is General Motors, which dramatically reversed course from a 2020 lawsuit that supported undercutting clean air and greenhouse gas obligations put in place by California. Now GM has committed to producing no cars that use internal combustion or diesel engines after 2035.

"We're talking about serious, fundamental corporate commitments coming from a few places," he said.

ENERGY REVOLUTION

One question from the audience asked about the effects of stable social living given the gulf between the rich and poor. Hayes predicts the energy revolution will make fewer people and entities wealthy. Each of humanity's revolutions—agriculture, industrial, digital—has



Denis Hayes speaking at the ellipse on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in 1970.

“

“Live the values you proclaim so you're more motivated yourself to give it your all.”

– Denis Hayes '64

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Continued on page 22

Environmental Verve

Clark alumni play active role in local, national eco-friendly efforts



by CLAIRE SYKES



Left, Ellen Ives '00 in her virtual classroom in 2021. She's a waste reduction specialist and environmental educator with Waste Connections of Washington. Right, front, Ives with her colleagues in an actual classroom in 2018. Photos courtesy of Ellen Ives

Ellen Ives especially loved putting on the safety glasses and smashing empty apple-cider jugs against the wall. As a high schooler in the early 1970s, every Saturday she went to the reclamation center her mother started and ran in Naperville, Ill., and helped sort the glass, cans and newspapers that people brought to be recycled.

"I've been an environmentalist ever since," said Ives, a 2000 Clark graduate. As a waste reduction specialist and environmental educator with Waste Connections, in Vancouver, Wash., she gives presentations to residents and organizations on waste reduction, recycling and composting. Mostly, she teaches K-12 students and those in post-secondary such as community college students, about these topics as part of the Clark County Green Schools (CCGS) program with the county's 130-plus public and private schools.

Before the coronavirus pandemic hit, the program's Waste Audit project had students sifting through a day's worth of school refuse, noting the types and amounts, to launch recycling and waste-reduction campaigns. At school cafeterias, Ives demonstrated how sort tables let kids separate their trash from recycling, and leave room for their untouched food to be shared with each other. She also pushed to reduce plastic and disposables, and replace milk cartons with dispensers. Now, because of the pandemic, Ives' classes are all online, and field trips to the West Vancouver Materials Recovery Center happen on Google Earth, instead of in person.

"Everyone needs to know how much waste we produce in Clark County and the massive effort involved in transporting it to dispose of it—250 shipping containers totaling 7,750 tons of garbage every week. About 30 percent coming in as recycling is garbage, because not everyone has learned what's recyclable. We need to change what we do on a daily basis to reduce that vast amount of waste," said Ives, who received the 2018 Green Medalist Award for Outstanding Community Leader from EarthGen, formerly known as Washington Green Schools.

EarthGen partners with K-12 educators and communities to involve youth in environmental activities, solidifying their commitment as they work together toward a EarthGen School certification. In the 1990s, while Ives and her husband were raising their three children, she first volunteered at Sarah J. Anderson Elementary School in Vancouver, teaching kids about recycling; she later worked there part-time as a staff assistant. Aiming for a teaching certificate, she began taking Clark education classes.

"I had incredibly good instructors with whom I was always talking; they listened and were interested in what I was learning, and instilled in me a love for that," said Ives, who felt inspired to emulate them. With her associate degree in education, she transferred to Washington State University Vancouver and graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's in education in 2002. She was 48 years old.

Continued on next page

Marquis Mason '14 is a climate justice community organizer at Citizens for a Healthy Bay in Tacoma. He regularly organizes and participates in demonstrations for environmental justice. Photos courtesy of Marquis Mason



TEACHING KIDS

While at Anderson, Ives started a Green Team of students, staff, parents and others to examine the school's environmental issues and arrive at solutions. This is the first step toward becoming an EarthGen Certified School.

"We picked up litter and staffed the school carnival to guide people to recycle and compost, among other things," she said. "I enjoyed that and teaching, but as the years brought more state testing, I saw how it was reducing students' love of learning, and that was heartbreaking for me. I was also working 70 hours a week and was exhausted."

Ives decided to leave the classroom and instead took her gift for teaching and respect for the Earth to Waste Connections. "Children know that our environment needs care and they want to do something, not just talk about it," she said. "I suggest they choose one thing and let others know, and maybe they'll

start doing that, too. Use less and reuse. Turn off lights, unplug your cellphone charger when not in use, pick up litter, don't let the water run. And urge stores and restaurants to put those cookies in paper bags instead of plastic clamshell containers."

Ives sees climate change as the biggest threat, and tells her students that the anguish they may feel can sharpen their awareness and propel them to act.

"I'll never stop trying or lose hope. As long as I'm here, I'll always be working to make things better for the next generations."

BRIDGE BETWEEN GENERATIONS

The same goes for Marquis Mason '14, a climate justice community organizer at Citizens for a Healthy Bay, an environmental nonprofit in Tacoma, Wash. In order to stay current on new local permits and industries that pollute, he

frequently reviews stormwater-runoff data and proposed environmental regulations. He turns the information he learns into videos, webinars, podcast interviews and infographics on the toxic contamination of Tacoma's Commencement Bay and South Puget Sound. All this helps inform the people Mason mobilizes to testify at public hearings.

"I try my best to reach and engage the young people in communities disproportionately impacted by racism and/or economic hardship, who are not yet involved in this kind of work because they've got too much on their plates," said Mason. "It's time to pass the torch on to the people even younger than me, to get them ready to uphold the mantle from those from the 1960s and 1970s. We learned so much about responsibility from them. As a young person of color, I see myself as a bridge between generations."

That bridge extends to Mason's 10 hours a week volunteering with Sunrise Tacoma, a local chapter of the Sunrise Movement, whose goal is to stop climate change through advocacy of environmental justice and the Green New Deal. As the local chapter's political team co-leader, he works on local policy, grassroots campaigns, legislative bills and with political candidates, while preparing young people for climate-change strikes and direct advocacy.

"The environmental movement at its core is a working-class one," said Mason. "Major traffic corridors spew high carbon emissions through black and brown neighborhoods. Chemical pollutants spill into the aquifers, rivers and seas, affecting tribal fishing. The people who are hit the hardest are those on a fixed income, who can't relocate when their community floods. It becomes an issue of human rights. If we don't figure out the relationship between the economy, pollution and climate change, it'll lead to death, disease and an unlivable planet."

RADICAL CANDOR

Mason has always felt purpose toward people's wellbeing, starting as a lifeguard and Red Cross-certified babysitter in his teens. Being a Clark College Running Start student from 2012-14, "made me the person I am today," he said. "I had the choice and freedom to explore what made my heart beat and brain tick, so I could shape

my own education." Running Start allows high school juniors and seniors to take college courses.

After high school and one quarter at Clark studying anthropology and social science, Mason received his associate transfer degree focusing on the social sciences, before heading to Western Washington University's Fairhaven College.

"I hit the ground running; I knew what I wanted to do with my life—to use my power and privilege to make change."

He first got involved in activism and outreach as a student officer of Western Amnesty, Amnesty International's local campus chapter, which he co-founded. While at Fairhaven, he served as an intern for a Bellingham environmental nonprofit, helping with a statewide clean-energy ballot initiative. He also worked as a professional organizer on the electoral campaign for former Lummi Nation Tribal Chairman Tim Ballew II, and for the youth-powered Our Climate.

After graduating with a bachelor's in interdisciplinary studies (with a concentration in health promotion, advocacy and community engagement), Mason returned to Vancouver and worked as an engagement organizer for the Oregon League of Conservation Voters in Portland. He also volunteered with 350PDX, a local chapter of 350.org, an international climate-crisis organization. There, he was co-leader of the Black, Indigenous and People of Color Caucus, bringing struggles of Black, Indigenous and people of color to the forefront of environmental action. A year later, he landed at Citizens for a Healthy Bay.

Mason advises others on something he has always done: "Pick a passion and run with it," he said. "Not everyone is going to be a climate or human-rights organizer. ... Regardless of what you pick, it's important to show up as yourself. I call it 'radical candor' and as long as we're all rooted in community to the people who need us, we're doing good work." 🌱



Claire Sykes is a Portland, Oregon-based writer whose articles appear in Western Washington University's Window and Washington State Magazine, among others.

Visit www.sykeswrites.com.

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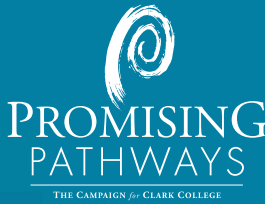
Major traffic corridors spew high carbon emissions through black and brown neighborhoods. The people who are hit the hardest are those on a fixed income, who can't relocate when their community floods.

— Marquis Mason '14, a climate justice community organizer

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PANDEMIC TIMELINE



Savoring Excellence

Six outstanding faculty members received the Clark College Exceptional Faculty Award.

JULY 15, 2020



JULY 28, 2020

Corporations, foundations answer call to help students during COVID-19. Give nearly \$500,000 since March.

Baking, Cuisine professors and students begin handing out meals and treats to students in need.

OCTOBER 20, 2020



OCTOBER 20, 2020

Momentous milestones reached at Savoring Excellence as it premieres live online.

GEOLOGISTS WHO LOOK LIKE ME

Clark science professors are creating a sense of belonging in the classroom and making their courses more welcoming to all students

by MICHELLE STOKLOSA, PH.D.

As a kid, I had a mock classroom set up in the basement of my home with old textbooks, chairs with stuffed animals propped up in them and carefully marked gradebooks on an old desk at the front of the class. I don't think then that my parents were surprised with my decision to become an instructor.

I also enjoyed doing things outside—like making mud pies, “saving” toads from the lawnmower and creating toad homes—while staying out late in the summers to catch lightning bugs (a.k.a. fireflies). At some point,

I started marking the insects with chalk on their backs so I would know if I had caught them the previous night (and yes, I kept track of the numbers). Years later when I went off to college, it was no surprise to my family that I decided to major in biology.

I'm not a biology instructor, though. Instead, I have been teaching college-level geology courses for almost 20 years. How did I get from counting fireflies to earning a doctorate in geology? In college, I had taken a few geology courses so that I could have a minor on my transcript. An instructor in one of my geology classes left a note on my lab exercises one day telling me that I was doing well in the class. She also asked whether I had considered pursuing a career in geology. This both surprised and excited me. My textbooks did not include many women.



Having a geologist that looked like me—a white woman—as my instructor and mentor, made it much easier for me to envision myself as a geologist. Today, I am a geologist and a full-time faculty member in the Earth and Environmental Science department at Clark College.

In 2021, the field of geosciences is still dominated by men—and mostly white men. My department colleagues and I feel strongly that more students should be a part of this field since it is ripe with opportunity. We want to increase the number of students interested in our program at Clark, but also aspire to broaden the participation to include more Latinx, Black, Indigenous and other groups of people who are not well represented in this field. To do this we need to find ways to create a similar sense of belonging in our classrooms as I experienced, but for all people.

My colleagues and I have participated in a National Science Foundation-funded project called Supporting and Advancing Geoscience Education at Two-Year Colleges (SAGE 2YC). We are part of a national cohort of faculty at two-year colleges working together to develop practices at our institutions that should lead to broader participation and increased success of students in STEM courses and field.

The project is helping us create a plan to increase the number, diversity and success of students in our program. We've been examining our enrollment, exploring and implementing strategies to help students develop a sense of belonging in our classrooms, as well as reducing the effects of stereotype threats.

Ensuring course content and activities are relevant to the lives of our students is one strategy we added into our courses. Another is talking about scientists from underrepresented groups. We've got a long list of strategies to go and our work is ever-evolving.

Another I use is Earthquake Week, which occurs the last week of the term in Geology 101 at Clark College. I think it's better than Shark Week. This is usually one of the most animated weeks in my classroom. Many students have a story to share about their earthquake experience. Others who have been quiet most of the term start asking probing questions about earthquake risks. Still others share their advice for preparing emergency kits. The topic is technical, yet it's relevant to their lives, because here in the Pacific Northwest we are aware of the dangers of the next big Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. Many of the topics in my geology courses are as relevant to students as earthquakes are, but I need to find better ways to make other course topics just as engaging to students.

We are sharing our findings with our Clark colleagues and are looking to make even more connections with our college and community partners to strengthen our plan. I am grateful for the expertise in Clark's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and their willingness to help us work toward our goals.

Feeling as if you belong in Clark's classrooms and seeing instructors or classmates who look like you is an essential part of being an inclusive academic environment. I am pleased to see more evidence that Clark is committed to closing equity gaps, and I am honored to be a part of this process, because I know it can work. Just ask college-age me who felt recognized when her professor suggested she would do well in the geology field. That made all the difference for me. 😊

Michelle Stoklosa, Ph.D., is the chair of Clark's Earth and Environmental Science department and a geology professor.

Professor Stoklosa's class traveled to the Columbia River Gorge for a field trip in 2019. Left, the geology professor on the Owhyee River. Photos courtesy of Michelle Stoklosa

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We're helping students develop a sense of belonging in our classrooms, as well as reducing the effects of stereotype threats.

— Michelle Stoklosa

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Continued from page 11

supporting the main institution, it's clear that few colleges have a volunteer-governed, self-funded foundation like Clark College Foundation.

Since its inception in 1973, Clark College



Clockwise from top, alumna Vita Blanco, former CEO Elson Strahan; board member Nanette Walker; and professors Carol Hsu and Tina Barsotti.



Foundation has secured and distributed \$76 million in donor funds and endowment interest income to support educational programs, building projects, faculty programs, as well as scholarships and awards. In fact, every year, the foundation provides more than \$1 million in scholarship funds to Clark students in need of support—many of whom would likely drop out of school altogether without this funding.

Since 2015, community partners have contributed, on average, more than \$5 million per year to support Clark College Foundation's

Promising Pathways fundraising campaign, transforming the foundation into one of the most efficient and effective community college fundraising operations in the United States.

The recipient of numerous accolades, Clark College Foundation has been recognized for its quality publications, podcasts, alumni relations programs and special events. In 2018, the foundation's CEO Lisa Gibert, received the National CommonFund Award for Leadership, the industry's equivalent of an Oscar. The Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) provides this recognition. In short, Clark College Foundation is seen as an industry leader and is often called upon by other institutions and organizations to assist peer institutions to establish stronger fundraising footholds in their respective communities.

Indeed, when peers ask us how we have achieved this high level of respectability, the answer is easy. While I would love to chalk up our success to brilliant minds at work, the real reason is more simple and impressive: it is the people who make up our community.

FOUNDATION'S GROWTH



When we talk about these individuals, we have to start with Elson Strahan, leader of Clark College Foundation for 18 years in the 1980s and 1990s. Among his many accomplishments and successful relationships, Elson worked with veteran board member and donor Vernon Peterson to secure the largest gift in the college's history—\$28 million from businessman Roy G. Andersen.

Keith Koplan, a local community leader and retired business owner, recognized early on that Vancouver needed a solid higher education institution. The best way to do that was to secure significant private investments. As a result, in the 1970s and 1980s, Koplan and others took a fledgling sum of donated funds and stewarded them into one of the largest community college asset pools in the country.

Today, Clark College Foundation's investments, which include its endowment, property and other assets, total \$112 million. The foundation has the fourth-largest endowment fund for community colleges in the nation.

Then there are extraordinary people like Tom and Jen Cook of Pacific Bells. They are so committed to Clark College and its key role in the community that they generously contributed—as their first-ever gift to Clark—a quarter of a million dollars toward the Tod and Maxine McClaskey Culinary Institute.

Vita Blanco decided to change her life. At the age of 37, she became the first person in her family to graduate from college with an associate degree in business. A grateful recipient of scholarships while at Clark, Vita learned the meaning of "paying it forward," even as she continues to work on her bachelor's degree at Washington State University Vancouver.

MENTORS

There are dedicated academics like STEM professors Tina Barsotti and Carol Hsu who not only contribute annually to faculty and staff fundraising campaigns, but also mentor a group of young, enterprising engineering students known as the NERD Girls (Not Even Remotely Dorky). Tina, Carol and their students are slowly changing the face of the college's science, technology, engineering and math programs. And they are doing it with the help of community mentors and supporters who care about diversity and creating opportunities for all students.

Finally, people like New York Times best-selling author and Clark alumna Marie Bostwick are paving the way for new and exciting authors to emerge. Marie and her husband Brad Skinner, established the Bostwick Gallivan Writing Award to acknowledge and support Clark students in the field of creative writing. Marie is one of numerous noted and successful authors who found their start at Clark College.

There are far too many Clark supporters to acknowledge, but I am constantly inspired and emotionally moved by the hundreds, if not thousands, of people I have met over the last several years.

To date, nearly 5,000 unique individuals and entities have offered their voices and financial resources in support of Clark College by donating nearly 20,000 gifts, totaling more than \$27.5 million to the current campaign. Nearly 60% of these donors are first-time contributors or are giving at a higher level to Clark, an undeniable sign that more people are choosing to invest in Clark College's amazing students, faculty and staff.

What is even more extraordinary is that many of these philanthropic partners have continued to give during a worldwide pandemic that has taken more than a half-million American lives. While there have been times over the last year when I've wondered how we will complete our ambitious \$35 million campaign goal, I think back on those wise words of Nanette Walker. I realize Clark's community will be there to see things through and support our deserving and needy students even during the most difficult times.

Just like it has always done.

Clark's heartbeat goes on during poignant social and political unrest—through leadership transitions, strikes and protests, and difficult news headlines. With each student who graduates or completes his/her/their coursework, that heartbeat grows stronger and louder. It is resilient and it resonates across Southwest Washington in a way that makes us smile, helps us feel proud and demonstrates just how much we care for and about each other.

As for my friend and colleague, Nanette Walker, she's as remarkable as ever: a constant reminder that I made one of the best decisions of my life when I said yes to her and Clark College Foundation all those years ago.

The heartbeat goes on. 🎵



Joel B. Munson is the chief advancement officer at Clark College Foundation.

triggered a great concentration of wealth for a few in its wake. He doesn't see the same thing happening in what he calls the energy revolution: how humans fundamentally change how we get our energy and how we use it once it's extracted.

Sources like solar, geo-thermal or wind, which are modular and distributable, can be built small scale and distributed across society, making it unlikely that only a handful of savvy entrepreneurs would benefit from the windfall.

The endgame to the energy revolution, says Hayes, is to stop making materials from petroleum.

"Ultimately, what we're trying to do is design a system that is not going to produce combustible plastics out of oil."

Furthermore, our energy production cycle would become circular: produce energy, reuse it, recycle it and re-engineer it to keep it going. The aspiration is to keep products in circulation, rather than combusting them, he added.

The world is an energy fiend; it gobbles up coal, oil, gas, wind, solar, geothermal and other sources to power the services and support we humans use each day. Hayes believes changes in behavior can drive down energy demands, making renewable sources like solar and wind more plentiful to meet the world's energy needs.

"By 2050, the world will be getting 90-percent-plus of its energy from renewable resources, from predominantly solar and wind, although we'll continue to produce a little bit more hydro than we are today. We'll be seeing more and more geothermal, particularly deep geothermal, come online," he says.

What is overlooked, he added, is that humans need to embrace and invest in efficiency.

"The whole concept of waste as a source of status has to somehow be abandoned. The fact of getting from one point to another by driving a 2-ton sports utility vehicle to transport a 160-pound person is just literally crazy. Much of the world is getting away from that."

STUDENT AMBITIONS

There are many more fields of study pertaining to the environment these days than when Hayes was in college. His advice for Clark students interested in climate science is to look at studying ecological economics, environmental history or environmental law.

Other advice he offers to students extends to us all: make responsible choices that reduce waste in our everyday lives. This includes changing modes of transportation, bringing food from home while at work or school, eating organic if it is affordable, encouraging food services to compost or donate their excess food to those in need.

"The whole thing comes down to integrity. Live the values you proclaim so you're more motivated yourself to give it your all and you're not a hypocrite." 😊



Rhonda Morin is the editor in chief of Clark Partners magazine.

PANDEMIC TIMELINE

OCTOBER 20, 2020

Cowlitz Indian Tribe receives Award for Excellence—highest honor for a donor.

NOVEMBER 23, 2020

President Karin Edwards appears on the cover of Clark Partners magazine.

DECEMBER 16, 2020



FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The webinar "Creating super green cities with Clark alumnus Denis Hayes" airs live.

Clark alumna Michelle Finucane, AARN, administers the first vaccine in Clark County.



YOUR LEGACY



Jay Gilberg '78 understands the value of a quality education. He received a scholarship when he was at Clark. His two brothers and parents also attended Clark. For all it was a place to explore opportunities.

He returned to Clark in 2014 to volunteer with the alumni board and now serves as its president. In 2005, Jay established a life insurance policy making Clark College Foundation the beneficiary. In 2015, Jay and his wife, Monica, more than doubled the policy. In time, it will provide for three named scholarship endowments honoring his brothers and parents.

Their annual gifts, matched by his employer, Northwestern Mutual, maintain the policy that will provide a legacy of scholarships to students, like Amanda McConville.

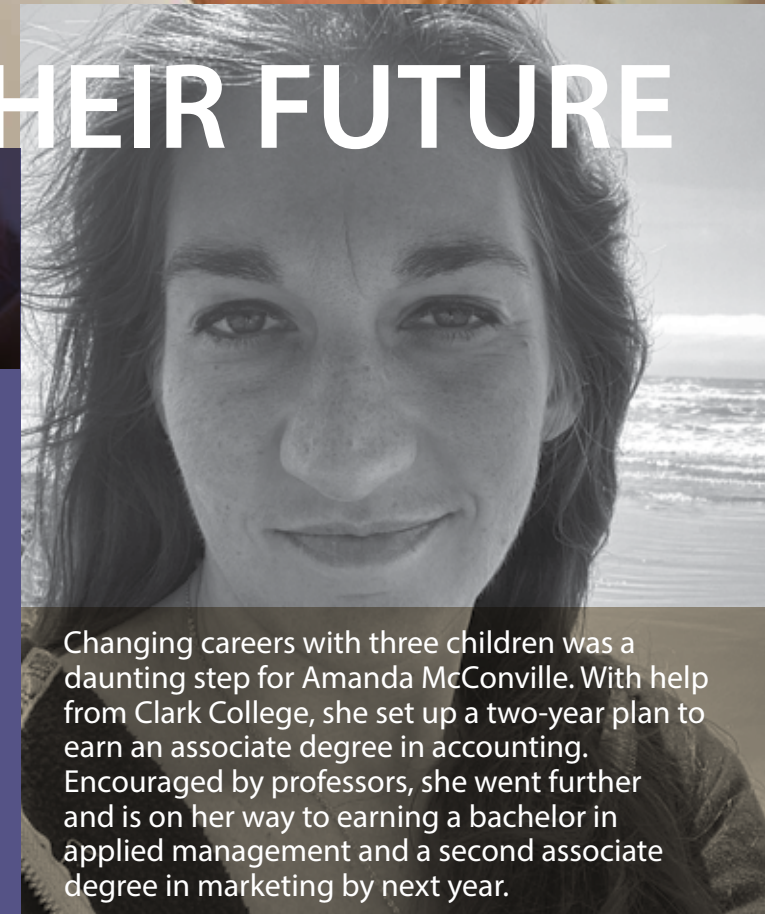
"If my financial legacy plan can help students, then it's possible they will establish their own prosperous and satisfying careers ... and give forward."

Making Clark College Foundation a beneficiary to a life insurance policy, a bank account or retirement plan is a simple method to planning your legacy. Contact us for more tips on legacy planning.

Hal Abrams, JD, LL.M.
habrams@supportclark.org
360.992.2787

Vivian Manning, CFRE
vmanning@supportclark.org
360.992.2104

THEIR FUTURE



Changing careers with three children was a daunting step for Amanda McConville. With help from Clark College, she set up a two-year plan to earn an associate degree in accounting. Encouraged by professors, she went further and is on her way to earning a bachelor in applied management and a second associate degree in marketing by next year.

"I'm grateful for the scholarships I received; they allowed me to work part time and take care of my family. I'm building our future and showing my girls—Aspen, 14, Alexis, 12 and Aubree, 9—what can be accomplished with determination and a good plan."



PROMISING
PATHWAYS

THE CAMPAIGN for CLARK COLLEGE

clarkcollegefoundation.org



THE 40S

WWII veteran **Harry Generaux '47** spoke to Clark County Today about his time in the U.S. Air Corps as a co-pilot on the notorious B-17 bomber. Generaux completed 35 missions before returning to Ridgefield, marrying his high school sweetheart Margaret and raising their son. He was called back to duty in 1951 for the Korean War. He retired from the military a year later.

Long-time Battle Ground resident **Dave Kookan '49** served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the central Pacific during WWII. His squadron's mission was to fly out the wounded from battle sites, including the transportation of more than 600 wounded during the battle of Iwo Jima. Kookan told his story to The Reflector and cited his fellow veterans who also returned to Battle Ground after the war, including colleagues he worked within the Battle Ground school system.

Denis Hayes '64 was the original organizer of the first Earth Day in 1970.
Photo by Denis Hayes



THE 60S

An ad for then-presidential candidate Joe Biden voiced by Hollywood actor **Sam Elliott '65** lit up Twitter in October 2020. The commercial, which aired during Game 1 of the World Series, featured the performer's rustic voice saying, "No Democratic rivers, no Republican mountains, just this great land and all that's possible on it with a fresh start." Reactions to the 60-second ad titled "Go from There" erupted on Twitter; some praised the tranquility Elliott's voice provided while others bashed the actor's liberal tone.

International environmentalist **Denis Hayes '64** joined Clark College Foundation on February 23, 2021, for a virtual event on how the Pacific Northwest can take the lead in building healthy human ecosystems and super green cities. Hayes was the inspirational organizer of the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. Today, he's the CEO of the Bullitt Foundation, a Pacific Northwest conservation group.

THE 70S

Tracy Doriot '75 of Doriot Construction was honored as Builder of the Year by the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIA). Doriot has served on the BIA of Clark County's board of directors since 2007; on Cascadia Technical Academy's Construction Technology Advisory Committee since 1996; and serves on the board of directors for the Clark County Parks Foundation.

THE 80S

Karen Bean '86 had a goal of losing 100 pounds when the pandemic hit last March. When gyms closed and her granddaughters moved out of state, the retired pharmacy technician turned to community work and began weeding Hearthwood Park in her neighborhood. This daily activity, along with bike riding, swimming and adopting a rescue dog to take on walks, helped Bean accomplish her goal in 14 months.

The Rotary Club of Three Creeks pivoted away from its annual Dancing with the Local Stars fundraiser due to the pandemic and instead held a virtual competitive cooking show with nine local stars, including **Nelson Holmberg '87**.

State Rep. **Gina Mosbrucker '88** introduced legislation in April 2021 in her ongoing effort to help tribal and law enforcement authorities work together to solve cases of missing and murdered indigenous people. House Bill 1571 would create a pilot program for social services and a temporary shelter, a public alert system called Red Thunder Alert, allow ceremonial activities before an autopsy, and other components.

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

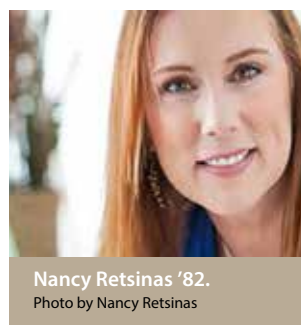
Online: clarkcollegefoundation.org/alumni/class-notes

Phone: 360.992.2301

Email: alumni@supportclark.org

f facebook.com/ClarkCollegeAlumni

@ [@alumniclark](https://twitter.com/alumniclark)



Nancy Retsinas '82.
Photo by Nancy Retsinas

Nancy Retsinas '82 was one of nine candidates selected for consideration for a Clark County Superior Court job, formerly held by Judge Bernard Veljacic. Retsinas was the Clark County Bar Association's first choice for the position, but ultimately Clark County Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecutor Camara Banfield got the position.

THE 90S

Shannon Holliday '96, manager of Carol's Corner restaurant in Hockinson, Wash., was surprised by the generosity of a group of local women who presented her with a donation check to help the struggling restaurant stay afloat during the pandemic.



James Kasper '91 and his wife Lisa Marie Kasper. James helps people who struggle with addiction.
Photo by James Kasper

With nearly 18 years of sobriety under his belt, **James Kasper '91** is helping other community members struggling with addiction by turning an old motel into a 60-room recovery house. Kasper also has his eye on turning an old Orchards-area restaurant into a recovery hall and meeting place. His vision is to turn the places he used to haunt into places of hope and recovery.

Student nurses in the La Center school district, **Erin Uskoski '01** and **Danielle Rivers '95**, were awarded the Learn Here 2020 Real Hero award for promoting a safe and healthy environment through health screening programs, CPR training and preparation for the school's COVID-19 emergency response shutdown and reopening.

THE OOS

Narek Daniyelyan '09 is one of The Vancouver Business Journal's Accomplished and Under 40 Class members for 2020. Daniyelyan is the director of strategic initiatives at Workforce Southwest Washington. He develops strategic and integrated service delivery plans, advises on technology development plans and implements those plans for WorkSource and affiliate sites.

Identity Clark County elected **Patrick Ginn '00** to its board of directors. Ginn is board chair of the Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Washington and a member of the board of directors for Clark College Foundation where he will become chair in 2023.

Clark County Fire District No. 3 hired **Jacob Grindy '07**, along with three additional full-time firefighters and three volunteer residents, who began responding to calls at the end of 2020. Grindy had been volunteering for the Camas-Washougal Fire Department since 2007 where he's held the position of president since 2014 and lieutenant since 2013.

Derek Huegel '07 is expanding his tiny-home production business to keep up with demand. The new facility is more than double the size of the previous space, and the staff increased from 25 people to 35 in 2020. His company, Wolff Industries, has a backlog of about 55 houses on order waiting to start production.

Washington State Patrol Trooper **Brandon Kesler '09** is one of The Vancouver Business Journal's Accomplished and Under 40 Class members for 2020. Kesler is a field-training officer. He is also a drug recognition expert who helps officers and prosecutors with holding drug-impaired drivers accountable for driving impaired.

On March 7, 2021, the online COVID Tracking Project, co-founded by **Alexis Madrigal '00** and his colleague Erin Kissane, completed its final update on national testing and outcomes after a year of data collection, analysis and documentation of information.

Eric Petracca '02 was named president and CEO of iQ Credit Union. He started Jan. 1, 2021. Formerly, he was the institution's chief operations officer. He started his career at Lacamas Community Credit Union and has held several leadership positions throughout his career.

THE IOS

Dennis Baciuc '18 accepted a graduate teaching assistantship with the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., for the fall. Baciuc is currently finishing his undergraduate degree at the University of Northern Colorado as a field scholar in music supported by Clark College Foundation.



Dennis Baciuc will attend the Eastman School of Music in the fall.
Photo by Dennis Baciuc

Cameron Chilcote '14 is one of 16 first-year teachers within Vancouver Public Schools to navigate their new career during the global pandemic. He feels reassured to know he's not



Michelle Finucane '17 AARN, a nurse at PeaceHealth, administered the first COVID-19 vaccination to her colleague in December. Vaccinations started across the nation on December 14, 2020, and on December 15, PeaceHealth Southwest received 4,000 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Photo by Darin Fabrick, PeaceHealth

the only one navigating the unscripted territory in education. He continues to embrace the ways this year is different from the one he imagined.

Kim Harless '11 is running for Vancouver's City Council position 1 seat in November 2021. Harless currently represents District 1 on the Charter Review Commission. Harless has also served as the coordinator of the Clark County Solid Waste Advisory Commission, co-chair for the Public Health Department's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion group and environmental operations specialist for Clark County for Public Health doing waste and recycling system planning and contract oversight.

During an investor celebration, held virtually in January 2021, The Columbia River Economic Development Council, a non-profit, elected new members including **Billy Henry '14** to serve a three-year term on its board of directors.

Custom furniture refinisher **Harmony Roselli '12** was highlighted in The Columbian on how the pandemic has affected the furniture repair business. Roselli said there has been a demand to fix furniture and a demand to buy raw materials used to refinish furniture.

A small group of local investors, including **Mychael Jones '14**, followed the Reddit forum WallStreetBets and purchased stock in GameStop, creating the first short squeeze coordinated on social media. Jones and others bought a small portion of stock which drove the price up, inflicting financial pain on the various hedge funds that have taken short-selling positions against GameStop and other big retailers.

Salina Machida '11, a second grade teacher at Pleasant Valley Elementary School, was awarded the Learn Here 2020 Real Hero award for Battle Ground Public Schools. She was recognized for using creative tools to help her students collaborate more during the pandemic.

Takunda Masike '16 is working as a systems engineer for General Dynamics within their Engineering Leadership Development Program. He's also recently started his master's program in electrical engineering at Johns Hopkins University.



Takunda Masike '16, right, with this brother in 2016.

THE 20S

La Center High School 2020 valedictorian **Kaitlin Boyle '20** received an associate degree with a focus on biology from Clark College last spring. She plans to study pediatric oncology and has volunteered at Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center for experience in the medical field. She spent more than 350 hours helping at the hospital while completing her coursework and earning a 4.0 grade point average from Clark College and La Center High School.

CLASS DATES UNKNOWN

The Oregon-based code and fire-consulting firm Code Unlimited hired Clark alumnus **Deyan Aydarski** as a code analyst and smoke modeler in its Beaverton office. Aydarski previously worked at MKE & Associates as mechanical engineering intern.

After a cancer diagnosis in February 2020, artist and Clark alumna **Claudia Carter** had a goal to hold another Black History event, a goal she aspired for the community, not just for herself.

Her work came to fruition with the curation of a Black History Month exhibit at the Vancouver Community Library in downtown Vancouver for a fourth year.

Clark alumnus and Battle Ground Mayor **Adrian Cortes**, announced that he's seeking re-election to his city council seat. Cortes was first elected to the Position 4 council seat in Nov. 2017 and, in Jan. 2020, was appointed as mayor for a two-year term. He will appear on the Aug. 4, 2021, primary

election and, if a challenger files for the seat, Nov. 2, 2021, general election ballots.

Clark alumna **Sheila Clarke Craven** took a freelance writer assignment to the Bay Area in 1977 to cover a new startup called Apple Computer. In a story in The Columbian, she recalled the moment she was picked up by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak in a little red pickup truck, her bags thrown in the back, and driving to the infamous garage to see Wozniak's first prototype computer.



Grant Fisher '17, husband, father and former Clark College baseball player, died Jan. 29, 2021, in an automobile accident near Boring, Ore. Fisher played for Clark during the 2016-2017 season before transferring to Western Oregon University. A baseball-themed memorial service complete with nine innings of speakers was held on March 6, 2021. It highlighted Fisher's devotion to his family, baseball and faith. Head baseball coach Mark Magdaleno said, "As a parent and a coach I think we all want to raise our young men and women to be better people than we are. Fish was everything you could have wanted from one of your own. I respected Fish as a competitor and a later we became friends. I love Grant Fisher and always will." Fisher's jersey number—27—will be retired in his memory. He leaves his wife, Caitlin and their 5-month-old daughter, Ellagrace.

A memorial service for Grant Fisher '17, a former Clark baseball player, was held in March. Photo by David Shenson



Jimmie Rodgers '58, a pop star from Camas whose sweet voice brought success in the 1950s and 1960s with hit tunes like "Honeycomb" and "Kisses Sweeter than Wine," died December 18, 2020. He attended Camas High School and Clark College before going to work at the Camas paper mill. While Rodgers knew he loved music, he wasn't sure he could make a living at it.

Photo courtesy of Sharon Newberry Martel

THE 50S

Bob "Bobby" Gladson '56
David "Dave" Kenny '58
Melvin Lillard '55
Jay Mitcham '54
Stephen Page '59
James "Jimmie" Rodgers '58
Larry Smedley '56
Raymond "Ray" Wilson '58
Russell Woodall '57

THE 60S

Alan Busby '65
Timothy "Tim" Cannell '60
Frederick "Jock" Coombe '69
Dennis Dugas '63
John Harrison '66
Stephen "Steve" Huff '60
Craig Leathers '64
Charlene Manney '69
Lila "Peachie" McConnel '69
Walter "Budd" Sears '60
Nora "Noni" Smith '60
Clyde Soha '69
Ione Willson '69
Gary Zepernick '61



"Liliya was an amazing and wonderful daughter, sister, and friend," said one unidentified person. "She lit up the room with her presence and always had a smile on her face. Her death was so sudden and she was taken away from us so quickly it is hard to grasp and comprehend all this at the moment."

Clark alumna **Liliya "Lily" Zagariya**, 20, died December 22, 2020, in a Vancouver medical office building after being shot by a man who then turned the weapon on himself. She was working as a concierge at PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center at the time of her death. Zagariya was a volunteer emergency medical technician at Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue who had aspirations of becoming a paramedic. She was a Clark College Running Start student from 2017 to 2019, taking college courses while she was in high school.

Lily Zagariya was an EMT with Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue before her death. Photo by Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue

THE 70S

Mary Louise Ammons '76
Lois Bauman '72
Philip Bryan '74
Shirley Bushaw '73
Teri Danis '79
Lawrence Ehlke '76
Dennis Green '76
James "Jim" Hankel '75
Harriet Johnson '73
Clarice "Clare" Kittleson '75
Gregory Marshall '70
Norma McGraw '76
Chris McLaren '76

Robert "Bob" Mercer '78
Jack O'Donnell '76
James "Jim" Seekins '78
Jacqueline Sessions '76
Regina Studer '75
Theodore "Ted" Werner '74
Marvin "Marv" Yates '74

THE 80S

Ellen Curtis '82



K. Gene Christian, B.A., M.E.A., one of the region's foremost authorities in the fields of planned giving and advancement, died peacefully at age 58 on January 25, 2021, after a short illness. Christian loved being surrounded by his friends and family, especially his wife Michelle, and their grown daughters, McKenna and Harper. During his 30-year career in estate planning, Christian opened his company, Charitable Estate Planning Northwest. Clark College Foundation had the pleasure of working with Christian as an adviser. Christian's deepest honor and tribute to his life would be for others to complete their own estate planning documents; he would be pleased to know that everything was in place for family members whenever death comes. If you would like assistance with the estate planning process, contact Clark College Foundation at 360.992.2301.

The late Gene Christian with his family. Photo by the Christian family

THE 90S

Karen Berry '97
Klazina Dobbe '95
Linda Roselli '96
Ernest Wahlen '95
Sharon Young '97

THE 10S

Tyler Chambers '13
Grant Fisher '17
Erick Gonzalez '10

CLASS DATES UNKNOWN

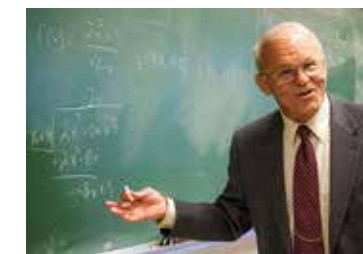
Charlotte "Loti" Christensen
June Conway
Denise Crist
David Ebert
Leonard Fuerstenau
Duane Gasaway
Ramona Hendricks
Barbara Holder
Berenice Jolliver
James "Jim" McIntosh
Guy McMackin
Mary Miller
Douglas "Doug" Vossler
Liliya "Lily" Zagariya

FRIENDS OF CLARK

Beverly "Bev" Anderson
Grant "Dean" Barth
Roger Borgerson
John Bukovi
Ygnacio "Mike" Calderon
Kenneth "Gene" Christian
Michael "Mike" Farthing
Faith Ivie
Adele Johnston
Vida Karnofski
Ronald "Ron" Lealos
Robert Lundeen
Diana McClaskey
Arch Miller

FACULTY & STAFF

Mike Greenwood '61



Dr. Mike Greenwood '61 was a math professor and wrestling coach. He retired in 1996.

SUBMIT AN IN MEMORIAM

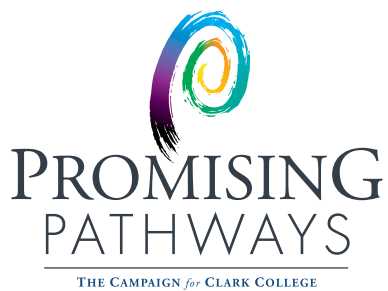
Online: clarkcollegefoundation.org/alumni/in-memoriam

Phone: 360.992.2301

Email: alumni@supportclark.org

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