



SUMMER 2022

A professional portrait of a man with short brown hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a dark blue button-down shirt under a reddish-brown plaid blazer. The background is a solid dark grey.

## A NEW ADVOCATE FOR CLARK COLLEGE

### PLUS

- + Student by student
- + Keeping student debt in check
- + Guru of old growth forests
- + Teachers + Clark = a better education
- + Stories from the farm

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## A NEW ADVOCATE FOR CLARK COLLEGE

Calen D. B. Ouellette returned to the Pacific Northwest to become Clark College Foundation's new chief executive officer and chief advancement officer, where he looks to include new faces and new voices in support of Clark.

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**“ We need to be bold and patient and willing to notice our blind spots. ”**

— *Calen Ouellette, CEO/CAO  
Clark College Foundation*

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## STUDENT BY STUDENT

Colleges across the country face steep declines in enrollment and retention. At Clark, donors are stepping up to offer creative solutions. They are supporting programs popular with students, funding textbook libraries and covering students' license and exam fees.

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## ‘GURU OF OLD GROWTH’ FORESTS

Research by Clark alumnus Jerry Franklin '55 has led to the protection of millions of acres of old growth forest and helped form the conversation about Earth's changing climate.

### CLARK PARTNERS PRODUCTION

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**Cover:** Calen Ouellette resolutely believes connecting donors and partners with Clark's programs and projects will encourage them to become advocates and ambassadors of Southwest Washington's premier community college.  
Photo by Craig Mitchelldyer '00



## Savoring *the excellence*



It was a night to remember in May at Clark College Foundation's annual gala, Savoring Excellence. Left to right, Jasmine Tolbert '15, right, celebrated her Rising Star alumni award with her family; guests enjoyed each other's company during a reception; Clark student Chris Ramirez, on bass, and his jazz trio preformed throughout the show; and Christina Bulanov '20 was accompanied by the jazz trio. Photos by Craig Mitchelldyer '00. See more pictures of the evening at <https://bit.ly/3zZYOOm>

**S**avoring Excellence brought together donors, partners, alumni, students, faculty and staff at the foundation's annual gala to highlight the final stages of its successful \$32 million Promising Pathways fundraising campaign. Several hundred guests were reunited and welcomed on May 24, 2022, with laughs, hugs and the chance to say hello in person once again at the Hilton Vancouver Washington. Several individuals received awards for their generous financial support, decades-long volunteering and outstanding contributions as Clark alumni and community friends. It was during the acknowledgment of exceptional partners that Tom Cook, a major contributor, pledged \$2 million to Clark's cybersecurity program making it one of the top 10 largest gifts in the campaign. Clark College President Karin Edwards spoke about the effects the pandemic has had on Clark students and the decline in enrollment, yet she was adamant in her belief that the virus had not defined what Clark represents to the community. Sprinkled throughout the show were live performances by Clark's Concert Choir, the Chris Ramirez jazz trio and a vocal performance by Christina Bulanov '20. The evening included a recognition and goodbye to outgoing CEO Lisa Gibert. Gibert reflected on creating lasting relationships while serving as the foundation's leader for 16 years. The event wrapped up with a "welcome and hello" message from incoming foundation CEO, Calen Ouellette.

## 86TH GRADUATING CLASS HONORED

Clark College honored its 86th graduating class at commencement on June 16, 2022, during an in-person ceremony at the RV Inn Style Resorts Amphitheater. Dr. Rashida Willard, vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion, delivered prepared remarks from President Karin Edwards, who was unable to attend. "It's the power of persistence that builds resiliency. It's a power that assures you can overcome any challenge." About 550 of the college's 1,965 graduates were in attendance. The ceremony honored students graduating with bachelor's or associate degrees and those earning certificates, high school diplomas and/or completing their GED. This year's graduating class included 319 Running Start graduates. Clark conferred its first Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in cybersecurity degrees at the ceremony. This comes on the heels of announcing the fifth BAS degree program, the Bachelor of Applied Science in teacher

education. The recipients of the 2022 Exceptional Faculty Awards were libraries professor Katy Anastasi; phlebotomy professor Dr. Amy Castellano; biology professor Steven Clark; surveying and geomatics professor Erielle Lamb; and English professor Gail Robinson. Graduate Maddie Hennerty was the recipient of the 2021-2022 Community College Presidents' Award in Honor of Val Ogden. The scholarship award provides full-time tuition at Washington State University.



Left to right, Irene Li and Pearl Muodzi are two of Clark College's recent graduates. They and others were honored during the 86th commencement ceremony in June, at the RV Inn Style Resorts Amphitheater in Ridgefield, Wash. The college conferred more than 1,900 degrees and certificates. Photo by Jenny Shadley

## Campaign pathway comes to a promising conclusion



Even years is a long time for anything, but in the case of Clark College Foundation that is the lifetime of the Promising Pathways fundraising campaign, which formally concluded on June 30, 2022. The most successful fundraising initiative in the history of Clark College, Promising Pathways raised more than \$32.4 million to support numerous programs and projects at the college including scholarships, building projects, faculty development, equipment and several other priorities. The campaign was supported by 5,279 unique individuals and entities, donating more than 23,000 gifts since July 2015. More than 60% of the total donors were new—that is, prior to the Promising Pathways campaign they had not contributed to Clark College Foundation. The highlight of the campaign is the funding raised for scholarships. Originally, the foundation committed to raising \$8 million to help students avoid the heavy burden of student debt. But the community's response was tremendous with more than \$16 million contributed toward scholarships, special awards and financial support for Clark College students.

*Welcoming new voices, expanding messages to heighten awareness of Clark are priority*

# A NEW ADVOCATE for CLARK COLLEGE

by RHONDA MORIN

Photos by CRAIG MITCHELLDYER '00

For Calen Ouellette, coming back to the Pacific Northwest is a return home to the comforts of nature and family, and a chance to build new partnerships.

"One of the things I love about the Northwest is the hiking, kayaking and getting outdoors. That's where I recharge," said Ouellette, who began his new job as CEO of Clark College Foundation on May 31, 2022.

Originally from Montana, his formative years were spent in Spokane, Wash., before setting off to college in Pullman at Washington State University, where he earned a degree in public relations and communication from the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication. An MBA came later from the University of Southern California.



The way Ouellette came to understand the world and the beginnings of how to relate to others, came from his early Washington experiences. He got involved in YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club while in high school, and then in student government and as a member of a college fraternity.

"I wanted to get involved. But I didn't understand how powerful a voice could be or my activation or statements in support of something until this last decade while sitting at tables with dignitaries, corporations and CEOs and was able to lend my perspective and voice."

"I firmly believe that connecting donors and partners with Clark's programs and projects will encourage them to become advocates and ambassadors of Southwest Washington's premier community college," he said.

Fast forward to today, three months after taking the job, Ouellette is finding a community that is eager to help Clark College and its students on their pathways to success.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH COLLEGE

Some of his objectives are to listen, observe and build partnerships with Clark College Foundation's staff, donors, volunteers, alumni and other partners, Clark College's faculty and staff, and the Southwest Washington community.

"President Edwards has a really great vision for where we're going and she's building that, taking a good-to-great scenario. The foundation will help her build awareness of what the college is doing and how the foundation is supporting it, and how people in the region can get involved," he said.

The college is undergoing a comprehensive strategic planning process that will elevate high-level goals for the college over the next five years, providing Ouellette and the foundation's fundraising and advocacy team with a road map of priorities.

One of the top college priorities will be diversity, equity and inclusion for Clark's students, faculty and staff.

"We have an opportunity, just as Clark is doing, to lend our voices and support to those individuals who don't generally get a place on the stage or platform to tell their story."

"Whether it be a financial investment or promoting or encouraging advocacy or ambassadorship, fundraising, in general, is white-centric—through its employees and those who give. We have the chance to change that. We may be a regional foundation, but we're the fourth largest endowment in the country for community college foundations. We have a strong voice," said Ouellette.

*Continued on next page*

Even before the pandemic, the higher education environment across the country was changing. But following two years of shutdowns, restarts and economic challenges, those adjustments have taken on a renewed urgency.

Ouellette says the nation is headed for a decline in the number of higher education institutions. Yet community colleges have an advantage: they're already accessible to more people.

"We need more tradespeople. We need to reduce the cost of education. We need to be accessible and equitable to those who are balancing work, family and taking a few courses or pursuing a degree to advance their career," said Ouellette. "Clark College is providing opportunities for success for our students and the community."

He sees Clark College Foundation walking in lockstep with the college by providing critical resources for students as they pursue promising futures.

"Community colleges are nimble and have the flexibility to meet student and workforce demand effectively. The foundation has been and will continue to actively promote the steps Clark College is taking to ensure student success and equitable outcomes. This is an exciting time for Clark."

#### THE ROADMAP

The foundation recently wrapped up a seven-year fundraising campaign that raised millions of dollars for several Clark programs, like guided pathways and the Veterans Center of Excellence. Over the next several years, Ouellette intends to enhance public relations and marketing to help Clark College further promote its excellent programs and services.

"We will adjust our messaging to talk about the newest changes and enhance our engagement to ensure we have ambassadors and advocates. Then, even more people will understand the advances we're making as a college and foundation," he said.

His plan also involves an adjustment to the foundation's fundraising approach.



"Fundraising is not just about fiscal resources; it's about advocacy as well. It's engaging people to share a voice and share resources. Yes, we would appreciate a gift to the foundation that supports Clark College. I will never say no to that. However, we recognize some people can't give financial resources, so what are alternative ways that they can contribute to the mission? Advocacy helps to spotlight the college and its outstanding programs that prepare employees for today's competitive jobs. Then those conversations may deliver financial support down the road."

"We need to be bold and patient and willing to notice our blind spots and figure out how to navigate around those spots," Ouellette said.

For those who are contributing dollars now, they are increasingly asking to see, hear and read about what their gift does for Clark College—sometimes instantly.

"Many people want to see how their money is being spent. They want to see statistics. They want entities to report what it is that you are doing, whether it's \$5 or \$5 million, they expect to learn how their dollars are making a difference. And they are less likely to invest long term; instead, they make short term investments," he said.

Ouellette anticipates a buildup of additional resources to meet the modern demand for transparency. He and the foundation staff will explore ways to engage potential new donors or higher education advocates who haven't historically been a part of Clark's philanthropy.

"This will take resources to build a pipeline into new communities that we haven't traditionally served or haven't been given a voice within Clark College Foundation," he said.

Investing in communications and marketing will be a major part of the equation. There will

be more social media messages, the use of QR codes, expanded online services and more rapid transactions over personal devices.

"Representing those who have not had a voice in the past, sharing the expansive educational opportunities at Clark, engaging in dialogue," are all on the table, he added.

Now that he's in Vancouver following more than 20 years of working in public relations and fundraising in fast-paced American cities like New York and Los Angeles, Ouellette is ready to settle into the cadence of the Pacific Northwest to build partnerships, make friends, advocate for the college and take Clark College Foundation to an even greater level. ☺



Rhonda Morin, APR, is the executive director of communications and marketing at Clark College Foundation.

Calen D.B. Ouellette, MBA, began his new role as Clark College Foundation's CEO in May 2022. The foundation, like the college, will enhance its support of individuals who don't generally get a place on a stage or platform to tell their story, he says.

# Student by student: thinking outside the scholarship

Facing a national decline in college enrollment, donors are finding creative ways to help students get back, and stay, in the classroom

By LILY RAFF MCCAULOU

**A**cross the nation, colleges faced an unprecedented enrollment and retention crisis even before the COVID-19 pandemic. In the 2008-2009 academic year, 471,145 students—the highest number ever recorded—were enrolled in Washington's 34 community and technical colleges. By the 2019-2020 school year, that number had dropped more than 28% to 337,618.

The pandemic caused enrollment to plummet further, along with retention numbers. Students got laid off from their jobs and couldn't afford to continue with college, not to mention their children were home from school and day care. In Washington, enrollment at two-year colleges in the 2021-2022 school year dropped to 229,182—less than half of what it was 13 years earlier.

These trends are grim but make no mistake, Clark College Foundation is supporting the college to get students back in the classroom. The foundation is connecting donors with creative ways to fulfill their interests and legacies. From a transformative gift in support of a growing department to paying for students' exam and licensing fees to building a textbook lending library, donors are finding ways, big and small, to

elp students earn their degrees. That creativity  
on top of the more than \$1 million in  
scholarships awarded to Clark students each year  
by the foundation.

“Donors are looking to provide direct support to students that go beyond traditional scholarships,” said Vivian Manning, Clark College foundation’s director of development and gift planning.

Hanning said one donor who funds nursing students' scholarships, for example, also pays graduates' exam and licensing fees, to help make sure students transition from Clark to the workplace without racking up cumbersome bills. And Clark's Veterans Center of Excellence is using donated funds to make textbooks and books available to students for free.

Laura McDowell, communications director for Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, said this kind of direct support can make all the difference for students.

That one decision to make books available and give a student \$400 could allow that student to stay in college,” she said. “And that will have a lifetime of benefits for that student and for that student’s community. The benefits ripple out in ways that pay back many more times over.”

A young Black woman with curly hair, wearing glasses and a striped shirt, holding a pencil and a small notebook, looking thoughtful. The background is filled with repeating text in various colors, including questions about financial aid, scholarships, and educational paths.



tribution by Bryce Van Patten '18, '20. Photo by freepik company

**PROGRAM FUNDS ARE  
GAME CHANGER**

donors contribute to program funds, which provide unrestricted money for a department's faculty to spend at their discretion on students. In the geology department, for example, program funds help students cover the cost of attending conferences and workshops. Program money has also been used to pay students' membership fees for professional organizations.

ark's Veterans Center of Excellence, a  
am fund covers emergency grants for  
nts who need one-time help covering  
es, rent, food or other bills. When a veteran  
es to enroll, it can take a month or two  
eive their GI benefits. If a tuition bill is  
efore then, emergency funds could be the  
ence between enrolling in college or not.

Community college students face significant social challenges right now.

community colleges are serving more students are living on the edge financially," said

Dowell. "They may have to make very difficult choices about whether they can pay a bill or go to school."

port released in February 2020 found that 1 out of 10 community college students in Washington experienced hunger or housing insecurity in the past year even though most of them were working. That was before food and living costs skyrocketed during the pandemic.

Ana Larson, associate director of the Veterans Center of Excellence at Clark, said one student out of town the first week of spring term, along with a family emergency. The student had worried because she hadn't yet purchased textbooks. Larson has a fund made possible by donor contributions to cover textbooks. She used this money to buy the student's books, which cost \$585.

"It's a lot of money for our students," Larson said. "If they're buying textbooks one month instead of paying their rent, it's really hard to come out from under that."

ents usually donate their textbooks back. There are about 200 veterans enrolled at Clark College and about 50 of them use the textbook



*"I had a life-changing injury as I was approaching my senior year. Because of Clark College Foundation's scholarship program I was able to return to school, and get two degrees that have changed my life for the better. Thank you Clark College Foundation."*

-Bryce Van Patten '18, '20,  
illustrator

lending library or get help from the book program fund, according to Larson.

### CYBERSECURITY IN DEMAND

In May 2022, philanthropist and restaurant franchise owner Tom Cook announced a major gift—\$2 million to support Clark’s new cybersecurity program. The program allows students who’ve already earned an associate degree or bachelor’s degree to earn a bachelor of applied science in cybersecurity in two years. Trained cybersecurity specialists are in high demand, with salaries starting in the six figures.

The department is building a cyber range—a closed-off network where students can practice defending against hacks, malware and viruses. Students can team up and battle each other, with one team trying to hack into a system and the other trying to prevent it. Unlike an actual network, the computers in a cyber range are easily reset, so mistakes don’t require costly, arduous repairs.

A recent grant, along with a portion of Cook’s generous gift, will support the construction of this new range, the first of its kind in the Pacific Northwest and the first at any community college in the U.S.



Clark student Michael Wallace works on a solution in front of Clark's cybersecurity practice servers on campus. Photo by Craig Mitchelldyer '00

“This puts Clark on the map,” said Dwight Hughes, professor of computer science and director of Clark’s cybersecurity program.

Currently, students pay about \$180 per course to subscribe to software that mimics some of what a cyber range can do. When the cyber range is built, Hughes said, students will get a richer educational experience for less money. Their course costs will drop to about \$50 for a textbook. Additionally, private corporations will be able to rent the range to train their employees, further offsetting costs.

The cybersecurity program has a six-month waitlist for students. Clark College administration approved another tenure track professor and when that position is hired, the college will admit an additional 24-student cohort, which Hughes said could be filled immediately, making a small but welcome dent in Clark’s enrollment issue.

But Hughes said hiring a high-quality faculty member is easier said than done, especially in a field where a seasoned expert could earn \$300,000 per year in the private sector. A recent posting for the new tenure track position yielded just three applications.

“We don’t have a solution for this right now,” Hughes said. Even if he had funding for that kind of competitive wage, college and union policies would prevent it.

While the search for full-time cybersecurity faculty is underway, there are well-qualified professionals who want to teach part time, he said.

Joel Munson, outgoing chief advancement officer of Clark College Foundation, said Cook’s gift to support the department is, ultimately, an opportunity for students that will result in higher enrollment and retention. Well-funded programs—which are often supported by philanthropy, Munson added—are “like magnets to students.”

“It’s that extra layer of funding that matters when it comes to recruitment and retention of students,” Munson said. “Students want to be in quality programs with quality professors and technology. That’s why Tom Cook’s gift is such a big deal. This transformational gift will allow Clark College to do things it could only dream about before, and that will have a huge impact on an already popular and quality program.”

### SUPPORTING THE UNDERSERVED

High quality faculty are repeatedly linked to retaining students, especially students from historically underserved communities.

Clark College Foundation’s work in support of the college is one part of a broader response to ongoing enrollment and retention challenges. In 2021, a committee of Clark College administrators began working on a three-year strategic enrollment management plan to increase enrollment by 5% by 2024. Dr. Michele Cruse, vice president of student affairs at Clark, serves on the committee. Other goals include increasing student retention and halving the equity gap between historically underserved populations.

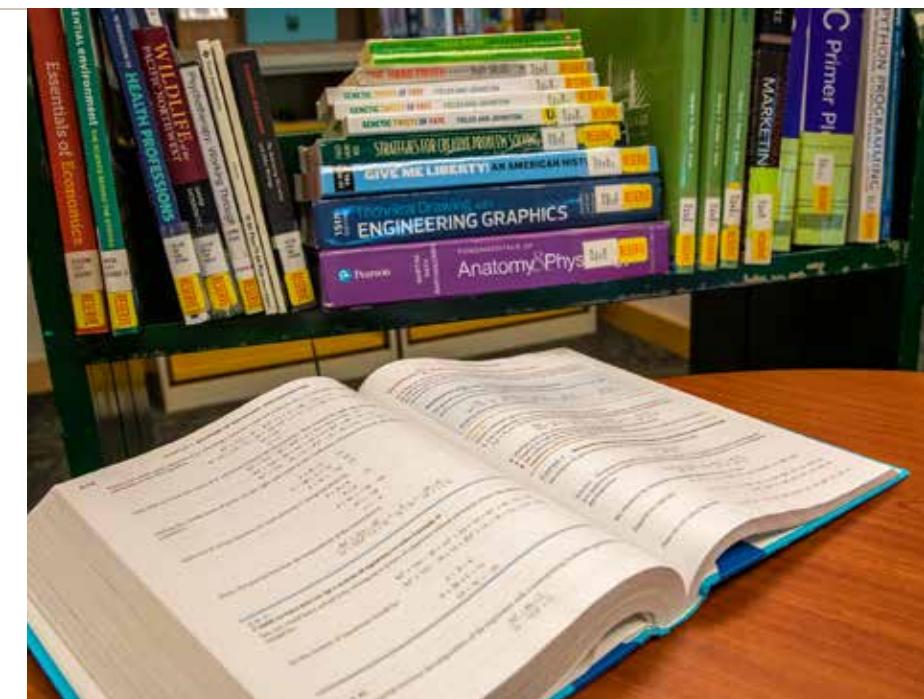
“The benefits of increasing enrollment and retention include lifting families out of poverty, increasing post-secondary credentials in Washington and closing the equity gaps for first-generation students, students with disabilities and systemically excluded students,” Cruse said.

Experts say equity is a key to increasing college enrollment. About half of all 25- to 44-year-olds in Washington have a college degree. But only 30% of Black, 20% of Hispanic and 20% of Native American Washingtonians in that age group have a college degree. Historically underserved students are also more likely to leave college without completing their education.

“Clark College is committed to building an environment where all students feel welcome, accepted and valued,” Cruse said.

The state is working to reverse declining enrollment and retention. McDowell, a spokesperson for the agency governing two-year colleges in Washington, said the legislature recently funded community-based organizations to help potential students fill out financial aid applications. The forms are complicated and can be a barrier to enrollment. By hiring organizations that are already a touchpoint for underserved communities, the state could recruit new students.

Summer Kenesson, interim director of policy research for Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, said there are plenty of reasons why it’s important to reverse declining enrollment.



A person’s lifetime earnings increase with credentials, so when people attend college, they raise their earning potential. And trained people bring valuable skills and knowledge to their community. This year’s automotive students will be the area’s car mechanics in a year or two.

If the country doesn’t reverse its declining college enrollment, “it’s very concerning what the long-term effects will be, in terms of lower credentials, lower earnings and ... what communities will do without these skills,” Kenesson said.

She is seeing some bright spots. Apprenticeship enrollment is increasing as the workforce opens back up. And students over the age of 40 are attending community colleges at higher rates than in recent years.

Potential students could see companies eager to hire as a sign of encouragement: if they go back to school and earn a degree or credential, they will be able to snag a higher paying job. And that means more stability over their lifetime.

In times like these, one donor’s textbook money could be a student’s determining factor. ☺

Lily Raff McCaulou’s writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The Guardian* and *Rolling Stone*. Visit her online at [www.lilyrm.com](http://www.lilyrm.com).

Clark  
students  
borrow less  
than most  
community  
college  
students,  
thanks  
largely to  
scholarships

# Keeping student debt in check

by LILY RAFF MCCAOLOU



reasonable price tag is what led Maddie Hennerty '22 to Clark College. Hennerty was 16 when she looked up the cost of attending state universities and felt discouraged. Her parents hadn't attended college but encouraged her to go. Hennerty, who lives in Battleground, Wash., eventually learned about Clark College. The cost seemed within reach.

"I had two years to save," she said.

Hennerty worked 25 hours a week, first at a pizza place and then at the mall, to save for

college. By the time she finished high school, she had saved enough to pay for her first year at Clark. Clark College Foundation awarded her scholarships to cover her entire second year.

Hennerty also received the 2021-2022 Community College Presidents' Award in Honor of Val Ogden, which covers full tuition at Washington State University, where she plans to study sociology. Hennerty is thrilled to earn her bachelor's degree with no debt.

"I'm feeling more secure in whatever I decide to pursue," Hennerty said, "because I won't be held back by the sixty grand I already have in my name."

Maddie Hennerty '22 is one of many students who graduated from Clark debt-free. She worked at a pizza restaurant while in high school, below, to save for college. Scholarships from Clark College Foundation helped stretch her savings. Inset photo by Maddie Hennerty. Graduation photo by Jenny Shadley



Glendi Gaddis, Clark's interim associate dean of financial aid, said Hennerty is not alone in avoiding debt at Clark.

"Many of our students are able to get their associate degree without borrowing anything," she said.

According to the U.S. Department of Education's college scoreboard data, 7% of Clark students borrowed money during the 2020-21 school year—the most recent year for which data is available. Among Clark students who graduated in 2021, the median total amount of student debt accrued was \$11,206—less than the national average community college debt of \$13,144.

The generosity of alumni and donors is a big reason for Clark students' lower debt. During the 2021-2022 academic year, the foundation awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to 550 students. The average scholarship was about \$2,400.

The foundation also awards transfer scholarships for Clark graduates transferring to other institutions, to help them pay for the next phase of their education.

Scholarships are critical to students' ability to pay for college, Gaddis said.

"When students are able to access grants and scholarship support, it helps them not have to borrow money," she said.

More than 43.4 million Americans have student loan debt totaling \$1.76 trillion. The average student loan debt in Washington state is \$35,117. Most of that debt is accrued at four-year institutions. Nationally, 55% of bachelor's degree recipients graduating from four-year colleges in 2020 had student loan debt with \$28,400 in average debt at graduation.

Community colleges remain an affordable alternative. Marla Skelley, an associate director for compliance at the Washington Student Achievement Council, said the 2020-2021 average annual loan for Washington students of community and technical colleges was \$5,862—a figure that includes resident and non-resident students, who tend to pay higher tuition costs.

# GIVE MORE 24!

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

**Thursday, September 22, 2022**

**Give More 24! unites the region for 24 hours of generosity. September 22 is an incredible day for Clark College students as we come together to raise funds to help them stay on their pathways to success.**

[www.givemore24.org/organizations/  
clark-college-foundation](http://www.givemore24.org/organizations/clark-college-foundation)



Across the nation, many students had their student loan payments paused during the pandemic. That suspension is scheduled to end in August 2022 and many will have to resume payment.

As part of Clark's transition to the guided pathways model of education, students get more information up front about college costs. Gaddis said the model helps students stay on track to achieve their education goals. This is important because students who borrow money and don't complete a degree face a higher probability of being unable to repay their loans.

"We definitely don't want students borrowing more than they need," Gaddis said. "And if they do borrow, we want them to be informed." ☺

Lily Raff McCaulou is a journalist whose writing has appeared in The New York Times, The Atlantic, The Guardian and Rolling Stone. Visit her at [www.lilyrm.com](http://www.lilyrm.com).



# “The guru of old growth has roots in Clark College”

by SUSAN PARRISH  
photos by JAMES PIPKIN

World-renowned forest ecologist Jerry Franklin launched his career at Clark College, learning from Dr. Anna Pechanec, the namesake of one of Clark's science buildings.

**J**erry Franklin '55 grew up in Camas in the 1940s and 50s when it was a blue-collar mill town of fewer than 5,000 people, and the behemoth Crown Zellerbach paper mill infused everything—from the pungent air to the name of Camas High School's sports teams, the Papermakers.

“Everybody either worked at the paper mill or depended on it,” Franklin said. “It was the largest specialty paper mill in the world. My dad worked there. His dad worked there. And I worked there.”

But Franklin dreamed of a different path. It was on family camping trips in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, walking beneath the canopy of towering old growth trees, that the boy whose middle name was “Forest” felt most at home. It wasn’t simply that he liked being in the woods. His connection was deeper than that. He felt kinship with big trees. Trees were his friends. The boy realized his calling and spoke out loud, to the trees. He vowed to spend his life protecting them.

Franklin wanted to attend college. His parents supported his decision but didn’t have money to pay for it. Franklin worked on a fire crew for two summers, earning \$125 a month minus the cost of boarding. When he graduated from Camas High School in 1954, he had saved enough to enroll at Clark College.

Franklin spent one year at Clark, the first step in a long career that changed the way the rest of us view

old growth forests. Franklin went on to become a world-renowned forest ecologist, publishing more than 300 scientific articles and books. His research changed the way forests are managed—and as a result, reshaped entire communities that once centered on mills designed to chop huge trees into lumber.

Franklin is now 85 years old. His work has led to the protection of millions of acres of trees. He’s been dubbed “the father of new forestry” and “the guru of old growth forests.” He is still leading the call to protect old growth forests, still speaking up about the importance of preserving old trees—both living and decaying—to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Although he spent only one academic year at Clark College, Franklin described his time there as “profound.” When Franklin stepped onto Clark’s campus in fall 1954, he found a community where he thrived.

“My time at Clark was tremendous,” he said. “In high school, I was bored, inattentive. I had excelled at some things but didn’t do well overall. College was more suited to my way of learning.”

He appreciated being immersed in new subjects and new ideas. He liked meeting people and making friends. His confidence grew and he ran for ASCC president but didn’t win. He also met his first wife, Carol Ann Jarrett, a fellow student who worked in the bookstore. He bought a pencil from her every day so he could talk to her. Later they married and raised a family together.

“I’m grateful for my year at Clark and the teachers I had here,” Franklin said. “I maintain that for basic classes, you get better teaching at a community college than a four-year institution.”

The Clark instructors he appreciated most were chemistry professor Roland Dietmeier and biology professor Dr. Anna Pechanec. Their classes were challenging and engaging.

In Pechanec, Franklin found a mentor and kindred spirit. Franklin had spent his formative years camping amid big trees, but Pechanec had spent her life studying them. She was an expert on Northwest native plants—from towering old growth Douglas firs to the much smaller mosses, lichens and liverworts, her specialty. Franklin

*Continued on next page*

“

*I’m an advocate for preserving what’s left of our mature forests. But I also believe in managing the forests we have cut, for the benefit of the forests and humanity.*

– Jerry Franklin '55

”

credits Pechanec with helping him develop the research skills that formed the foundation of his career.

Franklin and Pechanec began doing field research together in old growth forests in Southwest Washington. Over several years they recorded 350 plots all over the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

"We'd find stands, lay out a plot, sample it and observe what species were there. We did a complete inventory of trees, species and sizes. I collected data on trees and shrubs. She collected data on mosses, lichens and liverworts. Previously, the Forest Service did timber inventories, but never ecological inventories."

Their work laid the foundation for Franklin's later groundbreaking research that halted logging old growth forests in favor of maintaining them as precious ecosystems.

After his year at Clark, Franklin transferred to what is now Oregon State University, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in forest management. He then earned a doctorate in botany and soils from Washington State University.

**Franklin's findings were not just unexpected, they shattered the accepted beliefs about old growth forests. He's seen here teaching in Gifford Pinchot National Forest in 2013. Photo by James Pipkin**



## GROUND-BREAKING FORESTRY RESEARCH

Toward the tail end of his bachelor's program, Franklin spent a summer doing research with the U.S. Forest Service.

"Research was a perfect fit for me," he said.

Franklin was hired by the agency as a research forester in 1959. At the time, old growth forests were believed to be biological deserts. Under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service managed forests as a timber commodity or a crop to be harvested. The most efficient method was clear cutting. Enormous swaths of forest on federal land had been logged over decades.

Building upon the ecological inventory system he practiced with Pechanec, Franklin began studying old growth forests. His findings were not just unexpected, they shattered the accepted beliefs about old growth forests. He was the lead author on a 50-page research paper, "Ecological Characteristics of Old Growth Douglas Fir Forests" (USDA Forest Service, 1981). This groundbreaking work stated that old growth forests were not biological deserts at all, but

vibrant ecosystems. The paper also noted that old, dead trees—still-standing snags and fallen logs decaying on the forest floor—were essential for the health of the ecosystem.

Franklin's research findings helped ramp up the Pacific Northwest timber wars, a showdown between environmentalists who wanted to save the northern spotted owl—a species that relied on the old growth ecosystem—and the timber industry that relied on the profit margins of huge old trees.

Franklin made enemies with the timber industry and environmentalists alike. Some environmentalists disagreed with Franklin's willingness to selectively cut trees in managed forests. He received death threats. "Wanted: Dead or Alive" posters with his name and photo were displayed in the logging community of Forks, Wash.

Through his original research, Franklin became a world-renowned authority on old growth forests and their importance to a healthy, sustainable ecosystem. He served as a panelist at the White House Forest Conference in 1993. He was appointed by President Bill Clinton as one of four lead scientists, dubbed the "gang of four" by the critics, to draft the Northwest Forest Plan, a guideline for managing old growth forests and maintaining their rich ecosystems.

Due to protests by environmentalists, lawsuits, effects on the northern spotted owl and more, the U.S. Forest Service stopped logging in old growth forests on federal land in Western Washington and Oregon.

But Franklin hasn't stopped speaking up for old trees. Recently, when he learned the Forest Service proposed logging almost 2,000 acres of mature trees, 100 to 150 years old, in the Willamette National Forest in Oregon, he co-wrote a guest editorial in The Eugene Register-Guard with longtime colleague Norm Johnson.

They wrote: "There are no ecological justifications for harvesting more than 2,000 acres of mature forest ... It is time to stop logging magnificent mature forests ... once and for all. These forests simply contribute too much ecologically, socially and spiritually in their current state."

Sitting in Gaiser Hall on Clark College's campus one June morning, Franklin explained his philosophy about trees and logging: "I'm an advocate for preserving what's left of our mature forests. But I also believe in managing the forests we have cut, for the benefit of the forests and humanity. The bottom line is maintaining the integrity of the ecosystems, not timber production."

## TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION

Franklin taught the next generation of foresters at Oregon State University and later at University of Washington. He took his UW students to some of the research sites where he and fellow scientists collaborated over decades. After Franklin retired, assistant professor Brian Harvey continued his field work. Franklin's dedication to measuring individual trees and collecting data in long-term forest management plots has provided evidence of the acceleration of climate change.

Harvey said, "Now that we're seeing the effects of climate change manifest so rapidly, those long-term measurements are so important to being able to understand what we're observing today. It is incredibly humbling to carry forward some of the long-term work that Jerry and his collaborators have invested in for many years. Jerry's insights on forest ecology have been profound and far reaching."

As he approaches his 86th birthday, Franklin's lifelong commitment to protect the trees has not wavered. He continues his work: writing opinion pieces against logging in old growth forests, speaking about how old trees can reduce the effects of climate change and spending time underneath the canopy of old trees. He still retreats to his nearly century-old cabin nestled in old growth forest in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, not far from where he camped with his family when he was a boy and first dedicated his life to protecting the trees.

"It's still my favorite place to be," he said. ☺



Susan Parrish is a journalist who writes about education, the environment, economic opportunity and living simply.

# Teachers + Clark = a better education

Educators passionate about supporting Clark students

by LILY RAFF MCCALOU

Ed Bedecarrax, in the background, is a retired dean and professor who teaches community education courses at Clark. He funds a scholarship in memory of his sister, Jean Marie Bedecarrax, in the foreground. She tackled discrimination in the workplace in the 1980s as a female executive at a construction company. The scholarship is intended to empower women to be leaders. Photo by Jenny Shadley



# F

or 36 years, Ed Bedecarrax worked at City College of San Francisco, teaching anatomy and physiology and environmental sciences and then serving as a dean of instruction before retiring to Camas, Wash. with his husband, Hal Kauffman. About 48 hours after they moved into their new home, Bedecarrax received a phone call from Clark College. The caller, a friend of one of Bedecarrax's colleagues in San Francisco, wanted him to teach a physiology course at Clark.

"I was officially retired for about three days," Bedecarrax said.

After teaching physiology at Clark, Bedecarrax moved on to Clark's Mature Learning program—today known as Community and Continuing Education. He was able to diversify his interests, such as explore Italian art history, while still doing what he loved: teaching. For the past year and a half, Bedecarrax has taught quarterly courses on the history of Italy and Italian artists and the role of women in Italian Renaissance painting.

"Many great Italian artists were women, but you don't know anything about them," he said, "because they painted under the name of their father or husband."

The topic not only captivated Bedecarrax but connected him to his late sister, Jean Marie Bedecarrax, whom he felt was misunderstood and underappreciated during her life. This experience is one example of what Bedecarrax said he continues to gain from a lifetime of teaching.

Now, Bedecarrax is funding a \$2,750 annual scholarship to memorialize his sister and give back after a rewarding career. He joins the many educators and former educators who give to Clark College Foundation in support of Clark College students with a generosity that far surpasses the modest pay for which their career is known.

Educators consistently name the foundation in their wills, setting aside money from their estates to help Clark students remain on their educational pathways. They make generous annual gifts and name scholarships after loved ones, as Bedecarrax did. They serve on volunteer boards to help govern and advise Clark College Foundation.

In short, teachers love Clark.

And Clark loves teachers—in part by training a future generation of educators. Beginning this fall, Clark College will offer a bachelor of applied science in teacher education.

## NEW DEGREE FOR TEACHERS

Clark College's fifth bachelor's degree will offer a new pathway for students who already earned an associate degree—or, in some cases, a bachelor's in a field other than education—to earn a bachelor's in two years.

Upon graduating, these students will be qualified for a Washington license to teach preschool through third grade. And the program is designed to offer a bilingual teaching endorsement to those who are already multi-lingual when they enroll.

Like many parts of the country, Vancouver, Wash., is experiencing a teacher shortage. Clark's new program is designed for people who already work in education—as paraeducators or in preschools, for example—but who might not have the resources to attend a four-year university. Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings so people can attend while working during the day. And there will be no classes during the summer to accommodate parents of young children.

"A lot of the work we do is from the 'grow your own teachers' model," said Meghan Crozier, department chair for the new bachelor's degree program. "We want people to be able to go to school in the community, stay in the community, get their degree in the community and then teach in the community."

Each quarter, students will spend time in a classroom with young children. During the second year, students will spend 30 hours in a classroom during the first quarter and then move into a full-time student teaching residency.

Clark already has a robust early childhood education program, which offers several certificates and

*Continued on page 27*



Boschma family reflects on their past as Clark College breaks ground on future campus

by RHONDA MORIN  
PHOTOS by JENNY SHADLEY

# Precious memories of a family's legacy



Above, members of the Boschma family join former Clark College Foundation CEO Lisa Gibert, left, during the groundbreaking of Clark's new campus. A land gift from the Boschmas allowed for the planning of a new campus in Ridgefield. Inset, Clark President Karin Edwards is joined by Cowlitz Indian Tribe spiritual leader Tanna Engdal during the June 1, 2022 event.

Ridgefield, Wash., a new chapter for the storied land began.

The 70 acres, which had traditionally been cultivated by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, will soon become the next Clark College satellite campus.

On June 1, 2022, the college broke ground on the first of five buildings to be built over five decades. Construction at Clark College at Boschma Farms is scheduled to start in 2023. It is expected to be complete in 2024 or 2025. Simultaneously, 20 acres of land located at the entry of the new campus will be developed into commercial businesses, according to officials from Clark College Foundation, which owns the commercial land, as well as other acreage surrounding the college's property.

**A**s the ceremonial gold shovels cut into the warm June earth on a once active dairy farm in

The new development represents a long-term visionary chapter for the future of the community college, made possible by gifts of land from the Boschma family and Ridgefield East 1 Associates LLC., in 2014, and land purchases by Clark College Foundation.

The fertile soil, streams and animals made the property valuable to till for all the people who have tended the land for generations. From the mid-60s through the 70s, that responsibility fell on the shoulders of Hank and Bernice Boschma, who emigrated from the Netherlands. The couple had 44 cows when they moved from Woodland, Wash., to Ridgefield to expand their dairy enterprise.

Parts of their story have already been told in the pages of Clark Partners magazine. Bernice and two of her three adult children, Shirley Rubbert and Symon Boschma, walked the property one last time on the afternoon of the official groundbreaking, and recalled different memories.



The Boschma dairy farm had 200 cows in the late 1970s. Photo by Shirley Rubbert

Coincidentally, it was 61 years ago on that same day—June 1, 1961—that Bernice arrived in the United States to start her new life and marry her soulmate a few weeks later.

"This represents the future of economic opportunity in northwest Clark County," said Dr. Karin Edwards, president of Clark College, during the ceremony. Other dignitaries joined her in proclaiming victory for increased access to higher education in the Ridgefield area, a region that has seen explosive growth in recent years.

Clark anticipates the first building will become an advanced manufacturing facility with courses and equipment in robotics, computer science, waterjets and 3D printing, as well as general education courses.

Before the acreage becomes a place of learning for Clark students, the family remembered the cows that grazed the land, the three children who were raised on the farm, the funny family stories and Hank's Massey Ferguson tractor.

## MEMORIES FLOOD BACK

"I was always glad he was my dad," said his son, Symon, recalling his swelling pride when he watched his dad stand up on the tractor while scraping manure and sometimes rounding up the cows to corral them into the barn.

Hank worked the property and the animals like a farmer does—at all hours. He kept a close eye on expenses, opting to work longer himself than to hire help. His hard work paid off. Hank and Bernice had 44 Holsteins in the early 1960s before moving to Ridgefield on May 1, 1965. By 1979, they owned 200 cows and a double-10 milking parlor apparatus to milk them.

In June 2022, the three family members walked along their old Ridgefield driveway, gravel crunching under their feet, turning to look at various outbuildings.

A detached garage stood a few feet from the walkway leading to their modest family home. Symon stepped into the musty-smelling structure, strewn with broken machinery and bits of trash.

Symon glanced up a ladder-like staircase, its treads polished smooth from so many years of use. "See up there on the right? That's where I hid my dad's cigarettes," he said, pointing to a spot in the wall at the top of the stairs.

As a boy, Symon tucked a pack of his father's Salem's into the secret spot, then snuck into the garage and lit the contraband up, using a car lighter. He'd pretend to be his father, waving around the cigarette and taking puffs.

His parents found him carrying on like this one day and laughed at his antics.

"My parents spotted me out of their bedroom window as my dad was getting ready to take his afternoon nap. He did this regularly because he had to get up early in the mornings to milk. When they came outside and caught me, I thought I would be in trouble but, to my relief, they thought it was humorous!"

## FAMILY HOUSE

The family's house was once a comfortable, active home, with a mud room at the entry—a visitor could almost hear Bernice telling Hank to take off his muddy boots—and a kitchen-living room space with big windows overlooking the fields.

The hustle and bustle of the home are gone now, left only to the imagination and memories of the family. Today, the house is in ruins, with holes in the floor, thick layers of dust everywhere, and a green layer of scum on the toilet bowl, giving it the look of a science experiment.

For decades since the family moved to other parts of Washington, the land and house have been rented to local farmers who grow strawberries. Cots and thin blankets in the former children's rooms upstairs were signs of occasional resting spots for the current tenants. A combined record and CD player in the living room still had an old 45 RPM record queued up: Frankie Valli, with a needle resting silently on the vinyl.

On the second floor, where the kids' rooms used to be, was a small space with arched walls. The ceiling closed in quickly so adults who walked in were forced to hunch over. It must have seemed like a secret chamber for the kids. The slanted ceiling was painted green, now faded.

*Continued on next page*

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH CLARK COLLEGE AT BOSCHMA FARMS?

There are opportunities for your participation in the creation and funding of Clark's newest satellite campus.

**Contact Calen Ouellette, CEO, Clark College Foundation**

**foundation@ supportclark.org**  
**360.992.2301**



*Continued from previous page*

Symon's daughter, Annie, her husband, Derek, and their 21-month-old son, Hank—his great grandfather's namesake—were seeing their father's childhood home for the first time. He showed them into his boyhood bedroom.

"I used to play with a neighbor friend in here when I was about 5 years old," he said. "She was my first little girlfriend." Coincidentally, Annie is now friends with the daughter of her father's playmate.

## A NEW START

The land and home are where the family worked the land, held birthday parties, celebrated holidays together, milked cows, dressed their best for church, and did all manner of things that families do. Those days are behind the Boschmas now—the children have had children and now Bernice has great, great grandkids.

The next phase for the land is about to begin. Through the passage of the 2021-2023 capital budget from the Washington Legislature and subsequent law signed by Gov. Jay Inslee in May 2021, there is \$53.2 million secured for the construction of the satellite campus, plus an additional \$1.5 million in federal earmarks for advanced manufacturing equipment.

Clark College Foundation is fundraising for future needs of the property and working on developing the commercial portion that may include retail spaces like food, coffee and other services. Once the first building is finished and programs are running, Clark officials expect individuals from Woodland, Kalama, Battle Ground and Ridgefield will choose to attend Clark College Boschma Farms.

The next closest community college to the north is Lower Columbia Community College in Longview, 30 miles from Ridgefield. A campus in Ridgefield—part of Clark's service district—will provide access to an underserved area. The site is located at Exit 14 east of Interstate 5 in Ridgefield.

Though it's a sentimental closing in the Boschma family chapter, the emergence of a place of learning brings new value and more stories.

"Hank is smiling on us. Thank you for believing in the vision," said Lisa Gibert, former CEO of Clark College Foundation, to Bernice Boschma at the groundbreaking. ☺



Rhonda Morin, APR, is the executive director of communications and marketing at Clark College Foundation.



## THE 60S

Columbia River High School renamed its stadium after former football coach and educator

**John O'Rourke** '69, who passed away last year. O'Rourke spent 43 years at the school, teaching social studies and coaching football, wrestling and track and field. He was head football coach for 22 years, and an assistant for 16 years prior to that, until his retirement after the 2015 season. He retired as an educator in 2007 after starting his career in Vancouver Public Schools in 1968 at Lewis Junior High.

## THE 80S

In a Columbian article, **Russ Graser** '83 recalled the events leading up to the historic Vancouver tornado that took his mother's life 50 years ago. Sharon Graser was one of six people

who died on April 5, 1972, when a tornado demolished Peter S. Ogden Elementary School, a nearby bowling center and a Waremart grocery store.

## THE 90S

**Wendi Moose** '96 volunteered with the East County Citizens Alliance to collect trash along roadsides in the Camas-Washougal area of Washington. The alliance launched the "Great Route 14 Trash Cleanup" in March 2022. The group has since collected and disposed of more than 2,000 pounds of trash along Highway 14 in east Clark County.

**Michael Palensky** '94, owner of the Couve Cycle, a 14-passenger pedal powered party cycle that tours through downtown Vancouver, Wash., is looking to sell his business that he opened in 2016. He intends to focus on his job at Gaiser Middle School.

Stan and **Nyla Wilson** '99, owners of Dot Donuts, in Vancouver, Wash., were featured in the Working in Clark County segment of The Columbian. Nyla works as administrative head, managing retail staff and merchandising for the busy bakery, while her husband Stan creates the menu.

## THE 00S



**Narek Daniyelyan** '09, assistant vice chancellor for strategic partnerships at Washington State University Vancouver, was named an adult finalist for the Marshall Leadership Award. The award celebrates rising leaders in Clark County, Wash. Photo by Narek Daniyelyan

Local photographer **Tyler Mode** '02 was named Battle Ground, Washington's 2022 Citizen of the Year. He started a scholarship for students who are about to graduate from high school. Mode, who is recovering from a stroke, also runs a local weather page and takes senior photos at community events.

Washington State Representative **Brandon Vick** '04 R-Vancouver, announced he won't seek reelection. Now in his 10th year in office representing the 18th District, Vick said he has enjoyed serving in the Legislature but believes it is time for new representation.

Washougal, Wash., in 2015 and opened the 54-40 Beer Lodge in Stevenson, Wash., in 2021.

## THE 20S



**Vladlena DuFresne** '11 is launching an on-demand event equipment rental app, called ROGO. It is part of the Columbian River Economic Development Council's Business Accelerator program, which helped the company establish a business model. DuFresne, a Clark College Running Start student, also received a grant from Workforce Southwest Washington.



Clark's former ASCC student government president, **Evans Kaame** '20, graduated from Washington State University in May 2022 with a degree in political science. He had planned to study engineering, but saw political science as a field where he could make a difference in his community and beyond. Photo by Jenny Shadley

**Britany Forgey** '17 started a new job as an RN in a position known as coordinator-transition mentorship and simulation at Providence Oregon Region. Photo by Britany Forgey

**Lily Hart** '16 is currently finishing her master's in history at the University of British Columbia and will begin a doctorate in history at the University of British Columbia in fall 2022, with full funding. Hart was a Phoenix Art and Literary Journal student ambassador and editor at Clark from 2015-2016.

**Bolt Minister** '11, co-owner of 54-40 Brewing Company, has partnered with local craft beverage distributors to supply products to retail shops, restaurants and taprooms throughout Washington state.

Minister started 54-40 Brewing with a production facility

and brewery and taproom in

Ridgefield, Wash. Minister started 54-40 Brewing with a production facility and brewery and taproom in Ridgefield, Wash.

Vancouver resident **Geri Hiller** received the 2022 Community Champion Award presented by the Community Foundation



**Kyle Yasumiishi** '14 was promoted to finance manager at Outreach Software Development in Seattle. He started with the company in April 2021 as a senior financial analyst. Photo by Kyle Yasumiishi

for Southwest Washington at its annual luncheon. Hiller was recognized for nearly 20 years of volunteer work with the Winter Hospitality Overflow shelter program at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Vancouver, Wash.

**John Horch**, chief criminal deputy at the Clark County Sheriff's Office, won the primary election for Clark County Sheriff and will advance to the general election in November. Horch has worked almost every assignment within the law enforcement agency during his 33-year career at the sheriff's office.

Longtime Vancouver city councilwoman and local historian

**Pat Jollota** was honored at The Kiggins Theater. The educational History on Tap program returned with "Pat Jollota: A Retrospective." Jollota moved to Vancouver, Wash., in 1982 and has been instrumental in archiving local history.

Camas Police Chief **Mitch Lackey** announced his plan to retire from the police force in 2023, marking the end of a 32-year career at the agency, including 14 years as chief.

**Tom Lineham**, a longtime personal journal keeper, was inspired by the Clark County Historical Museum's walking

tours to write the stories of others. Lineham walked 11 miles of Mill Plain Boulevard and talked with residents about the iconic

Vancouver, Wash., street. The second edition of his wayfaring travelogue, "Mill Plain Boulevard, Vancouver, USA: A Walking History," is now for sale at the Clark County Historical Museum.

**George Martin III**, vice president, senior commercial relationship manager with Banner Bank, was selected to receive the Banner's Best award, which represents the highest level of recognition within the company.

**Greg Nelson** and his wife Debbie Nelson co-founded Clark Neighbors Food Project in 2017 to make it easier for the community to donate nonperishable food and alleviate food insecurity in Clark County. The group had just four volunteers when it opened.

Now, it has more than 100 neighborhood coordinators who oversee more than 2,000 donors, collecting 20,000 pounds of food every two months.

Riverside Payments Chief Executive Officer **Brandon Skinner** was named one of Comparably's Best CEOs for Women and Best CEOs for Diversity for 2022. Comparably is a platform that provides compensation data for public and private companies.

**Mark Tishenko** founded a startup to assist companies that contract with the Department of Defense. The business, called itOS, tracks and manages system platform users.

## SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

**Online:** [clarkcollegefoundation.org/alumni/class-notes](http://clarkcollegefoundation.org/alumni/class-notes)

**Phone:** 360.992.2301

**Email:** [alumni@supportclark.org](mailto:alumni@supportclark.org)

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## THE 50S

Stanley "Stan" Charlston '56  
Frank Emerick '55  
Richard "Dick" Eten '55  
Commodore "C.G." Gaither '53  
Orson Ravenberg '57  
Curtis Rink '59  
Charles "Terry" Thomas '57

## THE 60S

Clifford "Cliff" Benjamin '60  
Dean "Jerry" Bork '60  
Jeffrey "Jeff" Boutwell '68  
Robert "Bob" Cook '68  
Melvin "Mel" Harnett '66  
Arpa Martell '67  
David Phelps '65  
Floyd Steen '69  
Alberta Yearout '65

## RUSSELL CROOKS III

Clark College is mourning the loss of Russell Crooks, an adjunct instructor in Clark's transitional English, communication and humanities department, who passed away in July 2022. Students described Crooks as a "caring guide who always went the extra mile, gave great feedback and provided whatever help the students needed to be successful."

## THE 70S

Eugene "Gene" Baker '76  
John "Jack" Barchek '74  
Donna Borge '75  
Lois Chapman '74  
Albert "Al" Christensen '75  
Alma Clark '74  
Sally Clark '72  
Phyllis Crary '73  
Pauline Greear '76

Nancy Houston '75  
Donald Johnson '73  
Sandra Kates '73  
Patrick "Pat" Klinger '71  
Joan "Pat" Phipps '71  
Loren Wagnild '74  
Beverly "Bev" Wakeman '73  
Paulette Yearout '76

## THE 80S

Robert Garlett '85  
Mark Scott '87

## THE 90S

Oscar Bergstrom '94  
José Otero '94

## THE 00S

Caleb Gervickas '18

## CLASS DATES UNKNOWN

Wayne Arbour  
Virginia Barber  
Darlene Carr  
Wayne Dannat  
June Dunn  
Randell "Randy" Fercho

## CLYDE WARNER '48



"I would not have been able to accomplish much in life if it wasn't for Clark College," said Clyde Warner '48 in 2006 when he made a gift in honor of his late wife, Billie.

Warner attended Clark College while working in his father's

Vancouver, Wash., gas station. He went on to earn a bachelor's from Washington State University and a master's from San Diego State, both in education. He worked more than 30 years as a physical education instructor and coach, alongside his wife, Billie Warner, who was a special education teacher. Together, they had two daughters. Warner credited his time on Clark's swim team for his love of scuba diving and traveling the world to explore the seas. Warner was an avid motorcyclist who explored all 50 states and numerous countries on two wheels. An Army veteran, Warner served in Korea. He is survived by his daughter, Nici Warner Boyle, and her family.

## FRIENDS OF CLARK

Donald "Don" Greear  
Mary Harrison  
Virginia Jongeward  
Phyllis King  
Marilyn Koenninger  
Norma Loughry  
Joyce Malin  
Donald "Don" Monfort  
Michael "Mike" Nylund  
Joan Rooney  
Gloria Schultz  
Phyllis Smith  
Sandra Strawn  
Donita Tandberg  
Betty Terry  
Vernon Uhacz  
Jennifer Warren  
Margot Weems

## SUBMIT AN IN MEMORIAM

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*Continued from page 21*

associate degrees. Students in these programs gain practical experience while helping to operate Clark's child care program. A cohort of 24 students is anticipated in the first year of the bachelor's program this fall.

One goal of the bachelor's degree program, according to Sarah Theberge, a member of the Early Childhood Education and Family Life Parent Child faculty, is to increase diversity among teachers at area schools.

"What's exciting about this pathway is that it's empowering workers in the early education field who are typically more diverse and typically have less access to a traditional four-year degree," Theberge said.

## TRAGEDY LEADS TO LEGACY

For Bedecarrax, education was a lifelong goal. He was born to hardworking immigrants—his father was Basque, his mother Italian.

"They were brilliant people, but they had about an eighth grade education," Bedecarrax said.

His father worked as a janitor and bus driver for the school district in Mill Valley, Calif. His mother cleaned houses and took in laundry. Every dollar they earned went toward Bedecarrax and his younger sister, Jean.

Bedecarrax lived up to his parents' high educational hopes. He went to University of California Berkeley, earning a bachelor's degree and then a master's in biology. But his younger sister, Jean, faced different expectations.

"The assumption was that she would get married and have lots of kids," Bedecarrax said.

Jean didn't want that. After high school she enrolled in a community college and took business-related classes, eventually landing a job at Fisher Development in San Francisco, where she managed large commercial building projects. At the peak of her career, Jean developed cancer. She passed away 10 years ago.

In her job as a construction company executive, Jean managed a lot of men, which was unusual when she entered the field in 1980.

"She never really received acknowledgement for what she achieved," Bedecarrax said of his sister.

The scholarship is, he said, an opportunity to recognize her accomplishments. It's one more way that Bedecarrax can support Clark, which he said has greatly enriched his life. By teaching classes about overlooked Italian women painters, for example, Bedecarrax reconsidered the discrimination that his sister faced in their family home and in her workplace.

Today, Bedecarrax is in his 70s, and his husband Hal Kauffman, a retired elementary school teacher, is in his 80s. And that brings Bedecarrax to another lesson he learned from working with Clark College Foundation to create a scholarship in his sister's name.

"There's no age where you can say, 'there's nothing more that I can give,'" Bedecarrax said. "There's always something."

Lily Raff McCaulou is a journalist whose writing has appeared in The New York Times, The Atlantic, The Guardian and Rolling Stone. Visit her at [www.lilyrm.com](http://www.lilyrm.com).

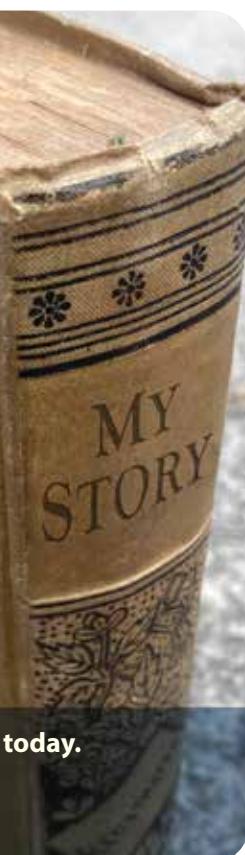
## Every plan begins with a story.

Estate planning can provide a new perspective on your legacy by offering answers to these and other questions:

- ✿ How do I reduce my taxes?
- ✿ How will our future needs be covered?
- ✿ Can I provide something for my family?
- ✿ Could my estate create a philanthropic legacy for Clark College?
- ✿ What legal documents do I really need?

**Let's start your story with a conversation today.**

Contact Vivian Manning, CFRE  
360.992.2104 | [vmanning@supportclark.org](mailto:vmanning@supportclark.org)





# PROMISING PATHWAYS

CLARK COLLEGE FOUNDATION

1933 Fort Vancouver Way  
Vancouver, WA 98663-3598

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