

CLARK

Partners

WINTER 2022

HEADWATERS *of* LEADERSHIP

PLUS

- + Where in the universe is Penguin Nation?
- + An original method for scientific research
- + Women in welding
- + A smoother pathway

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“ We stayed with the bones of our ancestors. ”

– Sam Robinson '83
Chinook Indian Nation vice chairman

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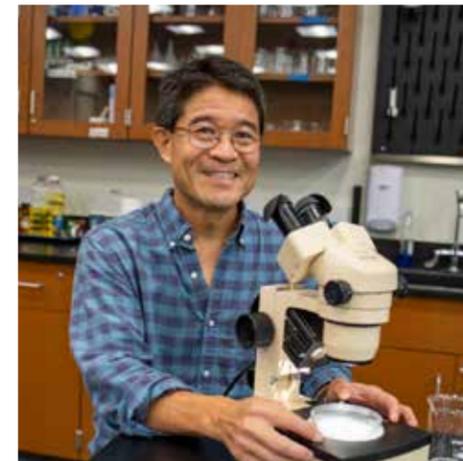
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HEADWATERS OF LEADERSHIP

During his years at Clark College, Sam Robinson '83 learned lessons that helped prepare him for tribal leadership. As vice chairman of the Chinook Indian Nation, Robinson advocates for his tribe and serves as an unofficial ambassador, sharing stories from his culture.

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ORIGINAL METHOD FOR RESEARCH

Community colleges aren't known for contributing original research about the world, but that's exactly what Clark College does.

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LEVELING THE WELDING FIELD

Clark College is making gains in welcoming more women into the competitive field of welding.

[WINTER 2022]
Volume 23, Issue 3

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Clark College Foundation
Printed by Journal Graphics
Portland, Ore.

Clark Partners
Clark College Foundation
1933 Fort Vancouver Way
Vancouver, WA 98663-3598
360.992.2301

Clark Partners is published three times a year (spring, summer, winter). We welcome your comments at foundation@supportclark.org or 360.992.2301.

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Cover: Sam Robinson '83 has served as vice chairman of the Chinook Indian Nation for more than two decades. He's seen here with Ilchee, or Moon Woman, who was the daughter of Chinook Chief Comcomly and was integral to the prosperity of Vancouver in the 1800s. The seven foot, 700-pound bronze figure is located along the Columbia River in Vancouver, Wash.

Celebrating 90 years



Clark College will be 90 years old in 2023, while Clark College Foundation celebrates 50 years since its 1973 founding by former Clark faculty, alumni and community members. Over the course of the coming year, there will be special events and activities, alumni engagement opportunities, giveaways, featured speakers and 90 years of historical reflections from Oswald, the college's mascot. Follow the college's and foundation's social media and check the websites for upcoming details.

90th year trivia question: where were the first Clark College classes held on October 2, 1933? Send answers to alumni@supportclark.org

Share your stories or moments from your Clark experience by contacting Clark College Foundation Alumni Relations at alumni@supportclark.org or 360.992.2301.

CLARK CARES WELCOMES STUDENTS

Earlier this fall, the college rolled out a new initiative called Clark Cares to support equity efforts where all students, especially traditionally underrepresented groups, feel cared for, welcomed and connected. For Clark employees, it's a set of commitments in how they engage with students:

- Greeting students and campus visitors within 10 feet and keeping social equity in mind in how employees greet and support,
- Wearing a Clark nametag whenever on campus, and
- Using a warm approach to ensure students get to where they need to go and have the information they need. This involves knowing campus locations, asking students questions to avoid sending them to the wrong place and notifying people that they are sending a student to a location if employees cannot personally escort them.

The effort is the college's name for the Caring Campus initiative established by the Institute for Evidence-Based Change.

"It is important that we practice these commitments to ensure the campus feels welcoming and dedicated to the success of our students. I'm looking forward to seeing the positive impact of this initiative throughout the term," president Karin Edwards said.



SCHOLARSHIP CONNECTIONS

The annual scholarship reception was back in person in October for the first time since 2019. Staff and faculty from Clark College, Clark College Foundation and donors gathered at the Hilton Vancouver to celebrate the more than 300 scholarship recipients. Students shared the aspirations and experiences they are having at Clark, while donors made connections with the individuals their contributions support. Guests also scanned QR codes on larger-than-life posters featuring scholarship recipients to watch bespoke videos of what scholarships meant to the students. President Karin Edwards and members of her executive team applauded the students' success, while revealing highlights for the newest academic year that began in September. Members of Clark's music program played for the enjoyment of the audience. For six consecutive years, Clark College Foundation has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships, special awards and financial support to hundreds of students.

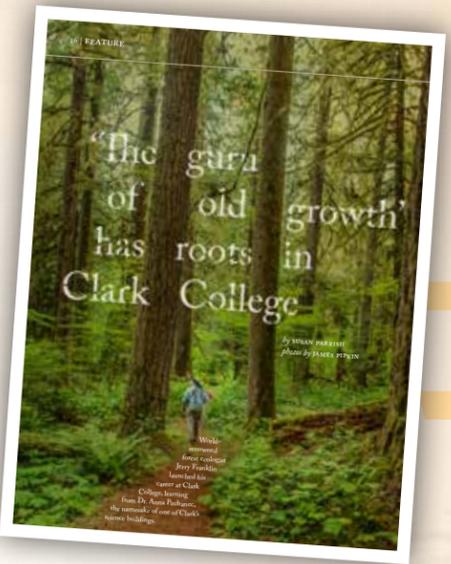


Left, nursing student and scholarship recipient, Mia Lara, is seen with donors at an October event. She's standing next to a poster created to celebrate how scholarships make a difference.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I was delighted to read the article in Clark Partners magazine (summer 2022) about Jerry Franklin, the "guru of old growth forests" and I so appreciated the mention of Anna Pechanec, the biology teacher with whom Jerry studied. I was lucky enough to earn my graduate degree the year that Anna Pechanec retired, and I was hired to teach botany at Clark as she had done for many years. Her presence was always felt among the biology faculty and then felt across campus as the science and engineering building was named after her. She (and I) were feisty Czech women, undaunted in the male dominated field of science in those early years. I clearly remember the story of her spending days in an Idaho forest, insisting, after her return, that she was not lost as people had thought. Recently, the passing of Del Blackburn, who was a biology faculty member when I began my career at Clark College, reminded me of how much influence teachers have on the world as students go forth and forward in their lives. This article about one person and one teacher emphasizes that once more.

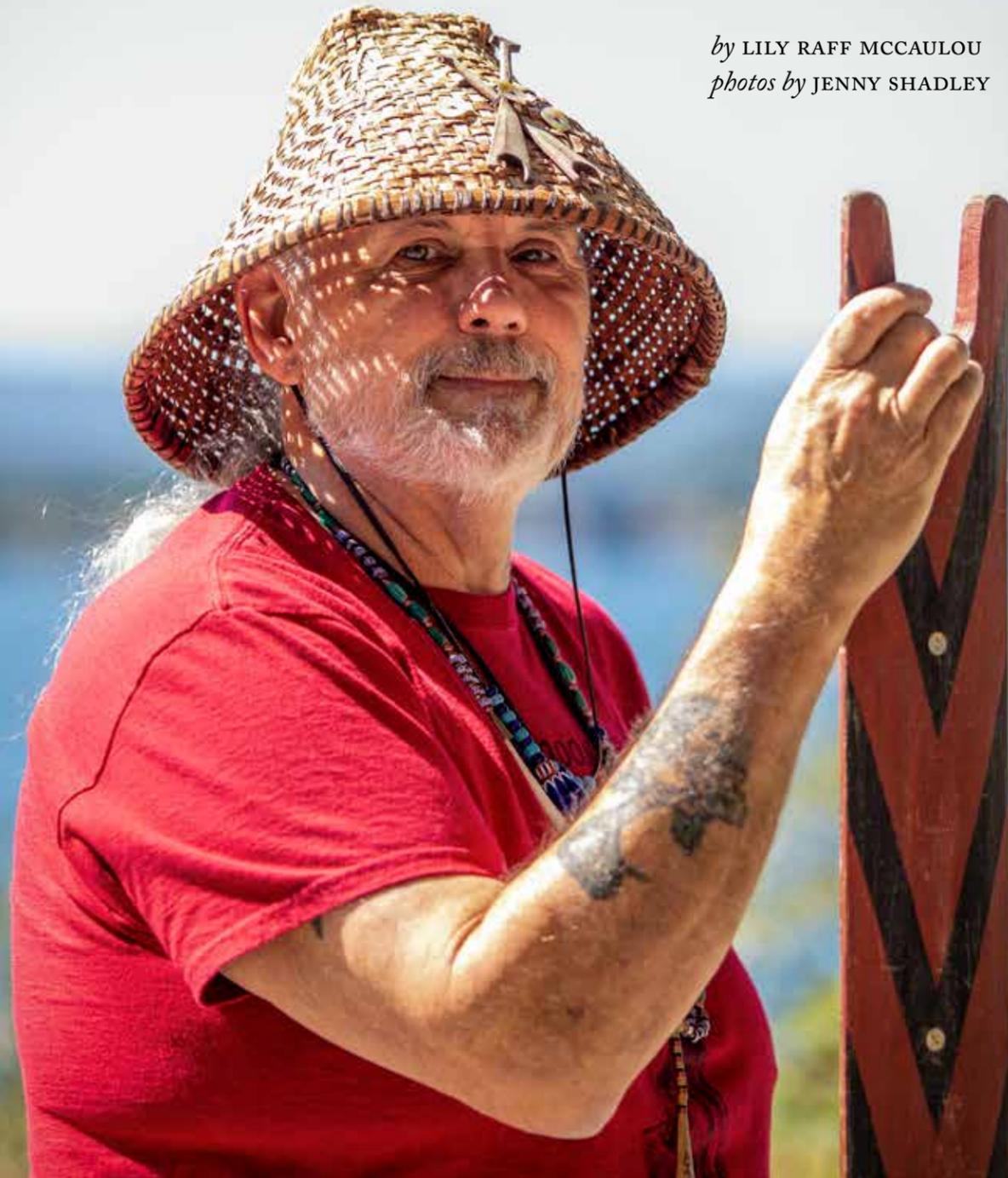
Erleen Whitney, Ph.D.
Professor emeritus



Sam Robinson '83 learned lessons at Clark that help him lead the Chinook Indian Nation today

HEADWATERS OF LEADERSHIP

by LILY RAFF MCCAULOU
photos by JENNY SHADLEY



Clark does more than launch new careers. In Sam Robinson's case, Clark helped prepare him for a different kind of purpose.

Robinson '83 was elected in June 2022 to his eighth term on tribal council as vice chairman of the Chinook Indian Nation. Chinook Indian Nation is made up of five tribes that live near the mouth of the Columbia River—the Clatsop and Cathlamet of present-day Oregon and the Lower Chinook, Wahkiakum and Willapa of present-day Washington. They are distinct tribes that share a spoken language, Chinookan, and many cultural practices especially those focused on the river.

Robinson said during a recent interview that his experiences at Clark helped prepare him for tribal leadership.



Robinson's paternal great-great-great-grandfather was Thomas Huckswelt, chief of the Willapa, who signed a treaty with Commissioner of Indian Affairs Anson Dart in 1851. In that treaty, the tribes sold land to the United States government for 3 cents per acre and the U.S. created a reservation for the tribes within their traditional homelands. The treaty was never ratified by the U.S. Congress, however, because it failed to remove the Native Americans from the area—one of the major goals for sending Dart to the Oregon territories in the first place. The Chinookan people declined to sign later treaties that would have had them move to remote reservations.

"We stayed with the bones of our ancestors," Robinson said.

Sam Robinson '83 is serving his eighth term as vice chairman of the Chinook Indian Nation. He credits Clark with helping him prepare for leadership. In his spare time, Robinson makes canoe paddles, left, using a design unique to Chinook people. He also makes tiny versions for jewelry, above.

EVOLUTION OF A LEADER

Robinson was born in South Bend, Wash., but moved with his family when he was 1 year old to La Center, Wash., so his father could help his father start a business, Robinson Cold Storage. The family regularly traveled to Bay Center, Wash., to visit relatives. Robinson remembers pulling into town in the spring and fall, especially, and smelling the fish being smoked. He remembers waiting for what felt like hours and hours until the fish was ready. A relative would open the smokehouse door and dole out tender pieces of smoked salmon.

Robinson enlisted in the military at age 17 but deferred his service. He then joined the Army in 1975, just as the Vietnam war was ending. He left the military in 1979 without seeing combat. Following his veteran service and while re-acclimating to civilian life, Robinson decided he wanted to see what the tribe was up to. He lived in Vancouver, Wash., but drove to Chinook to the old Chinook school, for a meeting. Off-duty sheriff's deputies stood outside the doors. Inside, people yelled at each other about a tribal-owned bingo parlor that had once earned decent money but was being mismanaged and shut down. Emotions ran high. Robinson's cousin, Midge, screamed at people. His uncle got kicked out.

Later, Midge told him. "Sam, you need to get on council." Robinson laughed at this statement at the time.

But he kept showing up to meetings, even if just to listen. He reconnected with relatives and watched as the Chinook Tribal Council eventually mellowed out.

Around the same time, Robinson enrolled at Clark College to make use of the GI benefits he earned from serving in the Army. He worked during the day at the Calvert Company Glulam factory and attended Clark at night.

"Clark did help me in my preparation, moving toward tribal leadership," he said.

He appreciated that he was studying alongside people of all ages and walks of life. And Clark gave him some of the camaraderie that he'd missed since leaving the Army.

Robinson said his time at Clark reinforced the wisdom of listening before speaking. He watched as some fellow students talked incessantly during

class, shouting out what he considered to be ill-considered questions. He watched and listened, and he thought about what kind of tribal leader he wanted to be someday.

Taking night classes at Clark also taught him how to balance work with other obligations so that when he was ready to serve on tribal council, it didn't interfere with his livelihood. Robinson has worked for Calvert Company Glulam for 43 years, holding several different jobs including safety director. He said the company has been unwavering in supporting his tribal leadership service.

Sometime around 2001, a member of the tribal council fell ill and Robinson applied—along with a handful of others—to fill the seat. Robinson was selected. Six months later, he ran for a full three-year term. He has served on the council ever since.

CHINOOKAN ADVOCATE

As vice chairman, Robinson advocates for the Chinookan people, who are not officially recognized by the U.S. government. Recognition is a legal term meaning that the U.S. recognizes the tribal government as its own type of nation. Federally recognized tribes possess certain powers of self-government and are entitled to specific benefits, services and protections.

The result of this legal distinction, according to Robinson, is that Native American tribes are divided into haves and have nots. The Chinook Indian Nation doesn't have special hunting and fishing rights like federally recognized tribes do, for example. They don't receive healthcare and housing assistance. Most importantly to Robinson, they don't have the right to protect the bones of those ancestors they refused to leave during treaty negotiations.

In 2001, the U.S. recognized the Chinook Indian Nation only to rescind that recognition 18 months later, following an appeal by another tribe.

To Robinson, recognition matters. He has traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with officials and try to convince them to reinstate recognition for the Chinook Indian Nation. In August 2022, Robinson helped lead a rally in Seattle to gain support of the tribe's need for national recognition.



But with or without recognition, the Chinookan people are still here.

One of Robinson's responsibilities as vice chairman is to serve as an ambassador for the Chinook Indian Nation. He frequently represents the Chinook Indian Nation at public events.

"It's always good when someone's interested in the tribe," he said.

He has returned to Clark College several times, giving talks or blessings for public events. He has also taught classes in community and continuing education, formerly known as mature learning, at Clark.

Clark may have taught him the lesson of listening, but Robinson is a naturally enthusiastic talker. He's passionate about the Chinook canoe traditions and he crafts traditional wood canoe paddles. He is fluent

Ilchee, or Moon Woman, was the daughter of Chinook Chief Comcomly and was integral to the prosperity of Vancouver in the 1800s. The seven foot, 700-pound bronze figure is located along the Columbia River in Vancouver, Wash.

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November is Native American Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the rich and diverse traditions of our nation's indigenous peoples. Scan for more about the ongoing contributions of indigenous Americans.



One way to honor Native Americans is to learn about the cultures of people who have lived here for millennia. The Chinook Indian Nation is online at chinooknation.org



Instagram
@everydaychinook



Twitter
@chinook_nation



Facebook.com/
ChinookIndianNation



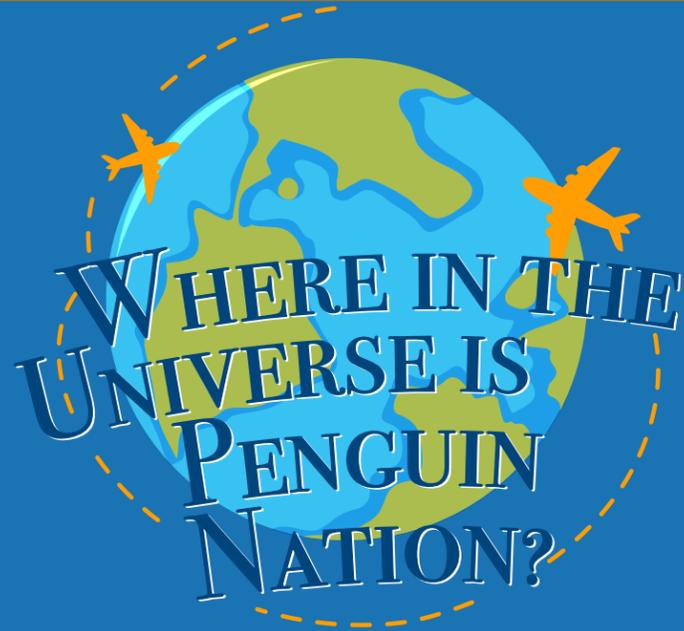
Chelsea Utecht '11 took flat Oswald to the old part of town in Tbilisi, Georgia. "Tbilisi" comes from the word for warm, because of the sulfur springs behind them in this photo. "You can see the bathhouses including the famous Chreli-Abano (blue tile building), classic Tbilisi architecture and even the minaret of a mosque. However, there are always new buildings going up, so no Tbilisi view is complete without a crane," Utecht wrote. She said she fell in love with learning languages while studying Japanese at Clark College. She teaches at an American school in Tbilisi and writes speculative fiction on the side.



Ron Shuman '06 spent time with three-dimensional Oswald in New York City, where Shuman has lived for the past seven years. They stopped at Washington Square Park's iconic arch. Shuman attended Clark right after high school, then got an internship with Disney and left college to work in marketing. As an adult, he returned to Clark to launch a career in human resources. Shuman got married in 2021 and lives with his husband in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn. That's just three miles as the crow flies—or a 10-minute subway ride for a flightless bird like Oswald—from Washington Square Park.

by LILY RAFF MCCAULOU

Oswald, Clark's beloved penguin mascot, loves to travel. Luckily for Oswald, Clark College alumni and friends do amazing things in some very interesting places. And they rock their Penguin pride wherever they go. In remote corners of the globe, members of Penguin Nation don Clark T-shirts or pose with flat Oswald—a highly portable, jet-setting version of Clark's beloved mascot. Read about their adventures here. And then turn the page for details on how to submit your own photo with flat Oswald ... wherever you may be.



Oswald is flat but he's not idle. Even while sightseeing in the picturesque mountain village of Ronda, in southern Spain, Oswald found time to work on this magazine. Ronda is known for its spectacular views because it sits atop a rocky hillside. The Guadalavín River cuts a deep gorge through the middle of the town and is spanned by three historic bridges. The largest, Puente Nuevo, was built over 34 years and completed in 1793. An earlier version of the bridge collapsed in 1741, killing 50 people. Ronda is also home to an 18th century bull-fighting ring that is believed to be the first in Spain.



Dick Shamrell is a retired Clark physics professor who hopes for cloudless nights at this time of year so he and Oswald get a clear view of Jupiter from Vancouver, Wash. From the Pacific Northwest, Shamrell advises scanning the southern evening sky for what looks like a super-bright star. That's Jupiter. Viewed through a small telescope, one might see four star-like objects which are actually Jupiter's large moons. Ahead of Jupiter, in the west, what looks like another bright star is Saturn. "And trailing in the east is a very bright orange-red Mars, where two SUV-sized rovers explore and prospect," he said.



Michelle Slavin '97 brought Oswald on a tuk-tuk ride through Bangkok, Thailand. The three-wheeled vehicles are used in Slavin's neighborhood of Phrom Phong, which she said is known for its "busy bars, great restaurants and heaps of traffic." Slavin works as director of programming and training for Peace Corps Thailand. Previously, she lived in Uganda, Jamaica, Costa Rica and the Philippines. Slavin is a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, a Native American tribe with homelands in the Great Lakes region that was forcibly removed to Oklahoma. Her mother, Kathy Slavin, worked at Clark College for 27 years.

This penguin loves to travel



Show your Penguin pride by submitting your own photo with flat Oswald. Cut out the Clark mascot and pose in an interesting place, near or far. Follow these simple steps:

- 1 Set your phone or camera to the highest-resolution setting. The resulting file should be a minimum of 1 megabyte, the digital equivalent of a 5x7 printed photo.
- 2 Say cheese! Vertical photos are preferred.
- 3 Email the photo to alumni@supportclark.org with "flat Oswald" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, a brief description of the location and your class year if you attended Clark.

in Chinookan and he sprinkles Chinookan words into his speech.

Chinookan history stretches back more than 10,000 years. Archaeologists have found evidence of people living in this region more than 12,000 years before the present era. Prior to European contact, the Pacific Northwest coast was one of the most populous parts of North America, with tens of thousands of people living on Chinook lands.

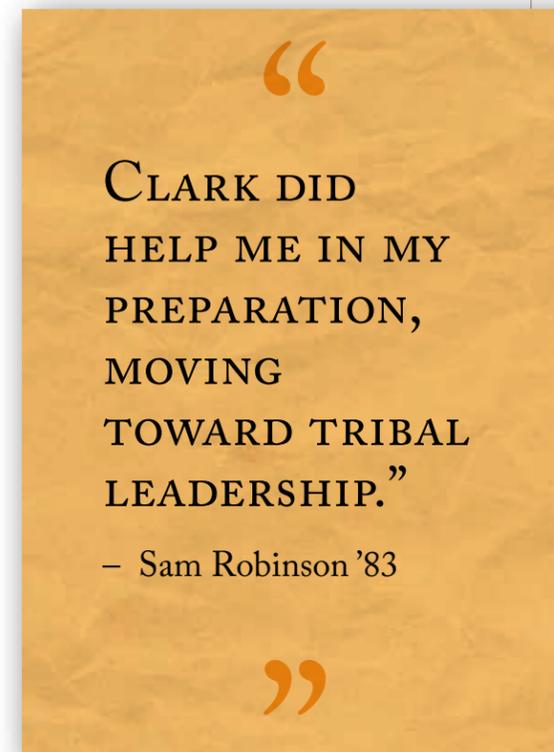
TRADITIONAL WOODEN CANOES

The Columbia River was the lifeblood of Chinookan people. Chinook canoes were created by hollowing out a single log, usually western red cedar. The canoes featured a raised prow, often decorated with carved figures. One canoe measured up to 50 feet long and could carry seven tons of cargo. The Columbia River was a major trade route back then as it is now, and the massive canoes were precursors to the heavy shipping barges that float up and down the river today.

When white settlers—whom Chinookan people called “Bostons”—arrived in the area, they were impressed with Chinookan people’s trading savvy.

Explorers Meriweather Lewis and William Clark were impressed with the Chinookan people’s canoe-making skills and their unparalleled ability to navigate the canoes under treacherous conditions. While weathering a storm near the mouth of the Columbia in November 1805, Clark made note of a group of Chinookans paddling a canoe, packed with salmon to trade on the coast, through what he described as “the highest Sees I ever Saw a Small vestle ride.” The Chinookans paddled casually, stopping briefly to speak with the stranded explorers before continuing on their way. Clark wrote that they were “Certainly the best Canoe navigators I ever Saw.”

Robinson is the proud keeper of a Chinook style canoe named “Ixt•xut,” which means



“the bear.” It was made by a historic re-enactor to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

At 66, Robinson considers himself a tribal “elder in training.”

“I’m not an elder, I don’t have that much knowledge,” he said with a laugh. Luckily for Robinson—and the Chinook Indian Nation—he doesn’t plan to stop learning. 😊



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.

by LILY RAFF MCCAULOU

An **ORIGINAL** Method

Scientific research is taking place at Clark College, in an unusual way

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hortly after Ridge Bynum '18 started at Washington State University in Pullman, Wash., he sent an email to a psychology professor who was conducting interesting research, asking to join the research team. For most undergraduate students, such an email would languish in the professor's inbox or get dragged into the trash.

Bynum got a near-immediate response: "How fast can you start?"

To that professor, Bynum was the undergraduate equivalent of a unicorn. He arrived at WSU with experience collecting data in a scientific research project. He would need very little training, in other words, and could help right away.

"Usually, you're not doing actual data collection until graduate school," Bynum said.

Instead, he got hands-on experience at Clark, where he worked as a research assistant for psychology professor Mika Maruyama. Along with a professor at Portland State University, Maruyama designed and oversaw a study to determine whether virtual reality could replicate the health-boosting effects of a pet. Today, Bynum's name appears as a co-author on a presentation of the study at a 2020 conference of the American Association of Behavioral and Social Science.

A July 2022 expedition in an ice cave on Mt. St. Helens in Washington. Clark microbiology professor Roberto Anitori is on the left, in the dark blue jacket. He takes samples from this environment for his research.

photo by RICK DAVIS

Biology professor Travis Kibota conducts his own research and supports faculty in their research. Mosses are of special interest to him. In graduate school, Kibota studied an endangered moss, called the pumice grape fern. Photo by Jenny Shadley



Community colleges are not known for contributing original research to our body of knowledge about the world but that's exactly what Clark does. Clark professors—and students—are studying how pikas respond to climate change. They're looking for new antibiotics in soil sampled from ice caves in the crater of Mount St. Helens. They're testing new methods for teaching science.

And unlike at four-year institutions, where faculty are pressured to publish to earn tenure and raise funds, the research at Clark has a different purpose: helping students learn.

Dr. Roberto Anitori, Clark biology professor, said research at a two-year college is treated as an extracurricular activity rather than part of the job description. This creates challenges, such as securing funding. Anitori collects soil samples for two research projects, including one that is the focus of Clark's Biology 105 course, during the summers when he's not on contract for Clark. He scrapes together funding, most recently from the Mazamas mountaineering club in Portland, Ore.

On the other hand, the experience is not cutthroat. At a two-year college, people do research because they want to, not because they must do research.

VIRTUAL PETS

Maruyama has authored a wealth of publications about human interactions with animals. Initially, she was interested in people who suffer from psychopathology, who tend to have a history of harming animals beginning at an early age. Then she began wondering whether children could learn to be kinder to people by learning to be kind to animals. She studied pets' physical, emotional and moral beneficial effects on humans. But not everyone can have a pet.

She met a researcher at Portland State University who specializes in virtual reality. With smartphone apps and accessories, virtual reality is affordable and accessible. Along with her PSU colleagues, she secured an \$85,000 grant through BUILD EXITO, a National Institutes for Health initiative to promote research opportunities for undergraduate students. The money was split between Clark and PSU.

Clark students helped design the study, even auditioning and selecting two dogs to serve as pets, then created virtual reality pet experiences through videography and computer programming. Clark students, including Bynum, recruited 120 participants for the study—out of 240 overall—and collected data from them.



Bynum said he worked a couple of hours each morning, four days a week, collecting data. Each participant was randomly assigned to a data group that determined what activity they performed for 10 minutes. Some interacted with a virtual reality pet. Others watched two-dimensional videos of pets. And others flipped through a photo book of pets.

RESILIENCY OF MOSSES

Travis Kibota is a biology professor at Clark who conducts his own research and supports and encourages faculty in their research. But once upon a time he was a struggling college student.

He enrolled at University of California Los Angeles and quickly found he didn't have the academic skills he needed to succeed. A first-generation college student, he wasn't sure where to turn for help.

"I didn't know that it was not only okay but the smart thing to do to seek help," he said.

He had planned to take pre-med courses but found that most of them were in giant lecture halls full of competitive students. Instead, he liked smaller, quirkier biology classes with field trips and hands-on labs.

"I enjoyed being outside and learning about science and biology by looking at things I had seen my whole life but hadn't noticed," he said.

Mosses, for example.

"They're just so tough and they do so much with their little bodies, and they can withstand so much and they're so resilient," he said.



HOOKED ON RESEARCH

Kibota was accepted into graduate school at the University of Oregon where he worked on his first-ever research project about an endangered moss called the pumice grape fern. Kibota said his research experience affirmed that he was finally on the right track.

"I learned so much more basic biology that I should have learned in my undergraduate classes just by the context," he said.

He was hooked. He went on to study a unique species of fruit fly found only on the Oregon coast. Part of the insect's life cycle is hosted by skunk cabbage, a plant that grows in swamps and is inedible to humans.

"I was studying a fruit fly that nobody cared about, on a plant that no one cared about, in soils that no one cared about," he said.

For his doctorate, Kibota switched to a topic of more obvious relevance: genetic mutations. He studied small mutations that had an almost imperceptible effect on the next generation. Other researchers focused on big mutations that resulted in a drastically different individual organism. But Kibota was more interested in

Top, left, Dr. Roberto Anitori, Clark biology professor, helps former Clark students Georgia Tytler and Havan Sabourin practice using a MinION unit in 2018. The MinION is a pocket DNA sequencer used to test soil samples. Photo by Jenny Shadley

Bottom, Clark professor Mika Maruyama is using virtual reality equipment to conduct research on virtual pet experiences. Photo by Mika Maruyama

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LEVELING

THE WELDING FIELD

Clark's Tatum Parsley '13 aims to prove that welding is a trade for all people

by CLAIRE SYKES
photos by WEI ZHUANG

Sparks shot out from a flame that melted and fused two metals. Holding a welding torch and wearing a welding helmet and heat-resistant gloves, Tatum Parsley '13 showed her students how it's done.

Parsley is a full-time instructional welding technician and the welding outreach coordinator for Clark College's two-year welding technology program, where hands-on, one-on-one learning meets the latest professional shop equipment. It's also where Parsley found her passion. She was a student in the program 20 years ago and has worked in this male-dominated trade ever since.

Since October 2021, she has been guiding Clark students by demonstrating different welding techniques and critiquing their work, helping them hone their skills. More recently, she has been working for Clark's new welding outreach program, which aims to dismantle the myth that welding is a job only for men. Thanks to Parsley's outreach work, more and more of Clark's welding students are women.

Parsley's introduction to welding course has five women, out of 20 students. "That's a lot," she said. Of the program's 45 students, 10 are female, which is double the previous year.

Caleb White, head of Clark's fabrication and welding technology department, said it's the

most women who have ever been enrolled in the program at the same time during the 8 years he has been at Clark. He credits the rise to Parsley's recruitment efforts.

The new outreach program was launched in spring 2022, with permanent funding through a statewide Career Launch initiative.

"We want to attract and retain a diversity of students—men, women, people of color and nondominant groups," said White.

Welding never occurred to Parsley, who was born and raised in Vancouver, until after she graduated from high school in 2000. She planned to be a kindergarten teacher. But then a friend told her about the pay, benefits and union support of being an iron worker.

"I thought, I could do that," she said. "I'm an artistic person and I like working with my hands. And I like working by myself, which you do quite a bit with welding."

It meant taking some courses at Clark—and being the only woman welding student in the summer of 2005.

Before her first day of class, Parsley said she "was very nervous. I had never welded before. And walking into a classroom with all guys and a male teacher, I was afraid it would be a 'boys club.' But they took me in right away and we were all learning together." Her instructor, Myron Wurzer, now retired, "was the nicest person you could meet, and he made welding fun. Everyone had a positive attitude, which made it easier to be there."

Abigael Rubio-Esteban, a first-year welding student, practices her technique in Clark's welding lab.



Welding instructor Tatum Parsley's welding co-hort consists of all women this academic year. Left to right, they include Abigael Rubio-Esteban, Ada Owens, Parsley, Sarah Jones and Karlie Koach.

Parsley took only two welding classes, then got a job building steel boxes and tire chain hangers for trucks. In 2013, while working, she took a sculpture-welding class at Clark that is no longer offered, and started making art from scrap metal, bike chains and old tools. She still makes metal art. Over the years, she kept thinking about being an assistant instructor and, after applying twice, she was hired. Someday, she said, she'd like to be a full-time instructor at Clark.

"I get to be with people who do the same thing I love to do. We all get to be in the same happy bubble of welding," Parsley said.

First-year welding student Julia Faith said, "Tatum levels the playing field. It's a man's world we're breaking into and it's encouraging knowing it can be done, and done well. She's a great role model. And she's done welding for so many years, she shows you the tricks of the trade and helps you refine your own techniques. You might not get it the first time you try, but she does a good job of expressing that the practice and effort you put in will show in your work."

Parsley has promoted Clark's welding program to all the high school welding teachers in the Vancouver School District. She also attends career fairs and campus open houses. She stresses the variety of welding careers that awaits successful students, from steel production and pipe fitting to aerospace construction and HVAC.

"Clark has the best welding facility in the region and knowledgeable instructors, and it's a very inclusive environment. It gives me a great sense of pride to see women help to break down the barriers," said Parsley. But what's most important to her is that "all students gain the right skills and knowledge to go into any area of welding and succeed." 🙌

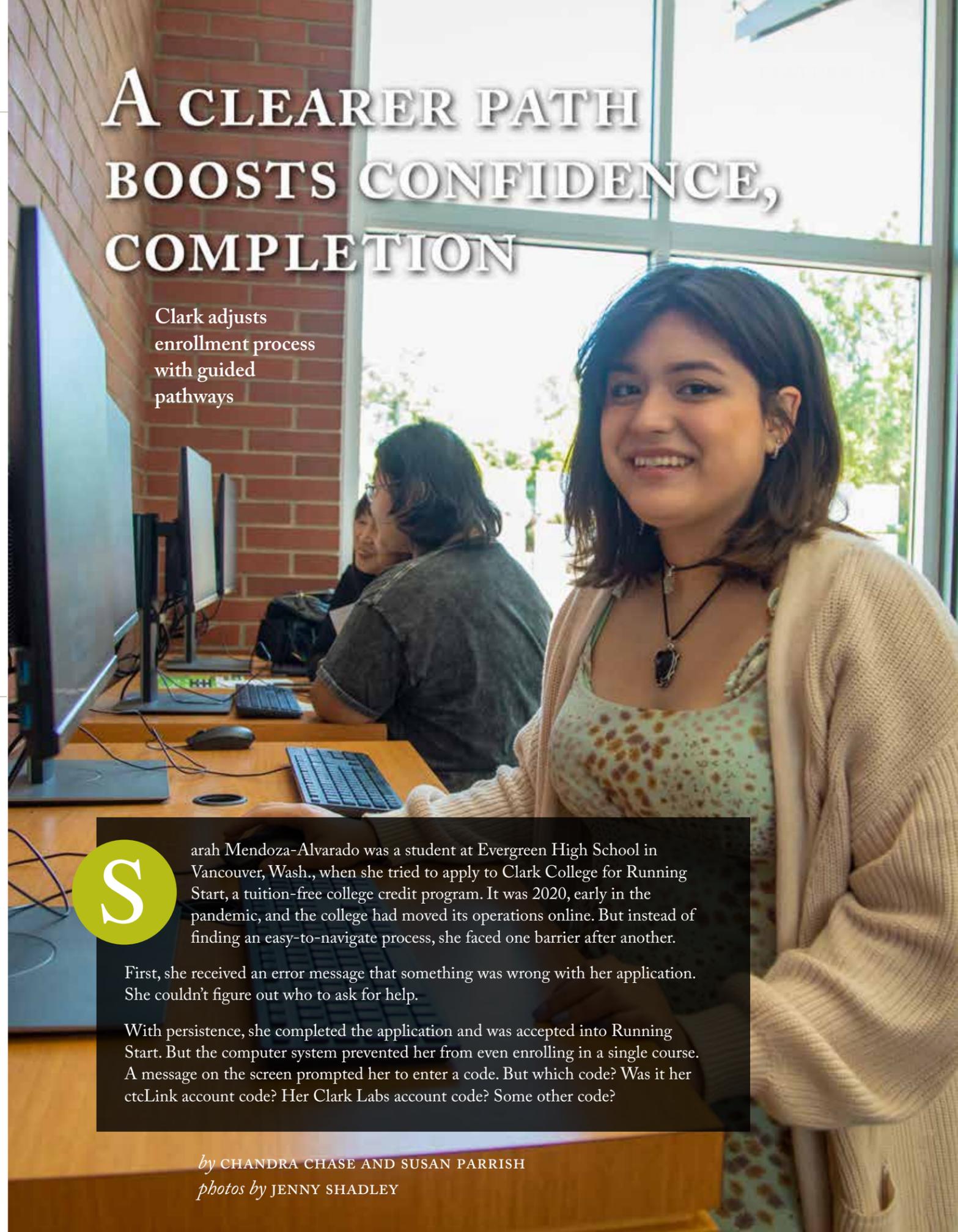


Claire Sykes is a freelance writer whose articles appear in alumni magazines around the country and in publications covering the arts, health and wellness, business and community, and philanthropy.

Visit her online at www.sykeswrites.com.

A CLEARER PATH BOOSTS CONFIDENCE, COMPLETION

Clark adjusts enrollment process with guided pathways



S

arah Mendoza-Alvarado was a student at Evergreen High School in Vancouver, Wash., when she tried to apply to Clark College for Running Start, a tuition-free college credit program. It was 2020, early in the pandemic, and the college had moved its operations online. But instead of finding an easy-to-navigate process, she faced one barrier after another.

First, she received an error message that something was wrong with her application. She couldn't figure out who to ask for help.

With persistence, she completed the application and was accepted into Running Start. But the computer system prevented her from even enrolling in a single course. A message on the screen prompted her to enter a code. But which code? Was it her ctcLink account code? Her Clark Labs account code? Some other code?

by CHANDRA CHASE AND SUSAN PARRISH
photos by JENNY SHADLEY

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Left, Katia Quintero, Clark's student success coach, helps student Sarah Mendoza-Alvarado navigate Clark's many services. The two are also cousins.

Her repeated attempts resulted only in frustration.

"I needed a code. I didn't understand. It was the pandemic, and I was tired. And I said I was done," she said.

Mendoza-Alvarado gave up on Running Start. She graduated from high school and went to work in food service.

Then, in spring 2022, after 18 months of restaurant work, Mendoza-Alvarado said, "I didn't feel complete. I wanted more."

She tried again. And this time, Clark College was ready for her.

STUDENTS' NEEDS FIRST

Since 2015, Clark has been implementing sweeping changes known as guided pathways.

The goal is to assist students in achieving their educational goals and landing family-wage jobs. While old models of education required students to be college-ready, guided pathways challenges colleges to meet students where they are. This transformation is part of a state-funded initiative that requires a culturally responsive commitment to racial and social equity.

A revamped enrollment process, with better support for students, was rolled out in spring of 2022 as part of guided pathways.

By then, Mendoza-Alvarado's cousin, Katia Quintero, had been hired by the college as a student success coach, as part of a new program funded by guided pathways in the office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Quintero urged her, "Why don't you try again?"

Quintero told her about new online tools to make enrollment easier. Mendoza-Alvarado was skeptical. She pulled up the website's redesigned registration portal.

"It was way easier," she said. "It made sense. I just figured it out."

New animated videos answered her questions throughout the process.

"If I couldn't figure it out myself, those videos showed me specifically where to go to find what I needed," she said. "Especially for first-generation college students like me, you don't know what questions to ask."

Another video explained her next step: visiting the Welcome Center. There she met Amy Tam, who helped her enroll. Tam recommended a course that combined English 101 with English 99.

"It was exactly what I needed," Mendoza-Alvarado said.

HERE TO HELP

Tam said it's common for new students to need help.

"We meet with a lot of new students like Sarah, who don't know what the process is. Even if we have explained the enrollment process on our website, it can be challenging for people to navigate," Tam said. "I think a lot of students don't realize our team at the Welcome Center is here to help them

understand the process and get started. I'm glad Sarah watched the new Welcome Center explainer video and knew to come to us for help."

Since spring 2021, Clark College has implemented several new guided pathways projects to clear the path for prospective and new students to enroll in college and meet their education goals.

A redesigned website makes registration and enrollment easier for students. A series of animated videos—available in English, Spanish and Russian—take students step by step through various processes, beginning with applying to Clark.

Program maps are a new interactive tool to help newly enrolled students map an academic pathway. Success coaches meet with students to answer questions, help them make connections across campus and ensure they are moving forward. Current students are involved in several guided pathways projects to let staff know what's working and what needs improvement.

FINDING HER WAY

Mendoza-Alvarado benefitted from these new support systems. After she enrolled in the English course, for example, she also got help paying for it.

Mendoza-Alvarado had submitted her Free Application for Federal Student Aid, a form known as FAFSA, three times, but kept receiving an error message she didn't understand. Back at the Welcome Center, Abby Thompson, an admissions recruiter, told Mendoza-Alvarado she was eligible for an emergency grant. Thompson helped her complete paperwork for the grant, which covered her tuition and fees for the spring term.

Mendoza-Alvarado knew she wanted to pursue some kind of business degree but was unsure of the specifics. She used new guided pathways program maps to explore the differences between various business programs until she found the one that was the best fit.

Then she used the new "What If" report function, also part of the guided pathways initiative, to learn about degrees and career pathways. She saw a compact version of the classes she had taken, the requirements she completed and the additional classes she still has to take.

Two years after Mendoza-Alvarado gave up on Clark College, she is a full-time Clark business student. Not only is she confident in her academic path forward, but the financial aid she received is making college affordable. She even sees her business classes dovetailing with what she's learning in her new job at HAPO Community Credit Union. Clark's focus on guided pathways has guided Mendoza-Alvarado onto a path toward a new, brighter future. 😊



Chandra Chase is the guided pathways framework communications project manager and Susan Parrish is the guided pathways communications consultant.



These programs and others have the engine of guided pathways propelling them.

Check out the video about business studies.



Scan to watch a rapid response scenario in nursing.



Are you a storyteller? Scan to tap into the study of creative and communication arts.



smaller mutations because they were less likely to get weeded out and could end up having big cumulative effects over generations. It seemed counterintuitive but so did everything Kibota researched. His whole career, he said, has been marked by a willingness to pursue questions overlooked by others.

That points to another reason Kibota enjoyed research so much—the room for creativity and unique insight.

When he finished his doctorate, Kibota looked for a job teaching biology. Clark College offered him a job.

Then Yale University launched the Small World Initiative, a crowdsourcing approach to research as a radical response to growing antibiotic resistance and the dire need for new antibiotics. He and Anitori joined the initiative, obtained funding and designed Clark's biology 105 course, Antibiotics Research 1. In it, students are taught to analyze soil samples, searching first for organisms that demonstrate antibiotic activity and then analyzing the genetics of any promising finds for unknown antibiotics.

The idea was revelatory to Kibota.

“This was how you get a whole bunch of students involved in research ... you embed the research into a class,” he said.

Since then, Clark has embraced this model of research as a course. Kibota is now working at the state level to develop additional experiences.

He's also combining his longstanding interests and conducting research on new methods of teaching biology to improve student outcomes. One of his studies was recently accepted for publication by the “Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education.”

Bynum attended Clark as part of the Running Start program. In what would have been his junior and senior years in high school, he studied full time at Clark, working as a research assistant for Maruyama in his final year.

“When I came to Clark, I didn't know anyone was doing research,” Bynum said.

Bynum is in graduate school for psychology at Gonzaga University where he is conducting more research. And he's still benefiting from the experience he gained at Clark.

“That kind of experience opens so many doors for you,” he said. “To get that experience at a two-year college is amazing.” 🍷



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.

It was a poetic match. At Clark he could offer students the individual attention and support he wished he'd received in undergraduate school.

Kibota figured he would continue at least one of his research projects and maybe involve one or two students. But learning how to teach well took up all his time he found.

“It didn't seem as good a use of my time as doing something else that could benefit dozens

and dozens of my students,” he said.

Kibota's motivations had changed since he had fallen in love with research during graduate school. But then they changed again.

Kibota served as interim dean of sciences and then worked as a grant writer for Clark. He watched his colleagues—Maruyama and Anitori, for example—conduct research and thought about getting back in the game.

“
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IS AMAZING.

– Ridge Bynum '18, former Running Start student, now at Gonzaga University conducting research



THE 50S

Joseph “Joe” Fish '57

THE 60S

Richard “Dick” Chandlee '61
David “Dave” Shaver '60
William “Bill” Stricker '65
Lonnie Woods '61
John Zumwalt '67

THE 70S

Gilbert Allen '76
Viola “Vi” Arola '74
Alice “Pat” Bauer '75
Janis “Jan” Baur '73
Fred “Larry” Byler '73
William “Bill” Dozark '74
Marcia Jorgensen '76
Alyce Lutz '74
Patricia Ploium '77
Delores Riggins '72
Cherry Wilson '75

THE 80S

Robin Hagedorn '80

FORMER FACULTY & STAFF

Del Blackburn
Darla Utter

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Symon Boschma
Louis Cole
Darlene Disbrow
Calvin Jutila
Rebecca Leasure
Gordon Reiter

CLASS DATES UNKNOWN

Jon Babcock
Gene Bartu
Thomas “Tom” Goold
Judith “Judy” Grothe
Harry Hendricks
George “Jack” Hooper
Norman “Norm” Kine
Jeff Kuykendall
Patrick “Pat” Leonti
Virginia Mattice
Jessica “Jessi” Prew
David “DQ” Quitugua
C. Arthur “Art” Reinhardt
Sally Reudink
Robert “Bob” Shannon
Dennis Short
Anne Sparling
Floyd Walseth



Warren Dunn, retired Clark professor and donor to the college, died March 17, 2022, at the age of 80. Dunn grew up in Southern California. During his 30-year career at Clark College, he developed programs and taught ceramics, cast metal sculpture, glassblowing, jewelry, stained glass, drawing, design, computer graphics and film studies in ceramics, cast metal

sculpture and glassblowing. Upon retirement in 2003, he and his wife, Marcia, first settled in Santa Fe, N.M., and finally back to Southern California. Dunn earned a bachelor's in fine arts from the California Institute of the Arts and a master's in fine arts from the University of Washington. In the summer edition of Partners, Dunn was miscategorized as a friend of Clark, which failed to celebrate his long commitment and connection to the college. Partners regrets the error. Photos by Dunn family



Alice Leach '48 died this summer at the age of 97. Strong believers in the power of higher education, Alice and her husband of 75 years, Lyle '48, contributed to Clark College Foundation for more than a quarter of a century. Having donated more than 375 books to the Cannell Library over their lifetimes, the couple also established the Leach Engineering Scholarship, which provides tuition for deserving students each year. Alice was also a volunteer and served on Clark College Foundation's Board of Directors from 1991 to 1999. Photo by Jenny Shadley



Jake von Scherrer '77 recently published a second edition of his successful book, "The Athletic Director's Toolbox." A retired high school athletic director, von Scherrer created the "Educational Athletic Director" podcast two years ago. In it, he interviews athletic directors, coaches and leaders from the world of athletics. These interviews generated the book and garnered listeners in all 50 states plus 55 countries. Half of the more than 400 segments have featured women leaders. Photo by Jake von Scherrer

THE 70S

The Vancouver, Wash., restaurant DuckTales Kitchen closed due to challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. DuckTales Kitchen was part of the longtime Waddle dining dynasty. The restaurant was started by **Steve Waddle '73**, the grandson of Gene Waddle, who opened Waddle's Drive-In and Coffee Shop at Jantzen Beach in Oregon in 1945.

Bi-Zi Farms celebrated 150 years of farming this September 2022, commemorating the Zimmerman family's settlement in Clark County, Wash., in 1872. The farm is run by co-owner **Bill Zimmerman '71** and is one of only four family descendant farms left in the county.

THE 90S

Bart Hansen '97 has been named the new executive director of the Building Industry Association of Clark County. Hansen is in his 12th year of serving on the Vancouver City Council. He also serves on the C-TRAN board of directors, the Vancouver School District Management Advisory Task Force, Clark County Mural Society and Downtown Rotary Club.

Leadership Clark County selected **Tina Krause '98** as its new executive director. Krause previously served as interim

executive director from 2014 to 2015 and 2017 to 2018. She also spent nearly 10 years as chair of the organization's curriculum committee. A 2012 graduate of the leadership training program herself, she is excited to support emerging leaders from all backgrounds.

THE OOS

Leah Jackson '03 has moved her business, Niche Wine Bar, to the Riverview Tower in downtown Vancouver, Wash. The larger space will host classes through Clark College's community and continuing education program.

Clark College Foundation alumni board interim president **Brittini Lasseigne '05** is the new executive director of YWCA Clark County. Her nearly 20 years of nonprofit experience includes a history with YWCA that began 17 years ago, in the independent living skills program. Most recently, Lasseigne served as chief marketing and development officer at Columbia River Mental Health.

THE IOS

Riley Donahue '16 has pursued a career at NBC studios in New York City, where he is a motion and graphic design for digital content for "Saturday Night Live" and "Late Night with Seth Meyers." He also acts as the digital design lead for "Saturday Night Live"

and intern manager on the "Late Night" digital marketing team.

Former intern for The Columbian newspaper **Stefanie Valentino '12** now works as a public relations specialist at PeaceHealth's headquarters in Vancouver, Wash. After Clark, Valentino went on to Western Washington University and earned her journalism degree in 2015. Since graduation, Valentino has had several media and media relations jobs.

THE 20S

Zoe Buhmaster '22 completed an internship with The Columbian newspaper this past summer and is now attending Portland State University to finish her bachelor's degree.

Sean Peck '22, a first-year student at Washington State University Vancouver, gets to experience in-person college classes for the first time after an all-online experience at Clark College. Peck, who is also an iTech graduate, is considering starting a robotics club for others interested in engineering and robotics.

CLASS DATES UNKNOWN

"Mass Transit" magazine named **Jenapher Dues**, C-TRAN's manager of human resources, to its annual 40 Under 40 list of young professionals who have made significant contributions to the public transit industry. Dues joined C-TRAN in 2014 as a staffing generalist and was soon promoted to a recruitment and compensation specialist before accepting her current position.

The city of Washougal, Wash., awarded its first Civilian Award for Heroism to local resident **Brad Goostree**. The Washougal City Council praised his heroic actions that may have saved the life of a young man who fell into the Washougal River near the Sandy Swimming Hole in Camas, Wash., earlier this year.

Alliant Insurance Services hired **Shawna Larson** as vice president of their employee benefits group in the Pacific Northwest. Prior to joining Alliant, Larson was vice president, business development and employee benefits strategic adviser with an international insurance brokerage and

consulting firm. Larson was also the co-organizer for Oregon's DisruptHRPDX, an innovative platform designed to energize, inform and empower human resource professionals with TED Talk-like content.

Liz Westby, a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, helped organize a free geology and technology summer camp at Mount St. Helens for girls in

middle and high school. GeoGirls is a collaborative effort between the Mount St. Helens Institute and the U.S. Geological Survey - Cascades Volcano Observatory with partners from scientific universities, agencies and private companies. Working side by side with women scientists, the participants learned of the hazards and effects that volcanic eruptions pose to humans.



Andy Bao '18, a former staff photographer for Clark College's student newspaper, The Indy, was also a 2017 photography intern with The Columbian newspaper in Vancouver, Wash. He went on to earn a degree at UCLA. In 2020 while at UCLA, he won Student Photographer of the Year from the National Press Photographers Association. Bao is now working for The Associated Press in New York City. Photo by Andy Bao

Dawn Freeman '00, a science lab technician at Washington State University Vancouver, was handed the reins as chief caretaker of the institution's famed corpse flower following the retirement of science professor Steve Sylvester. The rare plant, which emits a strong, foul odor when it blooms, is known locally as Titan VanCoug and is one of fewer than 1,000 corpse flowers in the world. Sylvester started the plant from seed in 2002. It first bloomed in 2019 following 17 years of anticipation. Then it bloomed again this August for just over one day. This year's bloom, at 69 inches tall, was bigger and stinkier than the previous one. The event was livestreamed on the internet and drew long lines of botanophiles eager to see and smell the flower in person. Freeman assisted in pollinating the plant. If successful, pollination will lead to ripening fruits with viable seeds. "We would send those seeds to other universities, botanical gardens and conservatories who want to cultivate the plant," Freeman said. Photo by Dawn Freeman



"We lowered our taxable income and contributed to our favorite charity—Clark College Foundation. It truly is a great tax saving strategy. We designate a portion of our IRA's required minimum distribution to make a direct gift to Clark College. Our taxable income was reduced by the amount of the contribution, and the students at Clark benefit. It's a win-win for all of us."

– Bill Hale '60 and Judy Matthies



Consider making a gift to Clark College Foundation with a portion of your IRA distribution to lower your taxable income.

Contact Vivian Manning, CFRE, for details on this simple process.

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Clark College women's basketball vs. Wenatchee Valley College

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 | 5:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Clark College men's & women's basketball vs. Portland Community College

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 | 5:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Clark College men's & women's basketball vs. Mount Hood Community College

Saturday, January 21, 2023 | 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.

Clark College men's & women's basketball vs. Umpqua Community College

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 | 5:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Clark College men's & women's basketball vs. Chemeketa Community College

Saturday, February 11, 2023 | 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.

Clark College men's & women's basketball vs. Linn Benton Community College

Saturday, February 18, 2023 | 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.

Clark College men's & women's basketball vs. Southwestern Oregon
Community College

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 | 5:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Clark College men's & women's basketball vs. Clackamas Community College

Saturday, February 25, 2023 | 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.

Clark College men's & women's basketball vs. Lane Community College