

# No Prank: Clark Prof Co-Wrote with Kesey



English professor  
James Finley

From the “Hidden Lives of Clark College Employees” files, we bring you this detail about English professor James Finley: He once co-wrote a novel with Ken Kesey as part of the legendary Northwest author’s graduate-level course in creative writing. Blogger Theodore Carter recently interviewed Finley about his experiences as a student in that class and about the novel he and his classmates produced and eventually published in collaboration with Kesey, *Caverns*.

Finley, who is perhaps better-known around campus for his work with the Columbia Writers Series, provides a thoughtful distillation of what he learned about writing from the experience. He reveals that Kesey—famous for the antiauthoritarian novel *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* and his psychedelic shenanigans with the Merry Pranksters—possessed a strong work ethic and a dedication to craft, qualities Finley clearly has taken to heart himself.