

Phoenix transformation

embraces



Student Jorin Copeland turns to his artwork featured in the 2017 Phoenix.

On May 16, Clark College's award-winning art and literary journal, *Phoenix*, unveiled its 2017 edition at a reception in PUB 161. Taking inspiration from the Clark community, the *Phoenix* staff adopted the collegewide theme of Transformation for the new journal. Through more than 70 works of poetry, fiction, interviews, photography, paintings, and more, contributors' pieces explore moments of change and growth.



At the reception, Clark student and *Phoenix* managing editor Megan Robb spoke of the personal challenges she has faced and how it inspired her to write a poem for the journal titled "Inner Reflection."

"We have the choice to transform ourselves repeatedly, shedding the dark, hurtful pieces of our soul and regaining some beauty. This is what I was doing when I wrote this piece," Robb said. "I had decided it was time to stop wallowing in the unfamiliarity I felt with myself and begin readying myself for change, for regeneration, a personal transformation that brought me to the doors of this college."

Beyond the personal, transformation is a natural part of creating *Phoenix*, says fiction editor Ashlee Nelson. She spoke at the reception about the unique perspectives that each year's students brings to the publication and the possibilities that arise when different creative minds collaborate.

"Whatever next year's edition of *Phoenix* brings, it will be its own," said Nelson. "It will represent Clark's creative student body and their interests. It will be Clark at a moment in time before it transforms again, as students become alumni, and community members become students. There is something special about *Phoenix* in this way."



The staff of the 2017 Phoenix. Faculty co-advisor Liz Donley (black jacket) stands in the center.

The Clark community is not the only one that recognizes how special *Phoenix* is—the journal recently won the National Program Directors' Prize for design for undergraduate literary magazines by the Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP).

Each year, AWP honors two national undergraduate journals with a content and a design award, and past winners have included journals from Columbia University, The New School, Kansas City Art Institute, University of Washington, and other prestigious institutions. This is the first time in a decade that the award has gone to a two-year college.

The judge for this year's award, Lisa Noble, Creative Services Manager of Edelman Financial Services, wrote, "From cover to cover *Phoenix* stands out as an exemplary publication in design, quality, and concept . . . The publishers of *Phoenix* should feel very proud of what they've created. It is an important collaboration that succeeds in showcasing the diversity of talented individuals who chose Clark College to develop their craft."

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley. To see more photos from

the event, visit our Flickr album.