

# Welcome, professors!



Twelve outstanding educators are the newest members of the tenured faculty at Clark College. Dr. Amy Castellano (phlebotomy), Dr. Cara Cocchiarella (physical health and education), Dr. Catherine “CeCe” Crosby (biology), Dr. Jacob Funk (music), Hannah Jackson (mathematics), Julie Lemmond (business), Dr. Xiunu “Sophie” Lin (physics), Meredith Lynch (Transitional Studies English), Dr. Sam May-Varas (Transitional Studies English and mathematics), Donivee Randall-Jones (nursing), Michelle Roth (English as a

Second Language),  
and Dr. Michelle Stoklosa (geology) were all granted tenure during the Clark College Board of Trustees meeting on March 13. They will be honored at a college reception on April 22.

Tenure is awarded by the college's Board of Trustees based on professional excellence and outstanding abilities in their disciplines. The granting of tenure is based on the recommendations of tenure review committees to the vice president of instruction, which are then forwarded to the president, who presents a final recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

Recommendations are based on self-evaluations, tenure review committee evaluations, student evaluations, supervisory evaluations, and peer evaluations. The final decision to award or withhold tenure rests with the Board of Trustees.

## About the faculty members

### Dr. Amy Castellano



Dr. Amy Castellano holds a Bachelor of Science in physiological sciences from the University of Arizona and a

doctorate in naturopathic medicine from the National University of Natural Medicine. In addition to her teaching and research work at both her alma maters, she has previous work experience at Tucson Medical Center, Banner Medical Center, Oregon Health and Science University Hospital, and as a naturopathic physician at multiple clinics.

At Clark College, Dr. Castellano serves as department head of the phlebotomy program, and is a member of the program's Advisory Committee, the Healthy Penguin Walkabout Committee, and a task force to define the college's core healthcare curriculum.

"My teaching philosophy hinges on the belief that the learning environment provides the foundation for growth, has the ability to empower or demotivate students, and that a culture of positivity, respect, and community should be created," she said. "My goal is to cultivate a supportive space for students to grow, allow their individual strengths to emerge, and show a genuine interest in their success."

## **Dr. Cara Cocchiarella**



Dr. Cara Cocchiarella earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and health and human performance; her Master of Science in health and human performance; and her Doctorate of Education in educational leadership from the University of

Montana. She has coaching and teaching experience in a wide range of educational institutions, including Lincoln High School, Peninsula Elementary, University of Montana, Gonzaga University, and University of Montana Western.

Dr. Cocchiarella has taught health and physical education at Clark College since 2016. She currently serves as the lead instructor for the college's Fitness-Wellness course and is also a member of the college's Queer Employee Resource Group.

"As a teacher, I employ numerous active-learning modalities and strive to make all lessons applicable to the lives of my students," she said.

"The supportive community that we build in each of my classes is essential in terms of maximizing engagement and individual growth of all students."

## **Dr. Catherine "CeCe" Crosby**



Dr. CeCe Crosby earned her bachelor's degree in cellular and molecular biology from Western Washington University and her master's and doctorate degrees in soil science from Washington State University. She has previous teaching and research experience at Washington State University, Green River College, and Tacoma Community College. She joined the

faculty at Clark  
College in 2016.

At Clark, Dr. Crosby serves as faculty liaison for the college's MESA program, which encourages underrepresented groups to participate in STEM. She also serves on a pillar group for the college's work to adopt the Guided Pathways model of higher education and volunteers at the college's Science Olympiad competitions.

"My goal is to invite my students to see themselves as scientists by developing their natural curiosity about the world and giving them the skills to explore using the scientific method," Dr. Crosby said. "I focus on the skill development, learning from mistakes, and the practical applications of knowledge to solve difficulty problems."

## **Dr. Jacob Funk**



Dr. Jacob Funk holds a Bachelor of Science in vocal performance from John Brown University, a Master of Music in choral conducting from the University of British Columbia, and Doctor of Musical Arts in conducting from the University of Missouri Kansas City's Conservatory of Music and Dance. Before coming to Clark College in 2016, he had

previous teaching  
experience with Northwest Arkansas Community College, John  
Brown University,  
and Berean Academy (a private K-12 school in Elbing, Kansas).

At Clark College, Dr. Funk serves as director of the vocal  
music program, including the college's Chorale and its Women's  
Choral Ensemble.

He is also a faculty advisor for the music department.

"The choir rehearsal is what inspired me to want to be a  
teacher and an artist, and I want to share and give that  
experience to others,"

he said. "My objective is that through their choral  
experience, my students

will learn about all aspects of music, learn about themselves,  
experience the

joy of creating something beautiful and meaningful together,  
and be better,

more educated people because of it."

## **Hannah Jackson**



Hannah Jackson hold a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics  
from Willamette University and a Master of Science in  
mathematics from Syracuse

University. She has previous teaching experience at the  
University of Denver,

Arapahoe Community College, University of Colorado Boulder,  
and Front Range

Community College.



Currently Jackson coordinates Clark College's college algebra course and is part of the team piloting a new sequence of introductory-level mathematics courses. She also serves on the college's Math Activities Committee.

"My teaching philosophy is that you cannot force a student to learn," Jackson said. "You must make them want to. I achieve this through high levels of energy, enthusiasm, and a true love of my subject matter that comes across clearly to my students, gets them excited about the course, and makes them want to come to class and learn."

## Julie Lemmond



Julie Lemmond earned her Bachelor of Science degree in business and management and her Master of Business Administration with a concentration in finance from Marylhurst University. She began teaching at Clark College in 2006 and has previous teaching experience at Marylhurst University and Oregon State University.

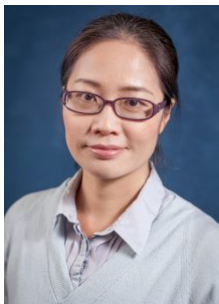
At Clark, Lemmond serves as lead instructor for the college's accounting and finance courses; a Quality Matters reviewer; an accounting tutor; and a faculty advisor in the college's business

program. Additionally, she has led the accounting faculty through the process of adopting and maintaining accounting resources and provides accounting resources to tutors to help them support students.

“My objective is to help students become competitive in the business world by developing logical and ethical business minds,” Lemmond said.

“I believe that anyone who wants to attend college should be able to attend college.”

## **Dr. Xiunu “Sophie” Lin**



Dr. Sophie Lin holds bachelor's and master's degrees in physics from Xiamen University in China and the University of Kentucky, respectively. Prior to coming to Clark College in 2016, she taught at Eastern Kentucky University and at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon.

At Clark, Dr. Lin serves on the college's BUILD EXIT0 work group, which provides research opportunities in STEM fields for Clark students.

She has also volunteered when the college has hosted a regional Science Olympiad.

“As a science instructor, I believe in setting high and



specific goals for students at the beginning of a course and motivating them to learn,” Dr. Lin said. “To engage students in active learning, I adopt various kinds of research-based teaching approaches, including ‘peer instruction,’ in-class exercises, experiment demonstration, and backward course instruction.”

## Meredith Lynch



Meredith Lynch earned her Associate of Applied Science degree from Tacoma Community College and both her bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Washington Tacoma. She served on the faculty of Pierce College in Puyallup, Washington, for more than 10 years before coming to Clark College in 2016.

At Clark, Lynch serves as vice-chair of the Environmental Integrity Council and as Transitional Studies liaison to the English Department. She also serves on the team responsible for redesigning the college's composition courses and co-requisites.

“I meet my students where they are and use collaborative, student-centered, active-learning strategies to help them achieve their educational goals,” Lynch said.

# Dr. Sam May-Varas



Dr. Sam May-Varas earned his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of South Florida, his master's in education from City University, and his doctorate in educational leadership from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. He also holds a K-12 Administrator License through the University of Oregon. May-Varas has 15 years of work experience in the K-12 system, both as a teacher and an administrator. He also has teaching experience at Portland Community College and has taught at Clark College for four years.

Since coming to Clark, May-Varas has been active in numerous Transitional Studies committees and works groups on topics that include academic standards, identifying barriers to enrollment and student success, and recruitment. Additionally, he serves on the Pillar 3 Work Group for the college's work toward adopting the Guided Pathways model of higher education and has helped develop curriculum for the college's High School 21-Plus and Welding I-BEST programs.

"In my position as an educator, I believe in empowering students to engage actively in the

learning process,” he said. “This engagement offers individual students the motivation to continue in education and ultimately reach their educational and career goals.”

## **Donivee Randall-Jones**

Donivee Randall-Jones earned her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from York College in Pennsylvania and her Master of Science in nursing education from Walden University. She is in the process of completing her doctorate in nursing practice and educational leadership from Walden.

A certified emergency nurse, Randall-Jones also holds certificates in advanced cardiac life support, pediatric advanced life support, and trauma nurse core courses. A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, she has many years of experience working in the emergency departments in Californian hospitals as well as at PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center in Vancouver. Before coming to Clark College in 2016, she taught at Mt. San Jacinto Community College in Menafee, California.

At Clark, Randall-Jones serves on her department’s accreditation, curriculum, and sub-curriculum committees. She also has served as a mentor to incoming teaching staff in her department.

“Nursing is a very broad profession in terms of knowledge base and skill set,” Randall-Jones said. “There are many shades of gray when the human body is involved, and my teaching approach fosters

clinical reasoning  
and judgment to help students make evidence-based decisions  
while in those gray  
areas.”

## Michelle Roth



Michelle Roth holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology from Reed College in Portland, Oregon, and a Master of Arts in teaching English to speakers of other languages from the University of Washington. She has previous teaching experience at University of Washington, Portland Community College, and Mount Hood Community College.

Since coming to Clark College as an adjunct instructor in 2000, Roth has been part of the college's Transitional Studies department, teaching in both its English as a Second Language and its Career and Academic Preparation programs. She helped develop the curriculum for international students in the college's Intensive English Language Program, where she served as department head. Currently, she serves as curriculum development lead for three Transitional Studies courses and as a member of the Transitional Studies Academic Standards Committee. Additionally, she is currently president of the

Washington Association for the Education of Speakers of Other Languages

(WAESOL), where she has served as a board member since 2015.

“Learning an additional language as an adult is an inherently vulnerable act,” said Roth. “Therefore, my first task is to ensure that the classroom is a place that supports my students’ bravery. Through real, relevant, communicative activities, students gain the confidence and language skills to achieve their career and academic goals.”

## **Dr. Michelle Stoklosa**



Dr. Michelle Stoklosa earned her bachelor’s degree in biology from Franklin and Marshall College in Pennsylvania and both her master’s and doctoral degrees in geology from the University of Wisconsin Madison. She has previous teaching experience at Boise State University, Portland State University, Marylhurst University, and Clackamas Community College. She currently teaches in Clark College’s earth and environmental science department.

At Clark, Stoklosa assisted in the development of the Natural Sciences Course Alignment Rubric for the Associate of Arts degree, represented

adjunct faculty on College Council, and co-led a workshop at Faculty Focus on Learning. She currently serves as a faculty advisor for the geology program.

“My goals for students are similar to those I have for myself as a scientist: that we directly interact with the Earth, develop critical thinking skills, and ultimately appreciate the Earth and the field of geology,” she said.

## About Clark College

Located in Vancouver’s Central Park and serving up to 12,000 students per quarter, Clark College is Southwest Washington’s largest public institution of higher education. The college currently offers classes at two satellite locations: one on the Washington State University Vancouver campus and one in the Columbia Tech Center in East Vancouver. Additionally, its Economic & Community Development program is housed in the Columbia Bank building in downtown Vancouver.

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley. No photo available for Donivee Randall-Jones.*