

# Battling stereotypes, they found success



Qi Wu and Tammy Senior are Clark College's representatives to the 2016 All-Washington Academic Team.

Two outstanding Clark College students were selected to attend the 2016 All-Washington Academic Team Recognition Ceremony, held on March 24 at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia, Washington. Tammy Senior and Qi Wu are two of just 66 students from community and technical colleges across the state to receive this honor, which recognizes students for their academic excellence and service to the community.

At first glance, Senior and Wu don't seem terribly similar. One is young even by the standards of Running Start, a program that allows high schoolers to take college courses; the other is coming back to college after serving four years in the

military. One has spent her whole life in Vancouver; the other has lived in more countries than she can count on one hand.

But on closer inspection, certain parallels become clear between the two young women: They're both fascinated by science and technology. They both are driven students who make time in their busy schedules to serve their communities. Both have had to challenge others' assumptions and figuring out creative ways to get around obstacles in their educational journeys. And so far, both are succeeding impressively.



Clark student Qi Wu stands before the college's new STEM Building, slated to open in fall 2016.

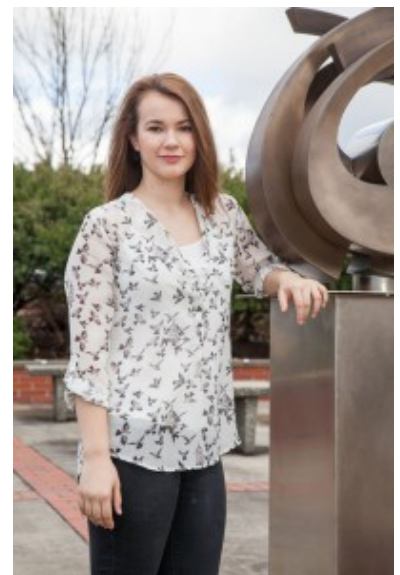
Wu's obstacles began surfacing when she and her mother emigrated from China to the United States. Wu, then a sophomore in high school, struggled to maintain her grades while learning a new language in a new culture. She also found herself confronting gender stereotypes, as classmates and teachers assumed she would be more interested in subjects like art and the humanities instead of math and science.

"When I was growing up, I was always better in physics and chemistry," she said. "I like numbers, I like logic. When I came to Clark and took my first engineering course, it was like, 'Wow, this is where I belong!'"

However, soon a new hurdle appeared. Wu, whose mother had remarried and had another child, realized her family could not afford to pay for her college education. Hoping to support herself, she enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 2010 as an aviation mechanic, and took every opportunity to earn educational credits and develop new skills—despite the doubts some had of the petite young woman’s abilities.

“When I got transferred to Japan, my supervisor told me, ‘Well, you can do the desk job here, because you’re a girl,’” Wu recalled. “And I said, ‘No. I want to do the job I trained for.’”

Wu said that overall, she’s grateful for the opportunities the military provided her to travel and learn skills that will help in her electrical engineering career. She’s currently receiving scholarships from Clark, which allows her to save her military education benefits for the more-expensive, four-year institutions she hopes to attend one day to earn her master’s degree. She also works in Clark’s scholarship office herself, and spends weekends training as a Naval Reservist.



Clark student Tammy Senior says she’s been impressed by how welcoming the

college was to her, even when she took her first class at age 14.

Like Wu, Senior's challenges also began in high school, but they were of a different nature: She felt stifled. "I wasn't being challenged enough," she recalls. "I took a class at Clark and found it so much better."

Senior's family couldn't afford to pay for a full load of college classes out of pocket, and when the 14-year-old visited Clark's scholarship office, she discovered she was too young to qualify for financial aid or scholarship opportunities. Then, the scholarship staff offered a new possibility: Perhaps Senior could enroll in Running Start, the Washington State program that allows eligible high school juniors and seniors to take college classes tuition-free. The only problem was that Senior was still a freshman. She wound up skipping the 10th grade in order to qualify, enrolling at Clark as a full-time student at age 15.

"It was definitely interesting," Senior, now 16 and set to graduate in the spring, said with a grin. "But Clark's pretty welcoming, and I really thrived in the community here."

Senior has maintained a 4.0 GPA while taking classes in Clark's challenging Honors Program, volunteering with her church, teaching private music lessons, and serving as the vice president of leadership for Clark's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. She'll be 17 when she enters a university—potentially with junior standing, depending on where she attends.

"People ask me, 'Why don't you enjoy your high school years?'" Senior said. "But I'm a planner. I think ahead. My mother wasn't able to finish school because she started a family. I know I have a lot of school ahead of me, and this is a way to

speed things up.”

Senior hopes to become a neurologist, a goal developed when her beloved grandmother suffered a series of debilitating strokes in 2014. Like Wu, Senior faced some skepticism about her ambitions.

“When I tell people I want to pursue a career in neurology, sometimes they look at me strangely and say, ‘Oh, why don’t you go into nursing, so you have time for a family?’” she said. “But I know I can do it. I can have a family. I can have the career of my choice. I just have to work hard. And you know, they would never tell a male student that.”

Both students say they appreciate the support they’ve found at Clark. “I like the diversity here,” says Wu, a first-generation college student. “Engineering professor Izad [Khormae] is from Iran. My physics teacher is from Russia. I think half the STEM faculty are women. And then in my classes I’ve met a few other veterans. You get so many different experiences here, different cultures.”

Wu and Senior were honored for their achievements at the All-Washington Academic Team induction ceremony on March 24, 2016, in Olympia, where Gov. Jay Inslee was the keynote speaker. The All-Washington Academic Team is a program of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges. Team members are eligible for numerous scholarships, including transfer scholarships at most four-year universities in the state.

“It is such an honor,” said Senior, sitting with Wu during a break between classes.

“It’s nice for your hard work to be recognized,” adds Wu.

“Yes, you feel like your hard work is finally paying off,” said Senior.

# Bill Clinton speaks at Clark College



Former President Bill Clinton speaking at Clark College.

Normally, the first day of spring break on Clark College's main campus feels like the calm after the storm. The parking lots are empty, faculty and students are home recovering from finals, and some offices are closed or on reduced hours. But on March 21, the campus swirled with activity after the Sunday announcement that former U.S. President Bill Clinton would be speaking in Gaiser Student Center that Monday evening.

Clinton was stumping in support of his wife's 2016



presidential campaign, which had rented the college's facilities for his appearance. He also appeared at Spokane Falls Community College and at Portland, Oregon's Powell Books during the day as part of a whirlwind tour of Washington and Oregon in advance of Washington's Saturday primary caucuses.

Lines began forming in the early afternoon for Clinton's scheduled 5 p.m. appearance. By 3:30, the line stretched down the stairs on the south side of the Penguin Union Building and around the north walkway of Hanna Hall. In total, about 750 people crowded into Gaiser Student Center, with another 150 packed into PUB 161 to watch the speech as a live stream.



Former President Bill Clinton addressed a packed Gaiser Student Center during a campaign stop for his wife's 2016 presidential bid.

While the bulk of the 42nd President of the United States' speech concerned why his wife should be the 45th president, he did also touch on subjects relating to Clark College. "Look at this institution where we are right now," he said, gesturing to the walls of Gaiser. "If America worked the way community colleges did, we'd have a lot fewer problems. It's open to everybody. It's constantly changing to adapt to the future. ... It's about creating a future where everybody has a chance."

Clinton also emphasized the economic importance of increasing

the amount of advanced manufacturing in the U.S., saying, “It’s the most productive part of every economy.” Clark College is currently planning a new facility teaching advanced manufacturing skills at its future location in Ridgefield, Clark College at Boschma Farms.

Clinton’s hour-long speech touched on access to higher education as well. “Every bit as much as a house, a degree is a lifetime asset,” he said, prompting cheers from a crowd that contained many Clark College students and employees.

This was a busy week for Vancouver. On Sunday, Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders spoke to a crowd of approximately 8,000 at Hudson’s Bay High School, just across the street from Clark.

*Photos: Clark College/Wei Zhuang*

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## **Bill Clinton to speak at Clark**





The Hillary Clinton For President Campaign is renting the Gaiser Student Center for a “Get Out The Caucus” rally at 5 p.m. tonight, March 21, 2016. Former President Bill Clinton is the featured speaker.

The rally is free and open to the public, but those interested in attending must register at: [www.hillaryclinton.com/events/view/2253825](http://www.hillaryclinton.com/events/view/2253825). Because this is not a Clark College sponsored event, there will not be access for Clark students, faculty, or staff except through the campaign registration site.

Doors will open at 4:15 p.m., and the only doors used during the event will be the south doors into Gaiser just outside of PUB 161.

**The area around PUB 161 will be closed at 3 p.m. No entry into Gaiser Student Center will be permitted after that.** Offices will be unaffected, but no entry will be permitted through the doors into Gaiser Hall, *so please plan accordingly.*

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# Welcome, professors!



Thirteen outstanding educators are the newest members of the tenured faculty at Clark College. Dr. Roberto Anitori (biology), Kushlani de Soyza (women's studies), Dee Anne Finken (journalism), Grant Hottle (art), Garrett Hoyt (health and physical education), Drew Johnson (business technology), Kenneth Luchini (mechatronics), Sarah Luther (mathematics), Dr. Mika Maruyama (psychology), Heather McAfee (geography), Natalie Miles (transitional studies language arts), Erin Schoenlein (transitional studies math), and Caleb White (welding) were all granted tenure during the Clark College Board of Trustees meeting on March 16.

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.

“Tenure is an important moment for both faculty and the college,” said Dr. Tim Cook, Vice President of Instruction. “For the faculty, this shows the college’s confidence in their skills and dedication; for the college, these faculty will help develop Clark’s curriculum and character for many years to come. I’m happy to congratulate these talented and passionate educators and I look forward to watching them help shape our college community.”



**Dr. Roberto Anitori, Biology**

After earning both his bachelor’s and doctoral degrees in Molecular Biology and Microbiology from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, Dr. Roberto Anitori worked in research labs at Macquarie University in Sydney and at Oregon Health and Science University. He has extensive experience researching “extremophiles,” microbes that have adapted to survive in environments where most living things could not. He has researched extremophiles in Antarctica, volcanoes, deep-sea vents, underground water tables, deserts, and radioactive hot springs. He has been invited to lecture by organizations including the Australian Society for

Microbiology, the Geological Society of Australia, and NASA. In 2011, he received the Antarctica Service Medal from the National Science Foundation. Dr. Anitori began teaching microbiology at Clark in 2008. He is the editor of the book *Extremophiles: Microbiology and Biotechnology* (2012, Horizon Press).

At Clark, Dr. Anitori serves as the faculty co-lead for undergraduate research-based student activities, and the lead instructor for microbiology. He also participated in the college's Faculty Speaker Series.

Dr. Anitori said, "I try to relate the material I teach to the real world, and also infuse my instruction with information from my more than two decades of scientific research experience."



**Kushlani de Soyza, Women's Studies**

Kushlani de Soyza earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from Northwestern University. She has a Master of Education degree in secondary education/English from the University of Cincinnati, a Master of Arts degree from Portland State University, and a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Oregon State University. De Soyza has previous work experience at the *Cincinnati Post*, St. Xavier High School, University of Virginia, Oregon State University, and APA Compass Radio.

At Clark, de Soyza serves as chair of the Clark College Ann Virtu Snyder Women's Studies Scholarship Committee.

"My goal as a teacher is to create a classroom experience where learners of all backgrounds can listen, learn, and express themselves in an atmosphere based on mutual respect," she says. "The Women's Studies classroom is a space where students work together to understand how systems of power, privilege and inequity apply to their own experiences and to the social, political, and cultural institutions that shape our lives."



**Dee Anne Finken, Journalism**

Dee Anne Finken earned bachelor's degrees in journalism and English from California State University and Washington State University. She has a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative non-fiction from Portland State University. Prior to teaching at Clark, Finken spent more than two decades as a print journalist.

Finken serves as the faculty advisor to Clark's award-winning student news source, *The Independent*. She also leads the college's journalism program and founded the college's Student Media Advisory Committee.

"In teaching journalism, I hope to support students to become more thoughtful and engaged citizens of the wider world," said Finken.





**Grant Hottle, Art**

Grant Hottle attended the Utrecht School of the Arts before earning his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting from the University of Oklahoma. He then went on to earn his master's degree in painting and drawing from the University of Oregon. Hottle has previous work experience at the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Lewis and Clark College, Marylhurst University, Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Colorado, Oregon College of Art and Craft, and Clark College.

Hottle serves as head of Clark College's painting and foundations area, coordinating adjuncts and managing department curricula in drawing, painting, design, and color theory. He is a faculty advisor for the Clark College Art Club and a member of the Outcomes Assessment Committee. He also worked with an English faculty member to design a popular Integrated Learning Community on the "Craft of Comics."

"My classes exist to empower each student's strategy of personal expression and to awaken them to the role art can play in their development as professionals and as free-thinking adults," said Hottle. "I focus on drawing and design fundamentals through a process-based understanding of materials while exposing students to the broader cultural relevance of art beyond the studio."



## **Dr. Garrett Hoyt, Health and Physical Education**

Dr. Garrett Hoyt earned his Bachelor of Science degree in exercise science from Brigham Young University and his Master of Science degree in exercise physiology from Colorado State University. He has a Ph.D. in exercise science/health promotion, also from Brigham Young University. He has previous work experience at Brigham Young University and the YMCA of Central Kentucky and is the founder and owner of Healthy Steps In-Home Personal Training.

Dr. Hoyt, who has taught at Clark since 2011, currently serves on its Associate of Arts Advisory Committee. He has spent significant time studying nutrition and is currently starting a small sustainable farm.

"I believe in the quote often attributed to Galileo: 'You can't teach a man anything; you can only help him find it within himself,'" said Dr. Hoyt. "Teaching is less about presenting facts and more about encouraging students to discover things for themselves."





**Drew Johnson, Business Technology**

Drew Johnson earned his bachelor's degree in marketing from George Fox University and his master's degree in secondary education from the University of Phoenix. He has taught in Clark College's Business Technology department since 2011.

Johnson serves on the Clark College Retention Committee and is an active member of his department, working on curriculum and outcomes for the past five years.

Johnson described his teaching style by saying, "I attempt to deliver materials using several different methods in order to reach multiple learning styles. I also try to bring a real-world approach to the classroom by presenting assignments and materials that students can relate to, based on scenarios they may encounter in the workforce."



**Kenneth (Ken) Luchini, Mechatronics**

Kenneth Luchini earned his associate degree in industrial electronics from Diablo Valley College in California. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in industrial electronics and computer technology from California State University Chico, and completed Master Studies in instructional processes in vocational education at the University of California Berkeley Extension. His work experience includes more than two decades as an electrical engineer, as well as 10 years as an electronics technician and eight years as a full-time college vocational education instructor in electronics and industrial automation.

Luchini serves as the faculty advisor for the MechNerds, Clark College's student club devoted to mechatronics. He is also co-principal investigator for the Clark College Rural Access Mechatronics Program (RAMP), a program that would develop "hybrid" (combination online and face-to-face) curriculum to serve rural portions of the college's service district through a proposed grant from the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education program.

Luchini summed up his teaching philosophy as "listen to others, see where they and their questions are coming from, and give or guide them to the information they want, so that they can use information right away and/or build upon it for technical skills and intellectual development."

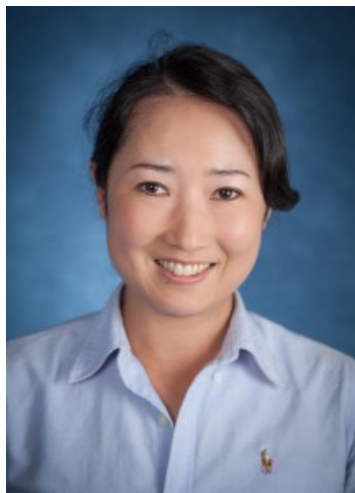


**Sarah Luther, Mathematics**

Sarah Luther earned her Bachelor of Arts with a major in English and a minor in mathematics from Lewis and Clark College. She also earned her Master of Arts in Teaching degree in secondary education from Lewis and Clark. She earned her Master of Science in mathematics from Texas A&M University. Luther has previous work experience as a middle-school math teacher in Portland, Oregon; a mathematics editor and textbook problem writer for IPS Publishing in Vancouver, Washington; and as a mathematics faculty member at both Umpqua Community College and Clark College.

In addition to volunteering as a tutor in Clark's Women in STEM tutoring center, Luther frequently volunteers with Mathematics Department activities and outreach. She serves on the college's International Education Committee and its Academic Standards Committee, and coordinates quarterly advising for all pre-college math students.

"My teaching philosophy centers around the belief that all students are capable of understanding mathematics," Luther said. "Therefore my goal is to create a supportive community in which this learning can occur. Using a dynamic, interactive approach, I want to draw my students in to the beauty of math to help inspire enjoyment of the subject. "



**Dr. Mika Maruyama, Psychology**

Dr. Maruyama earned her bachelor's degree from Utah State University and both her master's and doctorate degrees in psychology from Portland State University. She has previous work experience at Portland State University, Oregon University System, University of Phoenix, Portland Community College, Mt. Hood Community College, and Clark College.

A native of Japan, Dr. Maruyama has studied human development in both American and Japanese society as well as social issues including animal cruelty, domestic violence, child maltreatment, and juvenile delinquency. She has contributed to numerous academic journals, handbooks, and textbooks, including *Animal Abuse and Developmental Psychopathology* (2010, APA Books), *Human Development* (2008, Wadsworth Publishing), and *International Handbook of Theory and Research on Animal Abuse and Cruelty* (2008, Purdue University Press).

At Clark, Dr. Maruyama serves on the BUILD EXIT0 Program Committee. She is also collaborating on a research project with Portland State University on the effectiveness of using virtual reality to influence health, and she is the principal investigator in a research project on humane education programs in the U.S.

Dr. Maruyama said, "My ultimate goal as a teacher is to positively influence students in how they view themselves and society by providing them with tools for understanding

psychological principles that they can use outside of the classroom.”



**Heather J. McAfee, Geography**

Heather McAfee earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in political science/women and gender studies from the University of Colorado. She earned her Master of Arts degree in geography from the University of Oregon. She has previous work experience at the University of Oregon, Clark College, and as a Senior Human Terrain Analyst serving in Baghdad for the U.S. Army.

Currently McAfee serves as the chair of Clark College’s Geography Department. She is also a member of the college’s Associate of Arts Transfer Committee and the Learning Communities Taskforce, as well as a volunteer with the Library of the Future Taskforce.

“Since the purpose of schooling is to prepare students to live effectively in the world, it makes sense to put the needs of students in the spotlight,” McAfee said of her teaching philosophy. “I engage geography students through real-world examples, self-discovery, and creating a safe space to invite conversation about ‘big ideas’ and how they connect to their own experiences.”



**Natalie Miles, Transitional Studies Language Arts**

Natalie Miles earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Valley City State University in North Dakota. She has previous teaching experience at Grays Harbor College, Centralia College, Lower Columbia College, and Clark College; additionally, she has worked as a literacy specialist for the Evergreen School District.

At Clark, Miles serves as the BEECH Unit representative to the Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee and to the Tech Fee Committee. She has also been instrumental in designing curriculum for the High School 21+ English Pathways, Academic I-BEST, and the Early Childhood Education I-BEST. Miles developed quarterly tutor-training workshops for the Transitional Studies Tutor Center and volunteered as a mentor with First Year Experience.

"I believe my primary role is to encourage students to see their own potential to succeed," said Miles. "I motivate students using a student-centered approach and differentiated instruction, whereby enabling me to guide them through content needed to meet competencies. I am thrilled to help students transition to their next steps at Clark."



## **Erin Schoenlein, Transitional Studies Mathematics**

Erin Schoenlein earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Portland. She earned her Master of Arts in Teaching from that institution as well. While working on her master's degree, she assisted in the opening of St. Andrew Nativity School in Northeast Portland. Upon graduation, she taught mathematics and science at Wy'east Middle School in Portland. Schoenlein has taught at Clark since 2008.

Schoenlein serves as lead of Clark College's Transitional Studies Math Cohort and of its Bridge to College Higher Education. She also helped develop curriculum for its High School 21+ program.

"I strive to be student centered in my teaching and curriculum development," Schoenlein said. "My focus is to change the lives of the students I am lucky enough to support."





**Caleb White, Welding**

Caleb White earned an associate degree in automotive and diesel technology from the Universal Technical Institute and a certificate of completion in welding technology from Clark College. He is currently working on an Associate of Applied Technology in welding technology from Clark College as well. White has more than a decade of work experience as a welder and fabricator, including 10 years as a mechanic shop foreman at Christensen Shipyards.

White has taught at Clark College since 2012. He currently serves as department head of Welding and Fabrication Technology.

“My approach to teaching is to teach a wide range of skill-sets so students can handle the changes of industry throughout their careers,” said White. “My teaching style is very conversational and I challenge the students along the way. My goal is not to teach students everything they would have to know in industry, but the skill-sets and problem-solving abilities to work through any situation they might encounter.”

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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# Catching dreams, sharing history



Brent Learned talks about George Curtis Levi's traditional "ledger art" with attendees of the 2016 Student of Color Luncheon.

The winter 2016 Student of Color Luncheon was filled with history—some of it long in the past, and some of it being made right then. The event featured artists Brent Learned and George Curtis Levi, whose work is currently being featured at the Clark County Historical Museum, speaking about atrocities committed against their ancestors in the 19th century. It also marked the bestowal of Clark's first scholarship designated specifically for a Native American student.



Dream Catcher  
Scholarship  
recipient Channa  
Smith

The Clark College Dream Catcher Scholarship was first announced at the college's annual Native American celebration in 2014. Clark student Channa Smith said she was honored to be its inaugural recipient. "When I first applied for the scholarship, I didn't think much about it beyond, 'Oh, it would be nice to have some money,'" she said at the reception. "But it's been really transformative. I didn't think how much it would mean to me to be recognized for my hard work."

Smith has been very active in the community, both at the college and in Southwest Washington. A Coast Salish tribe member, she helped start Clark's new Native American Cultural Club and has participated in local Chinook tribal activities since moving to the area.



Channa Smith was named the inaugural recipient of the Dream Catcher Scholarship at the 2016 Student of Color Luncheon. Multicultural Retention Manager Felisciana Peralta, *right*, presented the scholarship.

After the scholarship was presented to Smith, Learned and Levi spoke about creating the art that makes up “One November Morning.” This exhibit depicts the Sand Creek Massacre of November 29, 1864, when more than 150 Cheyenne and Arapaho people were killed in Sand Creek, Colorado, by U.S. Army soldiers.

“You have to know where you come from to know where you’re going, and that’s what we’re trying to do,” said Levi during the presentation. He urged students at the luncheon to remember their own history and communities as they progressed in life. “Go back to your communities after you graduate and give back,” he said.

“One November Morning” will be on display at the Clark County Historical Museum through May 28. As part of its “Native Voices” exhibit, the Clark College Libraries is hosting a free art walk on Friday, March 4, that begins at Cannell Library with a reception, then visits the Native American basketry currently on display at Archer Gallery, and ends at the Clark County Historical Museum.

The spring 2016 Student of Color Luncheon will be held in May. It will feature the announcement of the recipient of Clark's 2016 Constance Baker Motley Scholarship, which is given each year to a Clark College student of color.

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## Native Voices come to Clark



Chinook tribal elder Sam Robinson and Clark student Channa Smith perform a blessing song to welcome the Native Voices exhibition to Clark College.

On February 9, Cannell Library was briefly filled with the sound of drumming and singing during the opening ceremony for "Native Voices," a traveling exhibition examining Native



American concepts of health and medicine that will be on display in the library through March 16.

“It’s an honor to be here today,” said Chinook tribal elder and Clark alumnus Sam Robinson before he began a blessing ceremony for the event. “There are a lot different kinds of healing among our people, and there’s a lot of healing needed in our community.”



Librarian Laura Nagel, Dean of Libraries and Academic Success Services Michelle Bagley, Enrollment Services Program Coordinator Anna Schmasow, Chinook tribal elder and Clark alumnus Sam Robinson, and Interim Director of the Office of Diversity and Equity Felis Peralta.

“Native Voices” is produced by the National Library of Medicine in conjunction with the American Library Association. Clark College Libraries were selected as one of about 100 sites to host the exhibition during 2016-2020, and is the first to do so in the Pacific Northwest.

The exhibition examines concepts of health and medicine among contemporary American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native

Hawaiians. It features interviews and works from Native people living on reservations, in tribal villages, and in cities. Topics include: Native views of land, food, community, earth/nature, and spirituality as they relate to Native health; the relationship between traditional healing and Western medicine in Native communities; economic and cultural issues that affect the health of Native communities; efforts by Native communities to improve health conditions; and the role of Native Americans in military service and healing support for returning Native veterans.

Host sites are encouraged to incorporate additional materials and events into the exhibition, and Clark College Libraries has connected with several other departments and organizations—including the Chinook Nation, Clark County Historical Museum, the Clark College Office of Diversity and Equity, Archer Gallery, and Clark College Student Life—to create an impressive roster of events supporting the exhibition. These include:

- **Tuesday, February 9, noon:** Opening Ceremony featuring a blessing with drummers. *Cannell Library*
- **Tuesday, February 16, 11:30 a.m.:** Student of Color Luncheon with the artists of *One November Morning*, an exhibit about the Sand Creek Massacre hosted by the Clark County Historical Museum. Also featuring the awarding of the first Dreamcatcher Scholarship for Native American students at Clark College. *PUB 161*
- **Thursday, February 17, 2:00 p.m.:** “Earth-Based Mentoring through Grief,” a presentation from Tony Ten Fingers of the Oglala Lakota. *GHL 213*
- **Friday, February 19, 2:00 p.m.:** Documentary on *One November Morning* sponsored by the Native American Culture Club of Clark College. *Foster Auditorium*
- **Wednesday, February 24, 12:15 p.m.:** This week’s half-hour “30 Clicks” presentation covers the connections between wellness, illness, and cultural life. *LIB 103*



- **Friday, March 4, 5:00 p.m.:** Art Walk between Cannell Library, Archer Gallery, and Clark County Historical Museum
- **Wednesday, March 9, noon:** Closing ceremonies. *Cannell Library*

“We’ve mentioned over and over how well it fits together having all these events happening at the same time,” said librarian Laura Nagel, who helped to organize Clark’s hosting of Native Voices. “The stars really aligned for this.”

See more photos from the opening ceremony [here](#).

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## A new beat



Battle Ground High School Advanced Jazz Band wins First Place

and Sweepstakes award at the 54th Annual Clark College Jazz Festival.

Three days, 57 bands, and more than a few firsts—the 54th Annual Clark College Jazz Festival had plenty to keep people entertained. The event, which draws jazz bands from middle and high schools around the region, kept Gaiser Student Center swinging with big-band music January 28-30.

For 2016, the Dale Beacock Memorial Sweepstakes trophy was awarded to Battle Ground High School Advanced Jazz Band, Battle Ground, Washington. This is the first time Battle Ground had taken the Sweepstakes trophy in at least a decade. Many of the band's members have been directed by Greg McKelvey since middle school.

In other surprises, La Center—which had not been to the festival in more than 10 years—took third place in the A division. In the AA division, a newcomer to the festival, South Whidbey High, took first place, ending Hockinson High's five-year tenure at the top.

Find out about more Clark College music events coming up during winter quarter.

## **RESULTS**

**Thursday, January 28, 2016** middle school jazz ensemble finals results:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Jane Addams Middle School, Seattle
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Eckstein Middle School, Seattle
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Chief Umtuch Middle School, Battle Ground and Beaumont Middle School, Portland OR

Outstanding Middle School Jazz Musician certificates were presented to:

Lukas Miller, VSAA; Evan Siegel, VSAA; Tanner Linton,

Hockinson; Ashton Hemming, Chief Umtuch; Dominic Mendoza, Chief Umtuch; George Fulton, Eckstein; Anna Thilke, Eckstein; Aiden Shapero, Eckstein; Colin Brace, Jane Addams; Jack Atwater, Jane Addams; Hannah McCollum, Beaumont; Aaron Freedman, Beaumont; Alex Wagstaff, Beaumont; Owen Traw, Beaumont.

**Friday, January 29, 2016** A and AA division high school jazz ensemble finals results:

### **A Division**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Creswell I High School, Creswell, OR
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Northwinds Homeschool, Port Angeles
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – La Center High School, La Center

### **AA Division**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – South Whidbey High School, Langley
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Hockinson High School, Hockinson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Mead II High School, Spokane

Outstanding high school musician awards for the **A Division** were presented to:

Gabe Pol, VSAA; Aubrey Hatch, Creswell 2; Diego Romero, McLaughlin; Brendan Smith, McLaughlin; Adam Kennedy, Northwinds; Claire Henninger, Northwinds; Tyrelle Massey, Woodland.

Outstanding high school musician awards for the **AA Division** were presented to:

Lorenzo Ponce, Ridgefield; Vincent DePiuto, Central Catholic; Connor Brennan, Mt. Spokane; Kent Stricker, Colombia River; Liam Twomey, South Whidbey; Nick Torres, Washougal; Nick Baciuc, Hockinson.

**Saturday, January 30, 2016** AAA and AAAA division high school jazz ensemble finals results:

### **AAA Division**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Mead High School, Spokane
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Roosevelt II High School, Seattle
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Meadowdale High School, Lynwood

Outstanding high school musician awards for the **AAA Division** were presented to:

Nikki Anderson, Bothell II; Hunter Coleman, Mountain View II; Gabe James, Mead I; Michael Galeotti, Mead I; Jacob Volz, Meadowdale; Carter Eng, Roosevelt II.

### **AAAA Division**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Battle Ground High School Advanced Jazz, Battle Ground
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Roosevelt I High School, Seattle
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Garfield High School, Seattle

Outstanding high school musician awards for the **AAAA Division** were presented to:

Mariah Jones, Kelso; Jacob Sanders, Chiawana; Steve Montecucco, Battle Ground; Brandon Pressley, West Salem I; Calvin Huynh, Bothell; Santosh Sharma, Roosevelt I; Isaac Poole, Garfield.

*Photo: Clark College/Shelly Williams*

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# Faculty Speaker Series presents Dave Kosloski

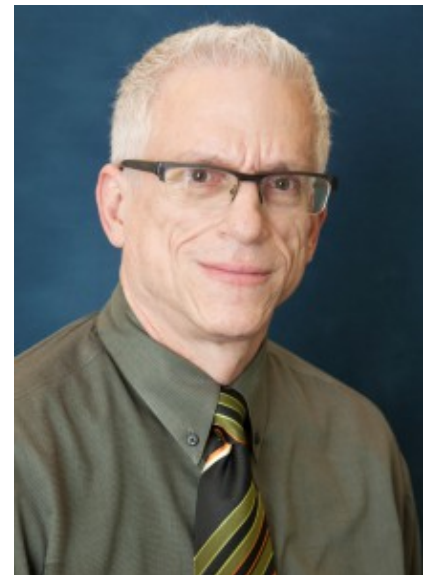


Professor Dave Kosloski, *fifth from left*, led Washington State community college students through their study-abroad experience in Italy during the 2015 spring quarter. *Photo courtesy of Dave Kosloski*

On February 11 at 4:00 p.m. in the Ellis Dunn Community Room (Gaiser Hall room 213), the Teaching and Learning Center hosts "Square Pegs in Round Holes: Making the Study Abroad Experience Meaningful for Community College Students," the 2016 winter quarter installment of Clark College's Faculty Speaker Series.

Communications studies professor Dave Kosloski shares

insights, surprises, and challenges that are unique to the community college study-abroad experience. Based on his teaching-abroad assignment in Florence, Italy, during the 2015 spring quarter, he will explore the cultural, pedagogical and social issues that arise in working with the two-year student in a traditional study abroad environment.



Prof. Dave Kosloski

## **About Prof. Dave Kosloski**

For 18 years, Professor Dave Kosloski has taught courses in the Communication Studies department at Clark College, most notably in public speaking and competitive speech and debate. He received his bachelor's degree in Journalism and Public Relations at Georgia State University in Atlanta and his master's degree in Communication Theory at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant. Even before completing his master's degree, Kosloski began teaching courses in interpersonal and public communication. While working on doctoral coursework in Rhetorical Criticism at the University of Illinois, he not only taught public speaking and business writing courses but published numerous articles. He also co-authored and edited several instructors' manuals to accompany textbooks in his field.



When Kosloski received his first teaching award as a doctoral candidate he began to realize that teaching, not research, was his passion. His first full-time teaching position was at a small liberal arts college in Nebraska. After two years there, he decided to focus his career on working at a two-year college.

From 1998 to 2013, Kosloski served as Clark College's Director of Forensics. Under his tutelage, the Penguins routinely captured first place in speech and debate competitions in the Northwest Community College Division. Only once in 15 years did the team place second. He also led his teams to nine different international competitions in Italy, Belgium, Germany, and Quebec, where they ranked from second to sixth overall. Of his teaching abroad experience in 2015, he says it was not only an opportunity to connect with students more deeply as he had when he coached forensics, but to experience another culture more meaningfully than a week-long speech competition could offer.

A first-generation college student himself, Kosloski finds that community college students are truly committed to getting the most out of their education. He believes that "students will rise to whatever challenge they are presented." In his 28 years teaching, Kosloski has observed that the skills he teaches are more far-reaching than students can imagine. "They come to class on the first day assuming they're just getting a required course out of the way. They think it's not useful to their major," he says. "It may not be until years later when they have to make a presentation to a board of directors or a PTA that the skills they acquired are really useful. Their lives are empowered in ways they could not imagine on that first day of class."

See a video of Prof. Kosloski discussing the study-abroad experience:



## About the Faculty Speaker Series

The Clark College Faculty Speaker Series showcases recent experiences that have enriched both the life and teaching of a Clark faculty member. Faculty members share their developmental experiences with the college community—and members of the community at large—while addressing some of today's most intriguing issues.

Established by Clark College with support from the Clark College Foundation, the series honors individual faculty members and celebrates academic excellence.

*Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

*Video: Clark College/Nick Bremer-Korb*

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# Striving towards equity



Dr. Michael Benitez Jr. speaks at Clark College's annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Today we're going to have a little of what I call 'critical fun,'" said Dr. Michael Benitez Jr. as he began to speak to the crowd gathered to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy in Gaiser Student Center on January 20. True to that promise, Benitez delivered a talk that was enlivened with humor—but also tackled serious subjects like racially based bias in this country's social and economic systems.

"For 60 years, the data have told we need to change, but for some reason, we're not looking at the data," said Benitez, showing charts that revealed gaping discrepancies between African-Americans and whites in sectors like home ownership, wealth accumulation, and imprisonment. "We're looking at things the comfortable way. Instead of looking at the needs of the oppressed, we need to take a look at the comforts of the dominant."

Benitez acknowledged that most people in the auditorium

probably were able to take advantage of at least some of those comforts. “This is the tension for those of us working for social justice,” he said. “Our complicity in the system that we aim to dismantle.”

Benitez spoke engagingly about both receiving and being denied privilege—being able to say and do things as an able-bodied man that a woman or person with disabilities might not be able to say or do, but also being a target for police as a Latino man. “There’s a reason I was pulled over four times by police on a road trip,” he said.

Benitez is the Dean of Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Puget Sound. He recently completed his doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies at Iowa State University. He has served higher education in different capacities for the last 15 years, including academic affairs, student affairs, diversity and inclusion, and teaching.



President Bob Knight announces the college’s new Social Equity Plan at the college’s annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Appropriately for an event celebrating Dr. King’s legacy, the speech was preceded by the announcement of the college’s new

2015-2020 Social Equity Plan. “We are being serious about this as we move forward with social equity,” said President Bob Knight in announcing the plan. “We want to make it fair and just for everyone at Clark College to achieve their dream. I will be at the forefront of it.”

“This is everybody’s plan,” said Clark College Multicultural Retention Manager Felis Peralta, who as a member of the college’s Cultural Pluralism Committee helped develop the plan. “It does not belong to the Cultural Pluralism Committee. It does not belong to the Office of Diversity and Equity. Everybody has a part of making Clark a better place for everyone.”

In his keynote speech, Benitez praised Clark for taking a stand on social equity. “I’m glad to hear the word ‘equity’ in there,” he said. “Because without equity, there no such thing as inclusion. Without equity, there is no such thing as diversity.”

*Photos: Clark College/Nick Bremer-Korb*

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# **Change is coming**



President Robert K. Knight received applause during the 2016 State of the College address when he told representatives from Ridgefield, “We’re coming!” – a reference to the college’s future North County campus.

Clark College President Robert K. Knight delivered the annual State of the College address in Gaiser Student Center on Jan. 21. In his speech he stated, “I hope to leave you with a sense of the transformation that is happening all around us.”

Some of that transformation is physical—Knight pointed to the upcoming opening of the new STEM building in the fall and the \$10 million remodeling of the college’s culinary facilities to support the re-opening of the Culinary Arts program. He also highlighted more long-range plans, including the construction of a new campus in Ridgefield. Many representatives from Ridgefield’s government were in the audience and cheered approvingly at mention of the new campus.

Other transformations were more systemic. Knight spoke about the progress being made in implementing the college’s

2015-2020 Strategic Plan, which was unveiled during last year's State of the College address. Steps taken to realize that plan include a new Social Equity Plan and Academic Master Plan.



Vice President of Instruction Dr. Tim Cook with President Knight at the 2016 State of the College address. Dr. Cook has been instrumental in developing the college's new Academic Master Plan.

Another systemic change is a move toward "guided pathways," a concept that offers students highly structured course plans that help them complete their programs efficiently. This strategy, popularized by the book *Redesigning America's Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success*, has become a rallying cry among many in higher education who are working to boost students' ability to complete their programs smoothly and quickly. "The vision of guided pathways is that every student has a clear road map to help them navigate each point in their journey at Clark," said Knight.

To further help students on their journeys, Knight added, Clark would be adding more one-on-one assistance with navigating college systems. "Going on a computer to enroll and register online is hard enough for anyone, but especially if



you don't have anyone in your family who can help you with that," said Knight, noting that almost three-quarters of Clark's student body were first-generation college students. "So we're backing off from doing all of that online."

As is traditional, Knight used the State of the College address as an opportunity to showcase some of Clark's talented and dedicated employees by presenting them with Presidential Coins. He also highlighted three Clark students whose stories reflected the many ways students find success at the college.

In conclusion, Knight said that just as Clark College was changing, so was the region that it served. "I feel the energy in Clark County right now," he said. "I'm excited by what we can accomplish together."

View more photos from the State of the College on our Flickr site.

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*