

Bright Futures in Healthcare

Clark's Allied Health programs honored this year's graduates with two noteworthy ceremonies, celebrating the achievements of our nursing and dental hygienist programs.

Clark Diesel Partners with Portland Tractor

A new partnership roared to life this spring between Clark College's Diesel program and Portland Tractor, giving students hands-on access to modern heavy equipment and real-world training.

Clark College Dedicates Raines Softball Field

Penguin fans packed the stands at Clark College's softball field on May 2, gathering not just to cheer on their team but to celebrate a legacy. The afternoon dedication of the newly named Raines Softball Field brought together athletes, alumni, friends, and family, including many there to support Wilma Raines.

Communications Studies hosts WSU transfer panel

Clark College students considering a future in communication had a unique opportunity to connect with experts from Washington State University's renowned Edward R. Murrow College of Communication.

Career Connections

More than 50 Clark students met face-to-face with alumni mentors and other professionals to find out more about their prospective careers.

Mural Painting

Clark College welcomed muralist Christian Barrios, a Clark College graduate, to lead the community in creating a mural project during International Education Week from November 13 to 15.

Women in STEM Tea

Clark College welcomes four alumni to speak at annual Women in STEM Tea event.

April 20 is PenguinsGive and Sakura Festival

PenguinsGive, Clark College's 24-hour fundraising event, is Thursday, April 20. In celebration of Clark College celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, all Clark College and Clark College Foundation employees and retirees are challenged to "Give \$90." Join the members of the 0 Squad, your employee giving committee and give \$90 to support Clark students.

Penguins hiring Penguins



It's become an annual tradition: hundreds of Clark College students showing up to meet potential employers as graduation looms near. But while Clark's Career Fair has become a familiar part of the academic cycle, not everyone realizes how many of those employer booths are staffed by former Clark students—some of whom attended the fair themselves, once upon a time.

Leslie Matheney, an HR generalist for Burgerville, remembered attending the fair before graduating from Clark in 2008 with her associate degree. "At the time, I wasn't really ready for it," she said, noting that she had just been looking for part-time work as she geared up to transfer to WSU Vancouver, where she earned a bachelor's degree in human resources and personal psychology.

Matheney, who was at the May 3 fair to recruit seasonal crew members and managers, said she felt being a Clark graduate helped her when she did start looking for full-time, permanent

employment. "I think, especially because I was looking for a position at a local company, it was good," she said. "I think that Clark is really well respected in this area."



Sgt. Fred Nieman stands with a colleague at the Clark County Sheriff's Office table.

Sergeant Fred Neiman, who was recruiting for the Clark County Sheriff's Office, said that his workplace also values the diversity of Clark's student body. "What we look for is folks who have a variety of education and background," he said. "You deal with all kinds of people in public safety. So to have a background of diverse education and experiences, and knowing how to interact with lots of different kinds of people—that's valuable."

Neiman has a long personal connection with Clark College. Not only did he attend classes here in the late 1970s, but he came back to work as its Director of Security for eight years. Clark is also where he met his wife, and their three children all earned associate degrees from the college.

"It's a wonderful institution," he said. "I enjoyed attending here when I was a student, and I enjoyed working here when I was an employee."

Vicky Barnes also has a child who graduated from Clark. She

earned her own associate degree here—with highest honors, no less—while he was still a teen.



Vicki Barnes

"I often got mistaken for a professor on campus," laughed Barnes, who was at the fair to recruit for Woodland Public School, where she is the HR coordinator and district office manager. Barnes said she enjoyed her time as a Penguin, even though it meant long days—she attended Clark while working at WPS. "This is something I wanted to show my kids—that you can be a life-long learner."

"It definitely benefited me in HR," she said. "You learn how to engage with people, how to get out of your comfort zone."

As if to prove this, she quickly turned to a woman eyeing her display of job descriptions to answer questions about open positions in the district.

According to Clark College Employer Relations Specialist Scott Clemans, 15 of the 110 employers who registered for this year's fair indicated that they would have Clark College alumni present.

"Smart companies send alumni to events like these because they're great role models and mentors for current Clark students," Clemans said. "The alumni show current students what's possible after college, and give great advice on how to

achieve it. And of course, they relate to Clark students on a level that other recruiters simply can't."

Clemans added that the fair was an impressive success. "Not only did we have 110 employers registered to attend—the maximum the O'Connell gym would hold—but we had to create a wait list for interested employers and probably had about 20 more who were interested but contacted us too late to register," he said.

This year's job fair included not only employer booths but also a photo booth where visitors could get a professional portrait taken for their LinkedIn accounts. Leading up to the fair, Clark College Career Services also hosted numerous workshops and events, as well as the annual Career Clothing Closet, to prepare students and guests for the day. The fair, which is open not just to Clark students but to all job-seekers in the community, saw 923 visitors this year—up 15 percent from last year's attendance.

Top photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley. Photos of Nieman and Barnes: Clark College/Hannah Erickson.

A champ returns



Award-winning author Mitchell S. Jackson began his college career at Clark. *Photo: Charlotte M. Wales*

During the 2017 winter quarter installment of its renowned Columbia Writers Series, Clark College will welcome back former student Mitchell S. Jackson, an award-winning author. Mitchell will read from and discuss his writing from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, in room PUB 258 on Clark's main campus.

"I'm excited about Mitchell's reading because I think it will be a great opportunity for Clark students to hear from someone who grew up in the area and attended Clark," says English instructor Alexis Nelson, who co-directs the Columbia Writers Series. "I also think *The Residue Years* suits the college theme of Transformation, in addition to being a unique and powerful read."

Raised in Portland, Mitchell Jackson is the author of *The Residue Years*, a novel that Mitchell has said includes many autobiographical elements. The award-winning book centers on the relationship between Champ, a young African-American man

struggling to balance his ambitions with his circumstances, and his mother Grace, recently released from rehab.

Jackson began his college career at Clark in 1993, where he played basketball under then-coach David Waldow. "My time at Clark was formative," says Jackson. "It taught me that I would have to work hard to achieve my goals, that I'd have to take responsibility for my decisions. Coach Waldow was tough on me, but he was also a figure I needed at that point in my life."

Jackson transferred to another college after one year at Clark, eventually earning an M.A. in writing from Portland State University and an M.F.A in Creative Writing from New York University. He currently resides in New York, and serves on the faculty of both New York University and Columbia University.

The Residue Years has earned significant accolades since its release in 2013. It was praised by publications including *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, and *The Times of London*. Jackson is the winner of a Whiting Award. His novel also won The Ernest J. Gaines Prize for Literary Excellence and was a finalist for the Center for Fiction's Flaherty-Dunn First novel prize, the PEN/ Hemingway award for first fiction, and the Hurston / Wright Legacy Award. Jackson's honors include fellowships from TED, the Lannan Foundation, the BreadLoaf Conference, and the Center for Fiction. It was also the 2015 Everybody Reads selection of the Multnomah County Library. *The New York Times* said in its review of the book, "Jackson's prose has a spoken-word cadence, the language flying off the page with percussive energy ... there is a warmth and a hard-won wisdom about the intersection of race and poverty in America."

The event is free and open to the public. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS

office is located in room 013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.

The Columbia Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to the college and the region. Information about the Columbia Writers Series is available at www.clark.edu/cc/cws.