

2023 State of the College Address

Clark College President, Dr. Karin Edwards, delivered the annual State of the College address Thursday, January 19, 2023. This annual address is an opportunity for college students, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the community and local leaders, to learn about the organization's ongoing evolution.

Opening Day 2022

Clark College starts the new academic year with its first in-person Opening Day since 2019.

President Edwards said that although she has been at Clark College for over 2 years, this was the first in-person opening day celebration, and she was loving it!

Celebrating the Class of 2022

Clark College honored its 86th graduating class at the 2022 Clark College Commencement ceremony held Thursday evening, June 16, at the RV Inn Style Resorts Amphitheater. The college conferred over 1,900 degrees and certificates for the next generation of our community's workers, leaders, and scholars.

The curtain rises



Actors Andrew Poletto and Dani Neblock rehearse a scene from the one-act "Sure Thing" in February 2022. They will be some of the first performers to be part of a live-audience theatre production at Clark College since the COVID-19 pandemic began. *Photo: Mark Owsley/Clark College.*

In theatre, they say, timing is everything. And now, at long last, the timing is right to bring back live dramatic productions to Clark College. After moving to remote operation due to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the Clark College Theatre Department returns to in-person performances at Decker Theatre, with a collection of one-act plays running March 10-12.

"We are elated to return to live theatre," says Theatre department chair Dr. Gene Bibby. "After nearly a two-year hiatus, our students are thrilled to be rehearsing and

performing once again. This production is six sketches that include a cast and crew composed of current and former Clark College students.”

All in the Timing is a collection of six one-act plays written by David Ives. Winner of the John Gassner Playwrighting Award, the collection has been described by the *New York Times* as “like sketches for some hilarious, celestially conceived revue. The writing is not only very funny, it has density of thought and precision of poetry.”

All in the Timing runs March 10, 11 & 12 in the Decker Theater, on Clark College’s main campus. Visit www.clark.edu/maps for maps and directions. All performances are at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 and tickets can be purchased through the Clark College Bookstore. Seats will be assigned upon arrival. Social distancing and mask requirements are in effect for these performances.

This show contains adult themes, language, and content and is recommended for a mature audience.

Full cast and crew

Sure Thing

- Directed by Linda Owsley
- Cast: Andrew Poletto and Dani
 Neblock

Words, Words, Words

- Directed by Sterling Buck
- Cast: Neil Wade Freer, Colby Conerly, and Lizzy Swanson

Variations on the Death of Trotsky

- Directed by Travis Beagley
- Cast: Sterling Buck, Ariel Huntley, and Andrew Poletto

The Philadelphia

- Directed by Lila Soelberg
- Cast: Andrew York, Brenden Kinnee, and Madison Harris

The Universal Language

- Directed by Autumn Fivecoats
- Cast: Lizzy Swanson, Neil Wade Freer, and Vic Paxman

English Made Simple

- Directed by Dani Neblock
- Cast: Ariel Huntley, Vic Paxman, and Corey Harper

Shelly Williams contributed to this article.

**Columbia Writers Series
welcomes Lincoln Michel**



Lincoln Michel. Photo courtesy of the author.

The Clark College Columbia Writers Series continues its 2021-2022 season with writer and critic Lincoln Michel. This event, which is free and open to the public, will be held virtually on Thursday, March 3, 10:00-11:00 a.m. The event will be held on Zoom (passcode: Clark).

Lincoln Michel's debut novel, *The Body Scout* (Orbit), was named one of the ten "Best Science Fiction and Fantasy Books of 2021" by the *New York Times*. He's also the author of the story collection *Upright Beasts* (Coffee House Press) and the co-editor of the anthologies *Tiny Crimes* and *Tiny Nightmares* (Catapult). His fiction appears or is forthcoming in *The Paris Review*, *Granta*, *NOON*, *Lightspeed*, and elsewhere. His essays and criticism appear in the *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *Lit Hub*, among others. You can find him online at lincolnmichel.com and [@thelincoln](https://twitter.com/thelincoln).

Readers can request Lincoln Michel's books *Upright Beasts* (2015) and *The Body Scout* (2021), among others, through Clark College Libraries or find them at Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries and Multnomah County Library.

The Columbia Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to the college and the region. This year's lineup of authors will

continue with award-winning poet Morgan Parker on May 12.

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.

Get a Running Start at Clark College



High school students can learn how to take the next step in their education by attending one of three optional Virtual Running Start Information Night sessions hosted by Clark College.

The identical sessions will be held 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 8; Wednesday, Feb. 23; and Thursday, March 10. All three events, which are free and open to the public, will be held virtually over Zoom.

Running Start allows eligible juniors and seniors to earn college credit while they fulfill their high school graduation requirements. Running Start students attend Clark classes along with other college students. They can choose from a full range of academic and professional and technical courses.

The program, which can significantly reduce the cost of a college degree, has proven popular in Southwest Washington. Some Running Start students are so motivated that they earn their associate degree from Clark at the same time that they earn their high school diploma. These annual information nights frequently attract hundreds of interested students and parents.

These information sessions are for students and families who want to know more about beginning the program in Fall 2022. While the sessions are completely optional, they are a good opportunity to hear current Running Start students candidly describe their experiences in the program and to learn about the program benefits, eligibility criteria, expectations, timelines, and more.

An American Sign Language interpreter, live captioning, and Spanish/Russian interpreters are available for all event dates. Additionally, sessions will be recorded and made available in March at www.clark.edu/runningstart.

Running Start students pay for books, transportation, and some fees, but do not pay full Clark College tuition. Students can attend part-time or full-time under the Running Start program. Fees are subject to change by the Washington State Legislature. A fee waiver is available for those demonstrating financial need.

Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP) as soon as possible.

For more information on Running Start, visit the Clark College website at www.clark.edu/runningstart. For information about Running Start Information Nights, call 360-992-2078.

Honoring Dr. King



Clark College is honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a day of virtual events on Wednesday, January 19.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Black Wellness: A Day of Healing." Find Zoom links and additional details at www.clark.edu/cc/mlk. Events include:

Black Education Leaders Panel Discussion

Learn more about leading at educational institutions
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Meditative Stretching: Keyonda McQuarters

Join us for guided practice all levels welcome
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Lunch

Free lunches (selection of pork, chicken or portobello) available for pick up at the McClaskey Culinary Institute, no advanced orders, first come first serve, while supplies last.
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Keynote speaker: Velynn Brown

We Shall Overcome: Reflections on the Spiritual Practice and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Sharing the bounty



Helping distribute food were, *left to right*, Director of Student Life Sarah Gruhler, Phi Theta Kappa member Jessica Smith, social work intern Brooke Niemer, PTK member Miya Hobart, ASCC Vice President Claudia Carrion, ASCC Student Relations & Promotions Casey Figone, ASCC President Xander Hawkins, APB member Melissa Lassiter, and Student Life Program Support Supervisor Sami Lelo. *Jenny Shadley/Clark College*

The Tuesday before Thanksgiving is often a sleepy time at Clark College, as students and faculty prepare to take time off for the long weekend. But this year, it was abuzz with activity, as students, staff, and faculty all worked to provide their community with holiday meals.

The event was a collaboration between the college's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, the culinary arts programs, Student Life, the Penguin Pantry, and the Clark College Alumni Association. Many Clark College employees donate funds for the project each year through Clark College Foundation.

Volunteers provided 333 Thanksgiving meals prepared by Cuisine Management students, baked goods from the Professional Baking program, bread donated by sponsors Meineke, as well as to the regular monthly food boxes provided to Penguin Pantry recipients. In total, 122 students and their households—481 people in all—were provided with 4,326 pounds of food.

Established four years ago, the Penguin Pantry provides Clark College students with food, other basic goods, and connections to resources. Learn more at www.clark.edu/cc/penguinpantry.

The day before, Cuisine Management professor Earl Frederick and his students worked to make Thanksgiving meals for families with a member in hospice. Read the *Columbian* article about the project.



Thanksgiving meals were prepared by Cuisine Management students including, *left to right*, Ruslan Ganzhin, Anthony McFarland, Quinten Teague, Ella Nelson, Ian Ryan, and Tom Aurellado. *Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

Educating for the Seventh Generation

For more than a decade, Clark College has honored the cultures and traditions of indigenous peoples with an annual

celebration and powwow held in early November. This year, as in 2020, that celebration needed to be held virtually due to COVID-19. A video including interviews with community leaders and images from past celebrations has been posted on the college's web page devoted to the event. It is also posted below.

Video: Introducing women to careers in manufacturing and mechanical



Guests tour Clark College's Diesel Technologies lab during an open house held in September 2021 to encourage women to explore careers in the advanced manufacturing and mechanical trades. *Photo: Jenny Shadley/Clark College*

On September 9, Clark College hosted a free workshop for women interested in advanced manufacturing and the mechanical trades

on the college's main campus. More than 30 women attended the event, which included hands-on activities and tours of the college's Automotive, Diesel, and Welding labs, as well as the chance to speak with professors.

The following video, narrated by Interim Dean of Workforce Professional Technical Education & STEM, captures some of the excitement from the event as well as the motivation behind it. Properly trained technicians are in high demand in the advanced manufacturing and mechanical industries, and these careers can be rewarding both financially and professionally. However, a recent study found that only 1 in 3 manufacturing professionals are women.

Two \$1,800 scholarships will be made available to students who attend this event and enroll in a Clark College Automotive, Diesel, or Welding program by fall 2022. One scholarship was made available by Madden Industrial Craftsmen, the other through an anonymous donor.

See more photos from the event on the college's Flickr site.