

# A year of talent

On May 16, the Archer Gallery was filled with visitors to the opening of the 2017 Art Student Annual Exhibition. This yearly event showcases the best artwork produced by Clark art students in the past academic year. Students compete not only for a spot in the show, but also for awards sponsored by local businesses and organizations. This year's outside juror was Karl Burkheimer, head of the Master of Fine Arts program at the Oregon College of Art and Craft. Awards are listed below.

The exhibition is on display through June 16. The Archer Gallery is open 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, and noon to 5:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

- **Best in Show**, sponsored by Blick Art Materials  
Ana Stoumbos, *Figure Study*, oil on paper
- **Most Ambitious**, sponsored by Portland Institute for Contemporary Art  
Meakia Blake, *Connect*, video
- **Solo Show Award**, sponsored by Niche Wine Bar

Matt Harmon, *Marsyes V. Apollo: Diana*, oil on canvas

- **Best Painting or Drawing**, sponsored by Clark Bookstore and Dengerink Art Supply

Leah Adams, *A Netherhole*, oil on canvas

- **2nd Place Award, Painting or Drawing**, sponsored by Clark Bookstore and Blick Art Materials

Ray Bennett, *Self-portrait in Ink*, ink on paper

- **3rd Place Award, Painting or Drawing** sponsored by Clark Bookstore

Julie Foley, *Zelda Series*, metal

- **Best Video or Time-based Art**, sponsored by Artist & Craftsman Supply

Ana Stoumbos, *Transit*, video

- **2nd place Video or Time-based Art**, sponsored by Collage Art and Craft Supplies

Jonno Heyne, *Paradoxial Adventures of Grayman II*, ink marker and digital graphics

- **Best Graphic Arts**, sponsored by the Art Gym at Marylhurst University

Tricia Davis-Payne, *Do You Know*, digital illustration

- **Best Welded Sculpture**, sponsored by Clark Welding Department

Marie Perrin Ogier, *Untitled*, metal

- **Best Photography**, sponsored by Pro Photo Supply

Isiah Huntington, *Expansivity*, digital photograph

- **Newspace Scholarship Award**, sponsored by Newspace Center for Photography

Jennifer Avens, *Omnia Mors Aequat*, silver gelatin print

- **2nd Place Photography Award**, sponsored by Pro Photo Supply

Dayna Bojanowski, *Under*, digital photograph

- **3rd Place Photography Award**, sponsored by Blue Moon Camera

Matthew Philbrook, *Forgotten*, black and white photograph

- **Blue Sky Membership Award**, sponsored by Blue Sky, the Oregon Center for the Photographic Arts

Kelly Pearce, *Pieces of Home*, photographs

- **Best Ceramic Art**, sponsored by Clay Art Center  
Lauren Duquette, *Blue Pitcher*, ceramic
- **2nd Place Ceramic Art**, sponsored by Georgie's Ceramics and Clay  
Aleks Dernovoy, *Mechanical Tulip*, ceramic
- **3rd place Ceramic Art**, sponsored by Georgie's Ceramics and Clay  
Stephani Ueltschi, *Pressure*, ceramic
- **4th place Ceramic Art**, sponsored by Georgie's Ceramics and Clay  
Colton Rasanen, *Planter*, ceramic

*Photography by Clark College/Jenny Shadley. More photos on our Flickr page.*

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**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.*

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## Exploring Subtext

COLUMBIA WRITERS SERIES PRESENTS



The Clark College Columbia Writers Series is offering a full week of writers, readings, and events on the college's main campus during its third annual Subtext Literary Festival. From May 15-18, the college will host well-known authors, as well as readings by Clark students and faculty.

All events are 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](http://www.clark.edu/cc/cws).

# Schedule

## **May 15, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., PUB 258B: *“Possible Utopias” Writing Workshop***

Arwen Spicer, an instructor in the English department, will lead this workshop, which will provide a fun opportunity to engage in guided writing and discussion about imagining bright futures for our world. Each participant will leave the workshop with a final piece of writing that outlines their vision for a better society. The workshop is free and open to the public. Although participants are encouraged to come for the full two hours, drop-ins are also welcome.

## **May 16, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., PUB 161: *Phoenix Unveiling***

Clark College’s national award-winning art and literary journal, *Phoenix*, will unveil its 2016-2017 edition with readings from student authors and free copies available for guests. The 2015-2016 edition of *Phoenix* just earned the prize for Best Design from the Association of Writers & Writing Programs—the first time the award has gone to a two-year college in a decade.

## **May 17, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., PUB 258A: Clark Crossings Student and Faculty Reading**

Students and faculty will read from their own work or from the work of their favorite writers. Each reading will relate to the college theme of “Transformation,” and fiction, poetry, and memoir will all be included.



## **May 18, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., PUB 161: *Fiction writer Peter Rock***

Peter Rock is a professor of creative writing at Reed College. His most recent book is *SPELLS*, a novel-within-photographs that is a collaboration with five photographers and concerns shadows and bodies, the living and the dead, talking animals and all manner of shape-shifting. He is also the author of the novels *Klickitat*, *The Shelter Cycle*, *My Abandonment*, *The Bewildered*, *The Ambidextrist*, *Carnival Wolves* and *This Is the Place*, and a story collection, *The Unsettling*.

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## **Commencement keynote speaker announced**



Ernie Hudson

On Thursday, June 22, Clark College will honor its 81st

graduating class at the 2017 Clark College Commencement ceremony. The ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. at the Sunlight Supply Amphitheater. The keynote speaker is actor Ernie Hudson.

More than 700 students are expected to participate in the ceremony, celebrating the completion of their bachelor's degree, associate degree, certificate, and/or high school diploma or equivalency.

The ceremony also will include the announcement of 2017-2018 Community College President's Award. This annual scholarship is given to a Clark College graduate who is transferring to a degree program at Washington State University Vancouver (WSUV) and who demonstrated leadership potential, a commitment to community service, and academic achievement. The scholarship award provides full-time tuition and is renewable for one additional year, essentially providing full tuition to complete a bachelor's degree.

The Sunlight Supply Amphitheater is located at 17200 NE Delfel Road in Ridgefield, Wash. Tickets are not required to attend. Anyone needing 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), prior to the event. For more information visit [www.clark.edu/cc/commencement](http://www.clark.edu/cc/commencement).

## **About Ernie Hudson**

Ernie Hudson is a successful actor best known for his roles in *Ghostbusters*, *The Crow*, *Miss Congeniality*, NBC's *Law and Order*, and HBO's award-winning series *Oz*. His road to fame, however, had its share of hardships. Hudson was born in poverty and raised in the housing projects of Benton Harbor, Michigan. His mother died when he was young and he was raised primarily by his grandmother. He was already married and had a young son when he enrolled at Wayne State University in

Detroit, Michigan. He began his theatre career as the resident playwright at Detroit's Concept East, the oldest African-American theater company in the United States. Later, he founded Actors Ensemble Theater, where he and other African-American performers staged and appeared in their own original works. After attending Wayne State, Hudson accepted a full writing/acting scholarship to the prestigious Master of Fine Arts Program at Yale University. After graduation, Hudson balanced his responsibilities as a working actor with those of being a single father to two sons. His talent, hard work, and persistence eventually earned him a successful career in Hollywood. He now divides his time between his homes in Minnesota and Los Angeles, and continues to appear in many critically acclaimed productions on stage, screen, and television.

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## Native Plant Sale



Clark College will host its fourth annual native plant sale on May 4 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and May 5 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Natural Plant Center, the college's greenhouse. Most plants are priced at \$10.00 or less.

Students will be available to assist customers with transporting plants to their vehicles.

The event is free and open to the public. Clark College is located at 1933 Ft. Vancouver Way, Vancouver, WA, 98663. The greenhouse is located on the east side of campus off of E. Reserve St., near the Orange 2 parking lot. Directions and maps are available online at [www.clark.edu/maps](http://www.clark.edu/maps).

All plants were propagated by Clark College biology and environmental science students. In addition to prepping these plants for sale, students have been propagating other plants in the greenhouse for use in restoration projects at various sites in Southwest Washington including the Columbia River Gorge, Trout Lake, and Clark's future site in Ridgefield, Clark College at Boschma Farms.

This year the sale features a variety of native perennials and shrubs along with one tree species, Western Red Cedar. Shoppers will be able to choose from among 23 different plants, including Red-flowering Currant, Native Rose, Lewis' Mockorange, Blanket Flower, Showy Milkweed, and Native Strawberry. Limited supplies of Trillium and Native Iris will be available as well. Many of these plants support the region's pollinators and make for low-intensity gardening.

Proceeds from the plant sale go to support the college's Science Consortium Fund, which helps cover the costs of a greenhouse coordinator and field studies classes. Students who participate in field studies visit places such as Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon and the Lava Beds National Monument in Northern California. Students pay \$210 to \$255 for four-day and ten-day trips to these locations, which would normally cost more than \$1000 if not for the help of the consortium fund.

For more information about the sale or plants available, visit [www.clark.edu/cc/plantsale](http://www.clark.edu/cc/plantsale) or contact Erin Harwood, Clark College STEM Coordinator, at [eharwood@clark.edu](mailto:eharwood@clark.edu). 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) or visit room PUB 013.

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## Ruth Wariner at Columbia Writers Series



Ruth Wariner. *Photo:*  
*Joni Shimabukuro*

During the 2017 spring quarter installment of its renowned Columbia Writers Series, Clark College will welcome Ruth Wariner, author of the memoir *The Sound of Gravel*, which has gained national praise for its frank, spare description of her childhood growing up in a polygamist Mormon colony in Mexico.

Ruth Wariner is an internationally renowned speaker and author of the 2016 *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *The Sound of*

*Gravel*. At the age of 15, Ruth escaped Colonia LeBaron, the polygamist Mormon colony where she grew up, and moved to California. She raised her three youngest sisters in California and Oregon. After earning her GED, she put herself through college and graduate school, eventually becoming a high school Spanish teacher. She remains close to her siblings and is happily married. *The Sound of Gravel* is her first book. *People* magazine called it “[h]eartbreaking, haunting, yet ultimately uplifting.” *Kirkus Reviews* wrote of it: “Engrossingly readable from start to finish, the book not only offers a riveting portrayal of life in a polygamist community. It also celebrates the powerful bond between siblings determined to not only survive their circumstances, but also thrive in spite of them. An unsentimental yet wholly moving memoir.” More can be found at her website, [www.ruthwariner.com](http://www.ruthwariner.com).

Wariner will read from and discuss her writing from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3, in room PUB 258A on Clark’s main campus. 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) or visit room PUB 013.

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—including the Subtext Literary Festival taking place May 15-18—is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/cws](http://www.clark.edu/cc/cws).

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# Honoring women leaders



Honorees with their nominators, *left to right*: Jody Campbell, Rhona Sen Hoss, Temple Lentz, Jim Mains, Deena Pierott, Paul Speer, Carolyn N. Long, Lisa Schauer, Judie Stanton, and Jane Johnson.

On March 8, while people around the world celebrated International Women's Day, members of the local community gathered in Gaiser Student Center to honor five women's contributions to Southwest Washington at the 2017 Iris Awards.

Guests enjoyed refreshments and light fare provided by Beaches Restaurant as they celebrated the honorees. Ceremonies began with greetings from Clark College Chief Information Officer Chato Hazelbaker and President Bob Knight, after which the evening was turned over to emcee Renee Newman, who introduced speeches by both the honorees and their nominators.





Emcee Renee Newman,  
welcoming Iris Award  
attendees

This year's Iris Award recipients were:

- Jody Campbell of *The Columbian*
- Temple Lentz of Cascade Sotheby's International Realty and High Five Media
- Deena Pierott of iUrban Teen and Mosaic Blueprint
- Carolyn N. Long of Washington State University Vancouver
- Judie Stanton of the League of Women Voters of Clark County

This annual ceremony has a long tradition in this community. The event began in 1985 as a photography exhibit during Women's History Week, which later developed into a larger awards program and ceremony known as the Southwest Washington Women of Achievement Awards. In 2012, the event was reintroduced as the Iris Awards with the same core mission: honoring the women of Southwest Washington for their outstanding contributions in the categories of public, private, and philanthropic service.

## **The 2017 Iris Award Recipients**

### **Jody Campbell**

The first honoree to take the stage was Jody Campbell, who



joined *The Columbian* at 21 years old and is now the newspaper's co-owner, editorial board member, and director of community partnerships. As director, Campbell supports hundreds of nonprofit organizations in Southwest Washington by providing a platform for promotion and exposure of their important work in the community.

"In my role as *The Columbian's* Community Partnerships Director, I'm able to give back on a different level," said Campbell, as she was presented with her award. "This includes having the unique opportunity to give away money every year to local nonprofits through advertising partnerships. The programs we offer provide the support necessary for them to thrive in Southwest Washington."

Campbell's generous spirit extends beyond her work at *The Columbian*. Along with her friend, Rhona Sen Hoss—a previous Iris Award honoree who presented Campbell with her award at the ceremony—Campbell co-founded Pink Power, an annual fundraising event that helped build the Kearney Breast Care Center at PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center.

## **Temple Lentz**

Next, an award was presented to community advocate and marketing professional Temple Lentz. In her decade-plus of living in Southwest Washington, Lentz has made a sizeable impact on the region.

Lentz is a business director for Cascade Sotheby's International Realty, as well as a partner and director of content and communications for High Five Media, a political and marketing consulting firm. High Five Media produces the popular live talk show, "Hello Vancouver!" which Lentz co-created and hosts on a regular basis.

From her former days as the anonymous blogger behind the satirical website *The Daily 'Couve* to the current host of "Hello Vancouver!" Lentz has long shown herself to be a

champion—and sometimes good-humored critic—of all things Vancouver, said High Five Media partner Jim Mains, who presented Lentz with her award.

In her previous role as executive director of the Parks Foundation of Clark County, Lentz facilitated close to \$1 million in grants and donations for local parks and recreation programs over a year and a half period, according to Mains.

Lentz's love of Vancouver shone through as she received her award.

"When I got here [to Vancouver], I finally felt like I was home. ... There are good people here who work together to make a difference," Lentz said. "I am endlessly impressed by our community, and I am impressed by the dedication of the people here to make their home a better place. Not just for now, but for generations to come."

## **Deena Pierott**



Deena Pierott delivered a special message to her granddaughter Leila

Next on stage was Deena Pierott, the founder and executive director of iUrban Teen, a nationally recognized program providing career-focused education and mentoring to underrepresented teens. Pierott is also the president and CEO of Mosaic Blueprint, a boutique consulting firm specializing

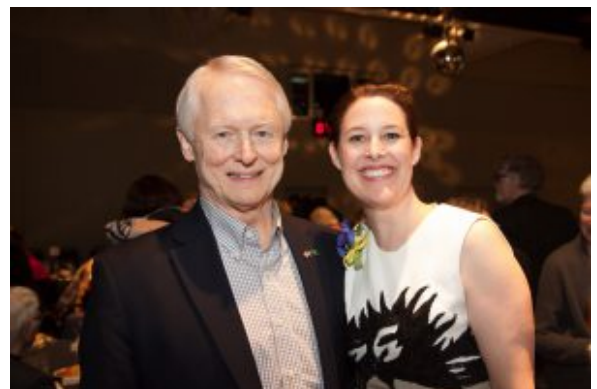
in recruiting, multicultural communications, and equity and inclusion training.

“For me to work in diversity, equity, and inclusion work was a natural—that was my calling,” said Pierott as she received her award. “And with iUrban Teen, making sure that these youth, who don’t usually have access to information or jobs, making sure that they are exposed to these opportunities and they are given every opportunity like everyone else, that they’re being included—to me, that’s success.”

While Pierott’s work has been recognized by many organizations, from *Ebony Magazine* to the White House, she had never received an award in her hometown, and she expressed how meaningful it was to have her family attend the Iris Awards ceremony. As Pierott spoke of her family, she invited her young granddaughter, Leila, to the stage and spoke directly to her.

“In honor of International Women’s Day, Leila, I have a message for you,” she said. “I hope that one day you will recognize what this honor is for your grandmother, and that you will recognize the path that I am laying out in front of you. We are the dream of our ancestors. We’re standing on their shoulders. And it’s our responsibility to honor them by moving forward in life with grace, purpose and integrity.”

**Dr. Carolyn N. Long**



Dr. Carolyn Long with former

Washington Secretary of  
State, Sam Reed

A new addition to the 2017 ceremony was the Iris H-RoC award, presented to Washington State University Vancouver political science professor Dr. Carolyn N. Long. This award category honors women in the community who have promoted civil discourse, teamwork, collaboration, and cooperation. H-RoC, a non-partisan political action committee dedicated to the advancement of women leaders in Southwest Washington, sponsored this award.

"We're proud to be recognizing tonight the contributions of a pioneer, a champion, and an advocate for civil discourse," said H-RoC member and previous Iris Award honoree Lisa Schauer as she introduced Dr. Long.

Recently, Dr. Long was named the Sam Reed Distinguished Professor in Civic Education and Public Civility. In 2015, she helped launch the Initiative for Public Deliberation, a program sponsored by WSUV and the Thomas S. Foley Institute that brings together the community to foster discussions on difficult issues.

"I want to thank you for this award, but I actually think my receiving it is less important than what the award actually represents. And what it represents is a community identifying the issues of incivility in our politics and how damaging that can be to our political culture."

Dr. Long said she sees a way through political rancor and encouraged attendees to have conversations with and listen to one another, especially when holding differing viewpoints.

### **Judie Stanton**

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of the second annual Iris Legacy Award to Judie Stanton. This award category honors a previous Iris or Women of Achievement award recipient

whose continued leadership remains an enduring inspiration for others. Stanton was first honored in 2002 as a Woman of Achievement for her leadership as a Clark County Commissioner.

Currently, Stanton is the co-chair of the League of Women Voters of Clark County, where she runs board meetings, provides direction and oversight, and represents Clark County at various regional levels within the organization. In 2014, Stanton was appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to the state of Washington's Commission on Judicial Conduct.

"It has been my good fortune to be a member of many boards and organizations over the years," said Stanton as she spoke about her community service work. "I've learned from every experience. [Being a member of the League of Women Voters] provides a great education in civics, civility, and the value of inclusiveness. I would encourage all of you to take advantage of learning experiences available through your involvement with boards and organizations."

For more information about the Iris Awards, visit [clark.edu/cc/irisawards](http://clark.edu/cc/irisawards).

View photos from the event on our Flickr page.

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## Young scientists unite



Students competing at the 2017 Southwest Washington Regional Science Olympiad.

Burning marshmallows, miniature hovercrafts, robotic arms, and the perennial favorite, bottle rockets, were a just a few of the 48 activities featured at this year's Southwest Regional Science Olympiad Tournament, which took place at Clark College on Saturday, March 4.



Mid-experiment at the Science Olympiad.

More than 350 young scientists from 20 middle-school and 18 high-school teams competed in the Olympiad, coming from as far north as La Push, Washington, and as far south as Corvallis, Oregon. Winning teams from the regional competition earned spots in the Washington State Science Olympiad, which will take place at Highline College in Des Moines, Washington, on April 15.

Science Olympiad is a national nonprofit organization that encourages a love of science through educational opportunities, hands-on activities, and regional, state, and national tournaments.

STEM Coordinator Erin Harwood, who oversaw the planning and logistics for the tournament, said she was very pleased with the outcome of the event.

“We’ve had a four-year break from hosting any Science Olympiad event this large, and it’s been a very long time since we hosted a regional event, so this was a nice change and a great way to get back to hosting again,” she said. “It was really amazing how many students volunteered, and the faculty and staff—even the Dean!—got in on helping out.”



Clark students volunteered to help make the Olympiad possible.

More than 130 volunteers—most of them Clark College students, employees, and alumni—helped make the event possible.



At the end of the day, the school teams, event volunteers, and others who participated in the tournament gathered in the O'Connell Sports Complex gymnasium for an awards ceremony filled with energy and enthusiasm. Students from the Quileute Tribal School, whose team had traveled the farthest to participate in the Olympiad, shared a song and words of encouragement with the other attendees before the awards were announced. Eleven teams, five from middle schools and six from high schools, will be continuing on to the state tournament. Camas schools will represent a full five of those eleven teams moving on to the state level.

The following teams will be advancing to the Washington state competition:

#### **B DIVISION (MIDDLE SCHOOL)**

- 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE: Skyridge (Blue Team)
- 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE: Liberty (Black Team)
- 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE: Skyridge (Green Team)
- 4<sup>TH</sup> PLACE: Jason Lee (Red Team)
- 5<sup>TH</sup> PLACE: ExCEL

#### **C DIVISION (HIGH SCHOOL)**

- 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE: Camas (Black Team)
- 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE: Camas (Red Team)
- 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE: Woodinville
- 4<sup>TH</sup> PLACE: Union (Black Team)
- 5<sup>TH</sup> PLACE: Skyline
- 6<sup>TH</sup> PLACE: Washougal (Black Team)

*For more photos of the event, visit our Flickr album.*

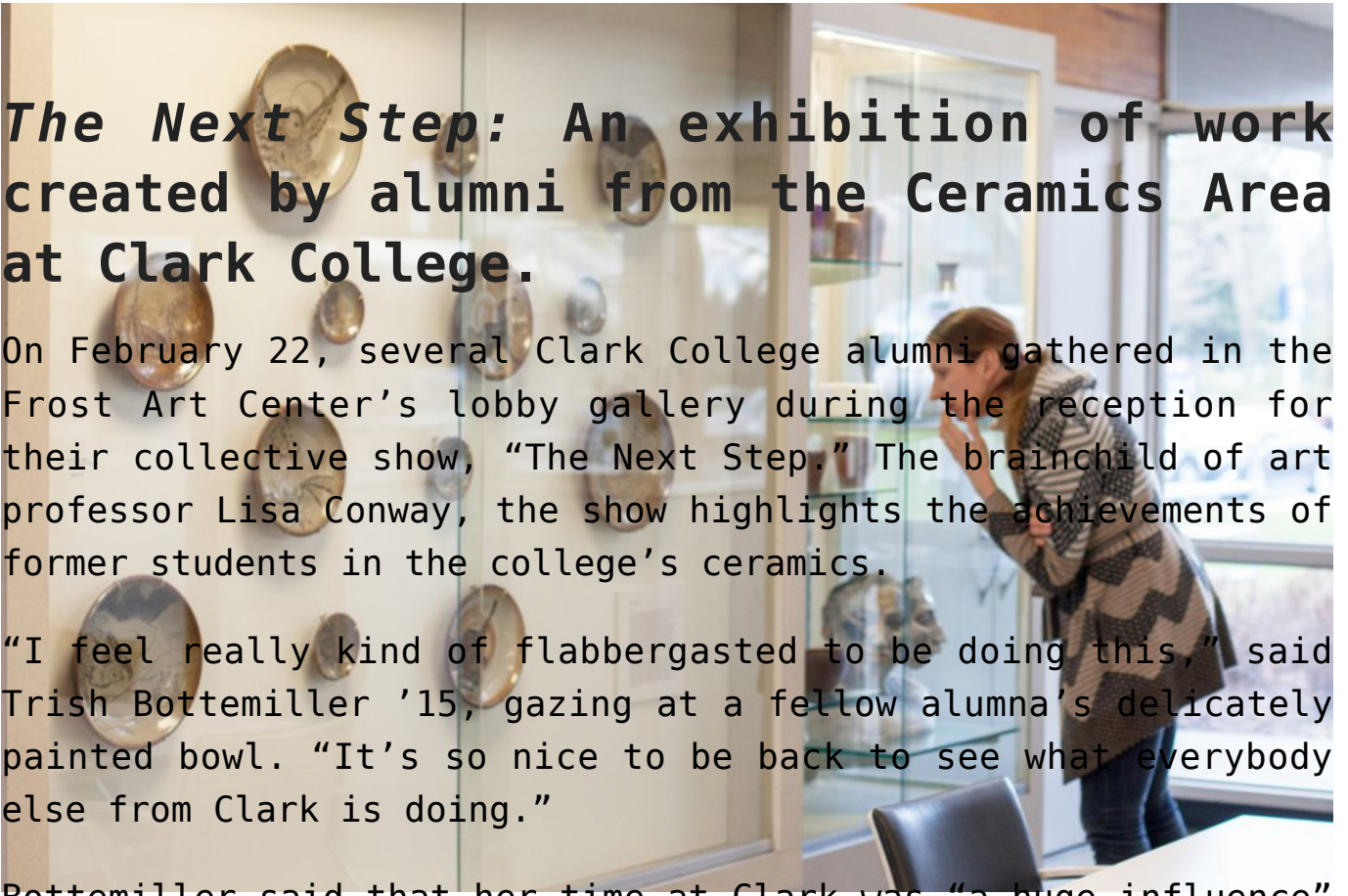


*Article contributed by Nova Gump*

*Photos: Clark College/Nova Gump*

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## **Molded at Clark**



## ***The Next Step:* An exhibition of work created by alumni from the Ceramics Area at Clark College.**

On February 22, several Clark College alumni gathered in the Frost Art Center's lobby gallery during the reception for their collective show, "The Next Step." The brainchild of art professor Lisa Conway, the show highlights the achievements of former students in the college's ceramics.

"I feel really kind of flabbergasted to be doing this," said Trish Bottemiller '15, gazing at a fellow alumna's delicately painted bowl. "It's so nice to be back to see what everybody else from Clark is doing."

Bottemiller said that her time at Clark was "a huge influence" on her artistic path. "I had never touched clay before I came to Clark," she said. "Clark definitely prepared me to continue my education at [the Oregon College of Art and Craft]. My

portfolio was approved before I even applied, because I was so thoroughly prepared for what I was up against.”

The show runs through March 25 and is part of Clark’s programming during the upcoming National Council for Education in the Ceramic Arts conference in Portland in March. According to the show’s opening statement, “Collectively, these 10 artists have all found employment in their field, built their own studios, completed residences, internships, mentorships, or transferred on to other undergraduate and graduate programs in ceramic arts. Most importantly, they have all created their own communities for sharing resources, advice and inspiration along the way.”

Read more about the artists, in their own words:

Elizabeth Alexander

Trisha Bottemiller

Jordan Jones

KeigKenzie Studios

Hector Macias

Yelena Roslaya

Lauren Ruhe

Aleka Tomlinson

Alyssa Willard



## **LIZ ALEXANDER**

I applied to Clark College exclusively to take ceramics

classes, and eight short months after enrolling I finally got the chance to sign up for Ceramics I and rapidly became obsessed with clay. Ceramics II and III quickly followed, as well as a Special Projects class so I could continue working with clay beyond the typical class projects. When the time came to graduate from Clark, the thought of losing access to the equipment and supplies (that were now essential to my practice and I couldn't afford on my own) was worrying to say the least. Fortunately, one of my ceramics teachers strongly suggested that I apply to Oregon College of Art and Craft and to my astonishment I was accepted.

I am now in my thesis year at OCAC and my studio practice has changed a lot from what I thought it would be. When I started making work I didn't understand the environmental effect that just creating a piece of art can have. I thought nothing of buying supplies for a new project or what my pieces were made of. With each year that I have been in school, however, I've gained more knowledge about the responsibilities of being an artist. For me, being a responsible artist means having an awareness of the materials that I use in my work and using as much recycled and eco-friendly supplies as possible, including found objects. I still have a lot to learn to reach the type of working practice that I want to achieve, but this is my way of continuing to create without feeling like I am just producing objects to clutter up the world we live in.



## TRISH BOTTEMILLER

When I first came to Clark, I was determined to be a drawing/painting major. That was what I had done, and been good at, my entire life. One fateful semester, though, I found myself in a ceramics class as an elective. It changed my life, and eventually became my major. I transferred from Clark to the Oregon College of Art and Craft, where I currently study for my Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ceramics. The transition from the familiar, community space of Clark's ceramics department was a bit scary and it took some time to really feel at home in my new school. I'm learning so much, and I've had the most amazing exposure to an entirely art-based community thanks to OCAC. It has forever changed who I am as a person and as an artist. I never imagined I would be making the things that I am. Currently, I'm very invested in both figurative sculpture, and mold-made slip-cast objects using a marbling technique that I have become rather obsessed with. I have the amazing opportunity to create not only my own glazes, but my own clay bodies. Lately, much of my mold-made objects are cast using a cone 10 translucent porcelain that has been a learning experience to work with. I look forward to learning even more. It is never enough.



## JORDAN JONES



I left Clark College to pursue a three-year apprenticeship with Robbie Lobell and Cook on Clay on Whidbey Island. I was thoroughly excited, completely nervous, and definitely overwhelmed as I left Clark in a whirlwind heading for my new adventure in clay. This opportunity allowed me to continue to work in ceramics after Clark, and also gave me the tools to continue working in clay after the apprenticeship was over. I was immersed in the day-to-day aspects of the life of a studio potter, along with learning how a small business in artisan manufacturing runs and grows. I had a studio space and Robbie's mentorship, which greatly helped me develop my voice and style. After completing my apprenticeship, I worked at Cook on Clay as an employee before taking the plunge and committing to working for myself full-time as a studio potter. I currently continue to live on Whidbey, sharing a house and home studio with my studio mate from my apprenticeship. I create functional pottery with playful and lively animals carved onto my pots. Like many other potters, I believe that using handmade objects brings joy to people in their daily lives. I want my pots to delight the people that use them. I use a stoneware clay that I decorate with sgraffito and slip inlay, soda-fired to cone 10. I am interested in exploring cone 6 electric firing again and plan to start experimenting with that soon.

I think one of the biggest resources for continuing to work in ceramics has been getting involved in my clay community. There are so many wonderful and knowledgeable people out there. Also, the *"Field Guide for Ceramic Artisans"* compiled by Julia Galloway, is a fabulous resource chock-full of valuable, helpful information. My advice for students at Clark who want to continue their pursuits would be to put yourself out there as much as you can. Become involved in your clay community, and get to know the people around you. Apply to shows, call for entries, and galleries. Research and pursue different ways to continue your education, whether it be undergrad, grad school, residencies, workshops, assistantships, or

apprenticeships. There are so many different ways to continue on your path, find out what works for you.



### **KEIGKENZIE STUDIO: SAM MACKENZIE & KELLY KEIGWIN**

We both began our journey with ceramics at Clark College, Sam in 2003 and Kelly in 2010. Upon exiting we knew we wanted to continue to create pottery, but didn't know it would become our primary form of expression. We had the common questions of how and where to keep working, since we couldn't immediately build a ceramics studio of our own. Sam continued her education at Oregon College of Art and Craft, which lead to teaching art classes for children. After we met, Sam recommended Kelly join her working at OCAC which brought Kelly back into a ceramics studio.

Sam was able to seek out and purchase used items to start a home studio, including an ancient Skutt kiln and a Pacifica wheel. We've had to learn along the way about repairing and keeping used studio equipment running. We recently upgraded to a larger, newer used Skutt kiln, but it's taken a while. We learned many things by working with other potters at OCAC and by visiting Georgie's in Portland. For those who can't buy their own equipment, it is possible to work and have your pieces fired at Georgie's, at community centers, and even at other artists' studios for a fee.

We're fortunate to have a home studio. It is nothing fancy, but it gets the job done. Our advice to students who want to continue pursuing art after graduation is to make sure you know your resources. Don't be afraid to be scrappy. There are many paths to take with art, particularly ceramics and pottery. Do you want to be in gallery shows? Do you want to be a studio potter? Do you want to be an educator? OCAC is a good option for continued learning and access to equipment – either by seeking a degree or simply signing up for an evening class.

We have both taken meandering paths in life, in general and artistically. We both have many years of experience working in various media, but pottery has become a natural way for us to work collaboratively and sell work to support ourselves. Generally speaking, Sam throws on the wheel, while Kelly throws, does some slab work and hand building. Kelly carves imagery on the pieces and we both work on glazing. Our work is mostly cone 6 porcelain and features colorful characters that reflect both the lighter side of human experiences and connect with personal emotions. We often feature hearts and themes of companionship – a reflection of the happiness and love we all long for. We find that people connect with these images personally, in a way that evokes positive feelings and simple joy.

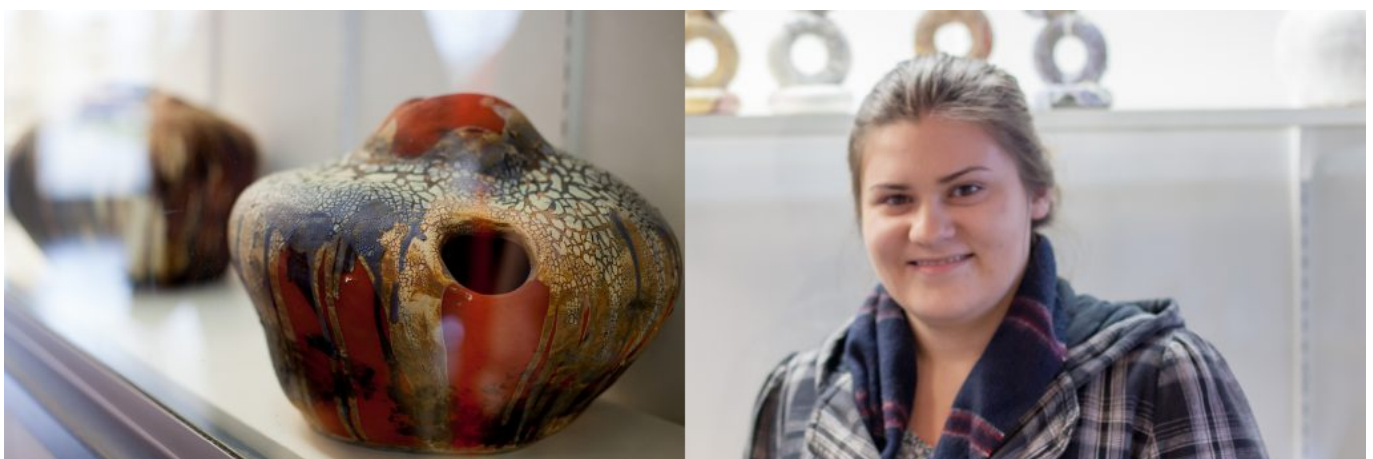


**HECTOR MACIAS**



It started with a pottery class in high school. The art credit I desired went on to fulfill its purpose and more. With an interest in ceramics, I found myself in the pottery studio at Clark College. During this time, I had the opportunity to learn and explore more about ceramics than I could ever imagine. After leaving Clark, I ran into one of the problems every ceramic student would face, studio space. Luckily, Oregon and Washington both have great ceramic communities with great opportunities. I became involved with the Oregon Potter's Association and found studios to temporarily work in. It wasn't until a few months later that I bought my first potter's wheel and now I happily work in my studio at home.

My style of ceramic work is largely influenced by Japanese pottery. The wares that I create are wheel thrown from porcelain or on occasion from red clay bodies. I'm a big fan of using celadon glazes and glazes with a lot of flux. My work is almost always made to be functional. There's nothing like eating and drinking from handmade wares. If you have never used a pottery wheel I encourage you to try it sometime. You might find the experience to be very therapeutic.



## **YELENA ROSLAYA**

My immediate feelings after leaving Clark College were nervous and excited at the same time. I was nervous not knowing what

was ahead of me or what was going to unfold in terms of my artistic career. I was also excited because it was like an adventure where I couldn't predict what was going to happen. After leaving Clark College, I transferred immediately to Oregon College of Art and Craft, where I focused on Ceramics. Four years later, I graduated with a BFA from OCAC and am now assisting ceramic artist Careen Stoll in Battle Ground. At OCAC, I pushed myself and worked beyond academia. I tried to take every job opportunity or call to artist that came up that pertained to me. This led me to be a step ahead above my peers as well as access some great collaborations I didn't expect.

My ceramic work is evolved around sound, musical instruments, and my personal experience with hearing-motion synesthesia. My style tends to be formed intuitively and I love to use colorful underglazes and crawling glazes that contrast each other. It gives the work energy and motion as if it's alive. I currently share a studio space with Careen Stoll, where we share ideas, advice, and helpful information. It's a two-way mentoring atmosphere. My personal advice for ceramic or art students who want to continue their pursuit after graduation is to keep going, to continue looking and applying and never give up.



**LAUREN RUHE**

After completion of my AFA at Clark College, I continued my education at The Oregon College of Art and Craft (OCAC). While attending OCAC, I focused on improving my techniques, as well as on finding my own voice and style for my work. I also developed new and useful skills, such as how to make my own glazes, different methods of firing clay, and digging up local clay in order to process it into a usable material.

A frequent theme that I use in my work is the memory of the place where I grew up. I spent my childhood in a thickly-wooded area located outside of Vancouver, Washington, where I encountered wildlife daily. The forest was a mysterious and magical place that was full of life, and also seemed much bigger than anything I could have ever imagined. I encountered forest animals daily, and my family even named some of the frequent visitors to our yard. These forest friends have been the main focus of my current work.



## **ALEKA TOMLINSON**

After taking ceramics courses at Clark College as part of the Running Start Program in 2006, I transferred into a BFA program at the Oregon College of Art and Craft. After that I took a hiatus from clay and made work privately in book format through drawing and painting. A job opportunity as studio technician at Pigeon Toe Ceramics in Portland brought me back

to clay. I quickly grew from my position as a studio tech to a full time production potter and operations manager. During this time, I was able to make connections with local artists in Portland and began working as an assistant to artists Lilith Rockett in ceramics and Andy Paiko in glass.

In 2015 I was accepted by the Ash Street Project in Portland, a ceramics mentorship program run by Thomas Orr and Joanna Bloom. I was fortunate to spend 11 months sharing a studio with Thomas and Joanna, three other mentees, and a number of visiting artists including Jean Nicolas Gerard, Eva Kwong, Jessica Jackson-Hutchins, Dirk Staschke, Jennifer Kenworth, Michelle Liccardo, and my teacher from Clark, Lisa Conway. During my time at Ash Street I took advantage of the dedicated studio space and found my voice as a ceramic artist. Upon leaving in the summer of 2016, I moved into a private home studio and worked part time as assistant to ceramic artist Brian Jones. That fall I assisted artists Birdie Boone and Matt Repsher during an 8-week concentration at Penland School of Craft in North Carolina, after which I returned home to Portland to continue work in my own studio, while assisting artists Brian Jones and Victoria Christen.



## **ALYSSA WILLARD**

After leaving Clark I was excited to continue my education in

the arts. I went on to complete my BFA at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, and am currently working towards my MFA at Montana State University in Bozeman, with a focus on both ceramics and painting. Montana State University has great studio spaces and equipment. There are wood-fired kilns, electric kilns, gas-fired, and soda/salt kilns all available for me to use. It is also great because I am surrounded by so many talented artists who work in a variety of mediums; their work inspires me and I can get quality feedback on my work from both the faculty and other graduate students. My advice for other art students that want to continue their pursuits is to continue to network, and actively participate in the art scene in some way, whether it's through school, residencies, commissions, or call-for-entries.

Currently my work explores the interactions between technology and the natural environment. I am interested in the combination of plant forms with electronic or mechanical components. My work can be interpreted in different ways, and I am starting to be more interested in the viewer's interpretation, rather than describing how I view the work. I use a combination of techniques depending on the form I am looking to create. I have also been experimenting with firing techniques. I mostly electric fire, but I also do wood and salt firings. So far the wood and salt firings have only been used exclusively for functional pieces. I have also been experimenting with room-temperature finishes, such as using spray paint and resin.

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**Clark                      College                      Theatre**



# presents “Urinetown”



Clark College Theatre continues its 2016-2017 season with the award-winning musical, *Urinetown* by Mark Hollmann and Greg Kotis.

*Urinetown* is a hilarious musical satire of the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, municipal politics—and musical theatre itself. Inspired by the works of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill, *Urinetown* is an irreverently humorous satire in which no one is safe from scrutiny. Hilariously funny and touchingly honest, this musical is the winner of three Tony Awards, three Outer Critics Circle Awards, two Lucille Lortel Awards and two Obie Awards.

Cast includes: Jeremy Abe (Bobby Strong), Tirza Meuljic (Hope Cladwell), Greg Saum (Lockstock), Chloe Payne (Penelope Pennywise), Bruce R. Kyte (Caldwell B. Cladwell), Jeremiah

Stephens (Senator Fipp), Megan Smith (Little Sally), Mila Boyd (Josephine "Ma" Strong, Robert Altieri (Old Man Strong/Billy Boy Bill), and Tristan Colo (Mr. McQueen). The director is Dorinda Toner; vocal director, April Duvic; and choreographer, Alicia Marie Turvin.

Show Dates: Feb. 17, 18, 24, 25 and March 2, 3, and 4. All show times are at 7:30 p.m. in the Decker Theatre, Frost Arts Center, on Clark College's main campus.



Ticket Information: Students (with ID) \$11; Alumni (with membership) \$11; Senior Citizens \$13; General Admission \$15. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Clark College Bookstore in Gaiser Hall, online at [http://www.clarkbookstore.com/site\\_theatre.asp](http://www.clarkbookstore.com/site_theatre.asp), or call 360-992-2815.

If you need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event, contact Clark College's Disability Support Services Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP), or visit Gaiser Hall room 137, as soon as possible.

View more photos on our Flickr page.

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*