

Clark College Theatre begins season with "The Clean House"



Clark College Theatre begins its 2018-2019 season with *The Clean House* by Sarah Ruhl.

A 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist, *The Clean House* is a romantic comedy about loss, love, change, and redemption. A career-oriented doctor has hired a quirky Brazilian maid who hates to clean and instead longs to be a comedienne. The doctor is deserted by her husband, who leaves her for his mistress, a passionate, older woman upon whom he recently performed a mastectomy. Sarah Ruhl's play reminds us that there is humor and beauty to be found in life's most unlikely messes.

This production's cast includes: Danielle Neblock, Becky Morin, Amy Baldwin, Kyle Reese, and Dee Harris. The director is Mark Owsley. *With the exception of Dee Harris, who is an*

employee of Clark College, all cast members are current students.

This show contains adult themes, language, and content.

Show Dates: November 9, 10, 15, 16, and 17. All show times are at 7:30 p.m. in the Decker Theatre, Frost Arts Center, on Clark College's main campus. Maps and directions are available at www.clark.edu/maps.

Ticket Information: Students (with ID) \$10; Alumni (with membership) \$10; Senior Citizens \$12; General Admission \$15. Tickets may be purchased online at 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 Penguin Union Building room 013, as soon as possible.

Students helping students



Members of Phi Theta Kappa get ready to distribute Thanksgiving groceries to students in 2016.

Every year, members of Clark College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society collect money to pay for grocery baskets so that Clark students in need can have all the supplies to make Thanksgiving dinner for their families. This year, they have collected the names of 100 students who could use help this holiday.

Each basket costs about \$25 and includes a 12-14 pound turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, yams, green beans, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, and a pie.

PTK is asking for donations from the community to help cover the cost of these baskets. Donors may contribute by dropping off monetary donations to the Cashier's Office in Gaiser Hall or by calling the Cashier's Office at 360-992-2177. Either way, be sure to mention the account code "VB." Donations need

to be received by Monday, November 19 at 5:00 p.m.

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society of two-year colleges.

Photo: Clark College/Hannah Erickson

This article contributed by Alpha Sigma Phi, Clark College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa

Penguin Pantry marks a year of service



The Penguin Pantry provides Clark students with free food and supplies.

Clark College's Penguin Pantry will celebrate its first year of serving students with an open house on Thursday, October 25, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Open House will be a 'reverse reception' – an opportunity for students, staff, faculty, and community partners to drop by, visit the space, and bring donations of unexpired, unopened food items; gift cards; and toiletries.

The Penguin Pantry supports a healthy college community by reducing hunger on campus and connecting students to essential resources. It provides students with a safe, comfortable place to get something to eat, pick up a necessity, and connect with additional resources and services as needed. These include counseling, public benefits, and more connection to local food banks and other local resources.

According to surveys, 43 percent of Clark College students are low-income, and 23 percent have dependent children. The Penguin Pantry has become an important resource to help students stay on the path to graduation.

The Penguin Pantry offer the following types of food/supply services to currently enrolled students:

- Grab-to-go snacks
- Groceries
- Toiletries and school supplies

The Penguin Pantry is located at Clark College in the Science Building Complex (SCI), Room 101. (Closest street is East Reserve. Park in the Orange 2 Lot.)

For additional information, visit www.clark.edu/cc/penguinpantry or call 360.992.2100.

This article contributed by Estancia Cota.

Oswald gets a new look



President Bob Knight welcomes Oswald back to campus after a summer makeover. The new Oswald was revealed at Opening Day on September 17.

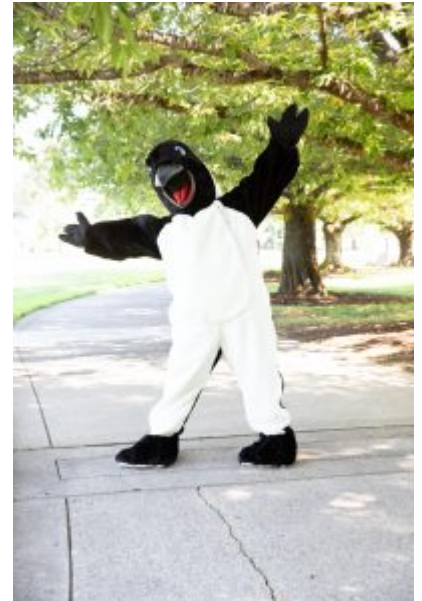
Oswald the Penguin has been Clark College's mascot since the college was first founded—in fact, he was donated by the college's very first student. But that doesn't mean he hasn't changed his feathers from time to time. This fall, Oswald will be receiving his first makeover in 17 years.

"We love Oswald—everybody does," said Athletics Director Chris Jacob. "But the current costume is hard to move in. We needed to help him get into a form that allowed him to cheer at games, to run out onto the court or field, and to be able to

interact with people a little more.

“Basically,” Jacob added, “we sent Oswald to the gym over the summer, and he’s come back more toned and agile.”

Jokes aside, the process of redesigning the beloved mascot required input from many members of the college community, including Student Life, Admissions, Athletics, Communications and Marketing, and the Associated Students of Clark College. Starting in March, the work group discussed how to make Oswald better able to perform his duties as an ambassador of the college at games, special events, and in the community. A key issue was making the costume less burdensome for the students who wear it, while ensuring he remained the fun and approachable penguin that makes him a family favorite at community events.



“With the old costume, the feet were these giant things that made it hard to move without falling over,” said Student Life Program Support Supervisor Sami Lelo. “We would always need to have two students available if we wanted Oswald at an event—one to wear the costume, and the other to lead Oswald around by the hand so he didn’t bump into things or trip.”



Oswald's new costume can be put on without help.

The new costume's feet slip over the tops of the performer's own shoes, allowing them to wear athletic shoes for easier movement. Its arms and legs are also easier to move, allowing for better mobility—no need for a guide anymore. Also, the new costume can be donned without assistance, making it easier for Oswald to appear at events all over campus and the community.

The new Oswald will get his official reveal at the college's annual Opening Day employee event that kicks off the new academic year, on September 17. At that point, the old costume will be officially retired and put into storage.

Cartoon images of the old Oswald, complete with tie and running shoes, will still appear in print and online media ... for now.

"It's inevitable that, once people get used to Oswald's new look, they're going to want to have images of him available to put on invitations, flyers, etc.," said Clark College Senior Graphic Designer Jenny Shadley. "We'll be ready for those requests when they start to come in."

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Clark's Pharmacy Tech ranked No. 1



Pharmacy Technician students in the Columbia Credit Union Simulation Pharmacy

Clark College's Pharmacy Technician program has been ranked No. 1 in the nation by *Washington Monthly* in its annual "College Rankings" issue.

The issue, which is published in September, traditionally ranks four-year colleges and universities based on a range of criteria. However, this year marks the first time the Washington, D.C.-based magazine ranked vocational certificate programs, using data from the U.S. Department of Education's

“gainful employment” database.

Clark College’s Pharmacy Technician program is based in the college’s location at Washington State University Vancouver. Students learn in the program’s state-of-the-art Columbia Credit Union Simulation Pharmacy, as well as in



externship placements with local employers. Local employers were also consulted in building the program’s curriculum, so that graduates learn the skills needed in today’s health care marketplace.

“We were already confident of our Pharmacy Technician program’s reputation in this region, but are tremendously proud to see its excellence recognized on a national level,” said Brenda Walstead, dean of business and health sciences. “Our faculty work hard to create a program that produces the kind of skilled technicians that modern pharmacies need.”

The full *Washington Monthly* article may be viewed at <https://washingtonmonthly.com/2018college-guide>.

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Many Clark College offices closed to the public Aug.

21-22



Many offices and student services at Clark College will be largely closed to the public for a collegewide staff training on Tuesday, August 21 and Wednesday, August 22. Classes will continue as normally scheduled. Additionally, Child & Family Studies (child care), the Clark College Bookstore, all libraries (including Cannell and the iCommons at CTC), and Tutoring Services will remain open. However, most other business offices (including Cashier's Office, Human Resources, Facilities Services, etc.) and student services (including Advising, Financial Aid, Student Life, etc.) will be closed all day for both days.

Teaching accessibility



Bruce Elgort

Clark College computer technology instructor Bruce Elgort recently received grants from the national organizations Teach Access and the Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology (PEAT), as well as the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), to incorporate accessibility principles into computer science curriculum.

Elgort was just one of 13 faculty members across the nation to receive this grant and the only instructor from a community college to do so. He plans to use the funds to enhance his current curriculum so that it expands its teaching of Universal Design principles.

“We teach accessibility in our HTML classes—you know, ‘add a description to all your images so people using screen-reader technology know what they are,’” Elgort said. “It’s time to start taking accessibility further. It’s time to create forms for people with cognitive disabilities, or physical disabilities that go beyond visual impairment.”

The topic is deeply personal for Elgort, who is visually impaired himself. “I am a user of accessibility,” he said. “I am someone who is challenged as a user of technology.”

Funded by Teach Access and PEAT, the Teach Access Curriculum

Development Award totals \$5,000. The SBCTC is matching that grant with an additional \$5,000. Elgort plans to use the funds to develop curriculum enhancements over the summer, and have them ready to share with other faculty in the fall.

“We’re extremely fortunate to have a faculty member like Bruce working at Clark College. His strong commitment to ensuring everyone can use technology is commendable. With the Teach Access and PEAT grant, which SBCTC is matching, Bruce can impact an entire industry by making sure future web developers are equipped to develop accessible technology as soon as they enter the field,” said Jess Thompson, program administrator for accessible technology initiatives at SBCTC.

About Bruce Elgort

Bruce Elgort began his career as an electrical engineer and then moved into the world of enterprise information technology. He was responsible for designing and developing collaborative computing solutions to serve global businesses. Elgort also started one of the largest open-source communities for IBM’s Collaboration Software division. He is a popular speaker at conferences and industry events. As an entrepreneur, he created the award-winning IdeaJam idea-management software. Elgort began teaching at Clark College in 2013 and has earned the college’s prestigious Exceptional Faculty Award in 2014 and 2018.

About Clark College

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

About Teach Access

Teach Access is a unique collaboration among members of higher education, the technology industry and advocates for accessibility, with a shared goal of making technology broadly accessible by infusing accessibility into higher education, with enhanced training and collaborations with people with disabilities. Teach Access includes members from leading tech companies, academic institutions and disability advocacy organizations and other non-profit institutions. Teach Access operates as a fiscal sponsorship fund at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF). To learn more visit teachaccess.org or email info@teachaccess.org.

About the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges is led by a governor-appointed board and provides leadership, advocacy, and coordination for Washington's system of 34 public community and technical colleges. Each year, about 374,000 students train for the workforce, prepare to transfer to a university, gain basic math and English skills, or pursue continuing education.

Penguins shine



The skies above Sleep Country Amphitheater filled with heavy gray clouds on June 21, but nothing could dampen the bright spirits of the more than 700 students participating in Clark College's 2018 Commencement ceremony.

Members of the college's 82nd graduating class encompassed every imaginable background, age bracket, and life goal. Approximately 75 of them wore the light blue robes that indicated they were celebrating their high school diploma or GED completion; another two dozen or so wore the white robes reserved for those receiving their Bachelor of Applied Science degree. The class included a record 476 Running Start graduates who were graduating from high school and college simultaneously; meanwhile, other graduates were old enough to have children of their own—and, in at least a couple cases, dressed them in matching royal-blue robes so that they could cross the stage as a family.

All told, more than 2,300 degrees and certificates were

conferred upon the Class of 2018.

As the ceremony began, however, it became clear that certain themes held these graduates together. When President Bob Knight asked all graduates who had worked while attending Clark to stand, almost the entire class rose to their feet. When he next asked the first-generation college graduates to rise, the result was only slightly less unanimous.



Valeria Flores

Student speaker Valeria Flores spoke about her experiences as the first in her family to attend college. "Being a first-generation student in college is like learning a foreign language," she said. "You don't become fluent overnight. I had no idea where to begin. I did not know that I could apply for FAFSA. I didn't know how to register for classes, or even how to *find* my classes."

Flores went on to say that she did eventually find her path through college, and that working at the college's child care facility had led her to decide on a career as a speech pathologist, a path that would require her to continue her education to a master's degree.

The ceremony's keynote speaker, retired Evergreen Public Schools superintendent John D. Deeder, spoke of his own experiences as a first-generation college student. "I recall that 51 years ago tonight, I finished my junior college career in Couer d'Alene, Idaho," he said. "It was a big deal, because

I was the first in my family to ever graduate beyond high school. It opened so many doors—I can't tell you how important this night is for you."



John Deeder

Deeder also spoke about the importance of education in broadening people's perspectives. "I really believe we need to be more tolerant, we need to be more inclusive, we need to be better listeners, we need to be accepting of differences in every way—cultural, religious, political, social, etcetera," he said. "If we do that, this society and the world that you're going to lead in the next few years will be a better place, and that is critical."

As is traditional, the ceremony was occasion to announce two major awards. Early in ceremony, President Knight announced the names of the recipients of the 2018 Exceptional Faculty Awards: computer technology instructor Bruce Elgort; English as a Second Language professor Sara Gallow; music professor Richard Inouye; mathematics professor Dr. Kanchan Mathur; and addiction counselor education instructor Don Wissusik. Later during the ceremony, he announced that graduate Grace Moe was the recipient of the 2018-2019 Community College Presidents' Award in Honor of Val Ogden. This annual scholarship is given to a Clark College graduate who demonstrates leadership potential, a commitment to community service, and academic achievement. The scholarship award provides full-time tuition at WSUV and is renewable for one additional year, essentially

providing full tuition to complete a bachelor's degree.



Grace Moe

Thanks to the Clark College Foundation, scholarship finalists Chad Lipka and Mckenna Pozsgai also received \$1,000 each to attend WSUV.

The ceremony ended with the traditional sounding of bagpipes. And as for those looming storm clouds? By the time the last graduate had crossed the stage, they'd broken up to reveal patches of golden sunshine. And when the graduates left the amphitheater and headed toward what their new futures held, they walked into the last golden rays of a gentle sunset, with the cheers of family and faculty greeting them on every side.

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley. To see more photos, visit our Flickr album.

'I did it!'



Alina Gonzalez, *left*, and Madison Moore, *center*, stand with a classmate as they wait to receive their high school diplomas at Clark College's 2018 Commencement.

At 22 years old, Madison Moore was ready to receive her high school diploma at Clark College's 82nd Commencement ceremony—beyond ready, really. She knew that not having graduated from high school had held her back in job searches and other opportunities.

Now she was just moments away from entering the Sunlight Supply Amphitheater so she could walk across the stage and be recognized for her achievement. There was only one thing to fear: "As long as I don't fall, I'm good," she said, laughing.

"If you do, it's OK," said her friend Alina Gonzalez. "You just get up and keep going."

It was apt advice for this graduating class. Each robed figure waiting to enter the amphitheater—more than 700 in all—contained their own story of resilience and endurance, whether they were earning a high school diploma or a bachelor's degree.

Gonzalez had needed both qualities herself to earn her second high school diploma, this time in a second language (her first had been earned in her native Mexico). “The English was hard for me,” she said. “I can tell you, there were times when I cried, it was so hard. But you know, I think I'm going to be graduating with a 4.0 [GPA].”

Not only that, both of her daughters would also be graduating that night with associate degrees that they had earned through Running Start. More than 470 members of the Class of 2018 were graduating through that program, which allows high school students to earn college credit and, in some cases, enter four-year universities as rising juniors.



Emily Hain, who began taking classes at Clark while still in high school, and Elizabeth Browne, who simply said it had “been a while” since she was last in school, take a moment to rest before graduating at Clark's 2018 Commencement.

Not everyone took the fast lane through college, however. For Maegen Davidson, whose graduation cap was adorned with the message “It always seems impossible until it’s done,” the journey had taken four years. Because she’d had to work while attending Clark, she’d needed extra time to earn her associate degree in Medical Office Technician and certificates in Medical Reception and in Medical Billing and Coding—and, technically, she still had a couple more classes to take over the summer, though she was being allowed to walk with her classmates.

“It feels so good to know I’m *right* there,” she said, pinching her fingers together to show how close she was to earning her degree.

“Yeah, she’s only been posting about it on Facebook like 20 times a day,” cracked a friend standing beside her.

“Well, hey!” laughed Davidson. “Some things are worth making a big deal about!”

For others, simply *getting* to college had taken a while. Originally, Elizabeth Browne had come to Clark just to learn some American Sign Language to help her in her work with toddler-age foster children. But once at the college, she decided instead to pursue an associate degree in Early Childhood Education. Now she was wrestling with how to get her honors and Clark tassels to both hang from her mortarboard cap. After graduation, she said, she planned to become a “traveling granny nanny.”

Browne was not the only graduate who was older than what’s frequently considered “college age.” Wayne Schmasow was a Vietnam veteran earning his fourth college degree, this one in network technology. “I think I might come back to earn a certificate in Network Plus,” he added.



Daughter-and-father team Edna Stultz and Wayne Schmasow get ready to graduate at Clark's 2018 Commencement.

Beside him stood his daughter, Edna Stultz, who was earning her associate degree in pharmacy technician leadership. Both had woven feathers into their regalia to honor their Native American heritage. As she stood waiting to graduate, Stultz was approached by her daughter, who took a string of beads from her to give to a friend who was also graduating.

For Stultz and Schmasow, Clark truly was a family affair: Schmasow's wife (and Stultz's mother) Anna Schmasow works at the college and earned her degree there as well. Stultz said that along with her family support, she appreciated the support provided by her program's cohort model.

"Having the same classmates for three quarters was amazing and helpful," she said. "Everybody wanted you to make it."

Stultz also appreciated the opportunities to put what she was learning into practice, both through Clark's simulated pharmacy and through externships. "The hands-on experience, that was a fantastic opportunity," she said.



Raymond Gutierrez, *far left* poses with some Diesel Technology classmates at Clark College's 2018 Commencement.

Raymond Gutierrez also enjoyed getting to learn on-the-job skills and work with cutting-edge equipment in his Diesel Technology program. He fondly recalled the wireless helmets he and his classmates had worn that allowed them to communicate while working on heavy equipment.

Gutierrez came to Clark after the birth of his child. "I had a baby, so I had to start thinking about a career," said the former auto-body and -paint worker. "I went to diesel because so many things are diesel these days, there are lots of jobs."

Gutierrez said he appreciated how much his family supported him while he pursued his degree. "I'm going to be the first in my family to graduate from college, so they were really behind me," he said. "It became a priority for me."

Now that he was almost about to walk across the stage as a Clark graduate, Gutierrez said, "I feel good. I feel happy. You know, people say, 'Oh, if I can do it, you can do it,' and you think 'whatever,' right? But you know what? I did it!"

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley. For more photos from the 2018 Commencement, see our Flickr album.

A student leader with community roots



Grace Moe is congratulated by President Bob Knight at the 2018 Commencement ceremony.

This year's recipient of the Community College Presidents' Award in Honor of Val Ogden was Grace Moe, who graduated with an Associate of Arts transfer degree. "She has shown an exemplary work ethic, participating in student government and volunteering with community organizations while maintaining a high GPA," said Clark College President Robert K. Knight in announcing the scholarship during the college's 2018 Commencement ceremony.

Moe came to Clark College through the Running Start program, which allows high school students to earn college credit. A first-generation college student, Moe has excelled at Clark, serving as the president of the Associated Students of Clark College (student government) and earning a cumulative GPA of 3.82. In addition, she has volunteered with Friends of Trees, the Clark County Food Bank, and New Heights Church.

Moe, 17, says that this scholarship will allow her to complete her bachelor's degree in finance and marketing in two years, when she will be 19 years old; because her parents are unable to financially contribute to her college tuition, without the scholarship she would have had to attend WSUV part-time in order to earn enough to cover the costs. After earning her bachelor's degree, she intends to spend a year volunteering with her church before beginning a career at a local business.



“My roots are definitely ingrained in this area,” said Moe, who has lived in Vancouver her whole life. “I plan to give back to the community that raised me, by working in the area so that I can continue to volunteer and serve for Vancouver.”

Because Moe was already sitting on stage during the Commencement ceremony in her capacity as ASCC president, Knight invited her to the podium as he announced the scholarship. “You’ve been a wonderful leader and I know we’re going to hear a lot more about you,” he said.

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley.