

# Clark College Columbia Writers Series hosts Cheston Knapp



Cheston Knapp. *Photo: Alexis Knapp*

The Clark College Columbia Writers Series continues its 2017-2018 season with Cheston Knapp, managing editor of the award-winning literary magazine *Tin House*. He will discuss his work and read from his new collection of essays, *Up Up, Down Down*.

This event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Thursday, February 15, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Penguin Union Building (PUB) room 258A-B on Clark College's main campus.

Cheston Knapp is managing editor of *Tin House*, a literary

magazine based in Portland, Oregon. He graduated with a degree in English from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. He is the recipient of a 2015 Oregon Literary Fellowship from Literary Arts and the executive director of the Tin House Summer Writers' Workshop. His work has appeared in *Tin House* and *One Story*. *Up Up, Down Down* is his first book. It has received critical praise from the literary world, including this evaluation by Joshua Ferris, author of *And Then We Came to the End*: "Offering up a steady supply of perfectly chosen words in precision-guided sentences, Cheston Knapp will either break your heart or jolt your spine, and quite possibly bring some of us back to life."

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 continues with:

- May 14, 2018: Roger Reeves, Pushcart Prize-winning poet
- May 17, 2018: Kate Berube, children's book author and illustrator

Information about the Columbia Writers Series is available at [www.clark.edu/cc/cws](http://www.clark.edu/cc/cws).

This event is held on Clark College's main campus at 1933 Ft. Vancouver Way. 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.

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# Kenny Fries opens Columbia Writers Series season



Kenny Fries. *Photo: Michael R. Dekker*

The Clark College Columbia Writers Series kicks off its 2017-2018 season with renowned poet, memoirist, and critic Kenny Fries. This event, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Tuesday, October 10, from 11:00 a.m. to noon in Penguin Union Building (PUB) room 258A on Clark College's main campus.

Fries is perhaps best known for his memoir *Body, Remember: A Memoir*, which recounts his experiences as a disabled child growing up in an abusive Orthodox Jewish home and slowly coming to terms with his identity as a gay, disabled man. He has written two other memoirs, *In the Province of the Gods* and *The History of My Shoes and the Evolution of Darwin's Theory*, this last the winner of the Outstanding Book Award from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights. He is the editor of *Staring Back: The Disability Experience from the Inside Out* and the author of the libretto for *The Memory Stone*, an opera commissioned by

the Houston Grand Opera. His books of poems include *Anesthesia*, *Desert Walking*, and *In the Gardens of Japan*. He teaches in the MFA in Creative Writing Program at Goddard College.

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 includes, besides Fries:

## Fall

- October 30: Aimee Bender, author of *The Girl in the Flammable Skirt* and *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*

## Winter

- February 15, 2018: Cheston Knapp, editor of *Tin House* magazine and author of *Up Up, Down Down*, which will appear in February 2018

## Spring

- May 14, 2018: Roger Reeves, Pushcart Prize-winning poet
- May 17, 2018: Kate Berube, children's book author and illustrator

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# Natalie Diaz opens Columbia Writers Series



Natalie Diaz. *Photo credit: Rachel Eliza Griffiths*

*Angels don't come to the reservation.  
Bats, maybe, or owls, boxy mottled things.  
Coyotes, too. They all mean the same thing—  
death. And death  
eats angels, I guess, because I haven't seen an angel  
fly through this valley ever.*

*—excerpt from "Abecedarian Requiring Further Examination  
of Anglikan Seraphym Subjugation of a Wild Indian  
Rezervation," by Natalie Diaz*

This year's Columbia Writers Series kicks off with Natalie Diaz, the award-winning author of *When My Brother Was an Aztec*, a book of poetry which *New York Times* reviewer Eric

McHenry described as an “ambitious ... beautiful book.” Diaz will be reading from her book at 1 p.m. on November 10 in PUB 161 on Clark’s main campus. This event is free and open to the public.

Diaz’s honors and awards include the Nimrod/Hardman Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry, the Louis Untermeyer Scholarship in Poetry from Bread Loaf, the Narrative Poetry Prize, and a Lannan Literary Fellowship.

Natalie Diaz was born in the Fort Mojave Indian Village in Needles, California. She is Mojave and an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian community. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Old Dominion University, where she received a full athletic scholarship. Diaz played professional basketball in Europe and Asia before returning to Old Dominion to earn a Master of Fine Arts degree.

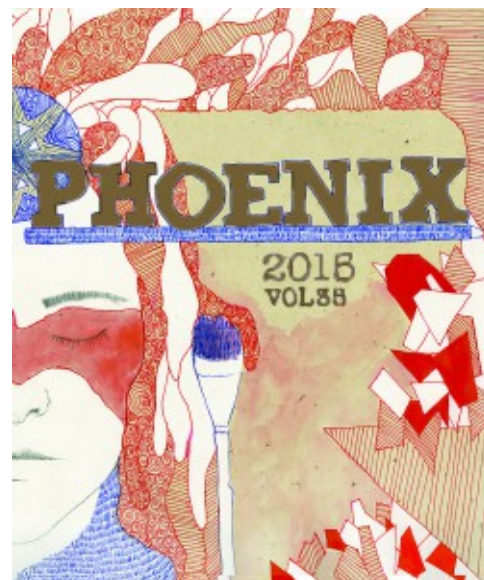
Diaz now lives in Mohave Valley, Arizona, where she works with the last speakers of Mojave and directs a language revitalization program. In a PBS interview, she spoke of the connection between writing and experience: “For me writing is kind of a way for me to explore why I want things and why I’m afraid of things and why I worry about things. And for me, all of those things represent a kind of hunger that comes with being raised in a place like this.”

Directions and maps to Clark 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 or (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark’s Penguin Union Building.

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# The Best in the West



The theme of the 2015 *Phoenix* was “the artist’s sketchbook.”

The 2015 issue of *Phoenix*, Clark College’s student-run arts and literary journal, was recently awarded first place in the Community College Humanities Association (CCHA) Literary Magazine Competition for the Pacific-Western Division.

“This is a first for us,” said Clark English professor and *Phoenix* faculty advisor Elizabeth Donley. “In 2013, we placed third as a magazine in the same division, and were delighted to do so. In the past, *Phoenix* has regularly been honored for the art and design of the magazine more than anything else. But the CCHA competition really focuses on the literary aspects of the journal. In many ways, this is the first significant award that honors the literary components of *Phoenix*.”

Several individual Clark students received recognition for

their entries in Phoenix as well:

- David Powers, second place in Short Stories for “Gouge Away”
- W.R. Soasey, third place in Creative Nonfiction for “Not the Favorite”
- Trenelle Doyle, second place in Artwork for “The Perception Project”
- Matthew Harmon, third place in Artwork for “Empirical Being”
- Alan Logston, first place in Song for “Shades of Steel”
- Jeffrey Points, first place in Performance for “Project Spielberg”

The CCHA’s Pacific-Western Division includes community colleges in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Wyoming.

Over the course of its 34-year history, Phoenix has won many regional and national awards. Many students who work on it go on to pursue careers in writing or the arts. Jennie Avens, a former Phoenix editor who graduated from Clark with her Associate of Fine Arts in spring 2015, said working on the journal helped prepare her for a position as volunteer director for a nonprofit serving budding artists. “Working on Phoenix was an amazing experience that has opened me up to other career possibilities and taught me an abundance of things I use in my life as an artist,” she said.

Phoenix is available in an online format at [clarkphoenix.com](http://clarkphoenix.com).

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## Exceptional Faculty Award



# spotlight: The voice of encouragement



English instructor Matthew Gallaher.

Matthew Gallaher's English Composition is winding down for the day. "If you have any last-minute questions, I'll stick around," the instructor tells his students, who are broken up into groups to "workshop" their papers with their classmates.

Gallaher sits down near one slump-shouldered student. "How are you doing?" he asks the student. "Do you have questions?"

"No," sighs the student. "I just wish I had more time."

"You *do* have time," Gallaher responds with a smile. He points to the student's paper. "This is only a first draft. You're still going to do a second draft, and then revise it again before handing it in. Don't give up on this!"

Imagine every possible permutation of the word “encourage,” and it shows up in students’ nominations of Gallaher for the 2014-2015 Exceptional Faculty Award, along with words like “fun,” “sincere,” and “enthusiasm.”



“The largest impact that Matthew has had on his students, and on me personally, is his ability to make students feel important, and that their individual success is valuable,” reads one. “He goes above and beyond to help others, and is encouraging

to his students to continue to develop and share their skills.”

Gallaher’s enthusiasm and support led him to be recruited as advisor for Alpha Sigma Phi, the Clark College chapter of the international honor society Phi Theta Kappa that blends academic achievement with public service. After two years in that position, Gallaher is stepping down to focus on teaching, but he says he enjoyed mentoring students as they developed new ways to help their community, including annual food drives and a campaign to reduce and reuse electronic waste.

“I was in Boy Scouts as a kid and an Eagle Scout, and it kind of reminded me of that,” says Gallaher, who earned Phi Theta Kappa’s Paragon Award for New Advisors in 2013.

Much of Gallaher’s work at Clark contains echoes of his early years. “My whole family got their associate degrees,” he says. “My parents both came from working class families and could never have afforded college without community college. I went to community college as a high school student, St. Petersburg College in South Florida.”

Gallaher, who earned his bachelor’s degree from University of South Florida and his master’s in English from Portland State

University, says he appreciates the diversity of students he encounters teaching at a community college. “You never know what kind of students you’re going to have,” he says. “There are vets from the last two conflicts, and there are students who have only been in this country a few months. There are older students and students who are still in high school. You get all these people together, and they don’t agree almost ever, and it’s kind of great to hear them get riled up as they hear opinions and viewpoints they’ve never been exposed to before.”

Gallagher says he was honored to discover students had nominated him for the award, especially because he is an adjunct instructor, teaching part-time at Clark and part-time at Portland Community College. “It was surprising and humbling,” he says. “Being an adjunct can be lonely. You don’t quite feel part of the community. Phi Theta Kappa really helped me feel more a part of Clark. And now this is just another way of saying, ‘Hey, you love Clark—and Clark loves you, too.’ That feels good.”

Learn about other recipients of the 2014-2015 Exceptional Faculty Awards.

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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## **“Subtext” Grows**



Students at the 2014 *Phoenix* unveiling, part of the 2014 Subtext literary festival, unwrap the new issue. This year, Subtext has expanded to a full week of events.

This year, the Clark College Columbia Writers Series is expanding its popular Subtext literary festival to offer a full week of writers, readings, and events on the college's main campus. From May 18 – 22, the college will host internationally celebrated authors, as well as readings by Clark students, faculty, and staff. (See full schedule below.)

“It has always been our goal to create a true festival feeling, with multiple events throughout the week,” said Columbia Writers Series Co-Director and English faculty member Alexis Nelson. “This is the festival’s third year, and we’ve tried to expand it bit by bit each year. Last year we were able to bring Pulitzer Prize-nominated novelist Karen Russell for the main event. This year, we want to build on that excitement with more events, more voices, more diversity. I hope in time that Subtext will be something that our whole



community, both within and without the college, looks forward to each year.”

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.

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## Schedule

### May 18

**10 a.m. – noon, PUB 161: *Artists and Authors panel: “The Craft of Comics”***

A panel of successful writers for comic books discuss the challenges and joys of their field.

### May 19

**11 a.m. – noon, PUB 258C: *Reading: fiction writer Nam Le***

Born in Vietnam and raised in Australia, Nam Le’s first book, *The Boat*, earned recognition that includes the Pushcart Prize, the Melbourne Prize for Literature, the best debut of 2008 by both *New York Magazine* and *The Australian Book Review*, and a *New York Times* notable book. It has been translated into 14 languages. Le is the fiction editor of the *Harvard Review*.

## May 20

**11 a.m. – noon, PUB 258B: *Reading: poet Mary Szybist***

Mary Szybist is most recently the author of *Incarnadine*, winner of the 2013 National Book Award for Poetry. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rona Jaffe Foundation, and the Witter Bynner Foundation in conjunction with the Library of Congress.

## May 21

**3 p.m. – 4 p.m., PUB 161: *Phoenix release party***

Clark College's national award-winning art and literary journal, *Phoenix*, will unveil its 2014-2015 edition with readings from student authors and free copies available for guests.

**5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m., PUB161: *Talk by writer Karen Karbo and English Department awards ceremony***

Karen Karbo is the author of four *New York Times* Notable Books, including her first novel, *Trespassers Welcome Here*, as well as her memoir about her father's last year of life, *The Stuff of Life*. She is well known for her international best-selling Kick Ass Women series, which examines the lives of iconic 20th century women. In addition, she writes the Minerva Clark mystery series for children.

## May 22

**Noon – 1 p.m., PUB 258C: "Clark Crossings," a student and faculty reading.**

This year's theme is "Transport."

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# Clark Welcomes Jess Walter



Award-winning author Jess Walter reads at the 2015 winter quarter installment of Clark College's Columbia Writers Series.

During the 2015 winter quarter installment of its renowned Columbia Writers Series, Clark College will welcome best-selling writer Jess Walter, whose award-winning work was recently deemed "captivating" by the *New York Times* and "bad-ass" by *Esquire* magazine.

A former National Book Award finalist and winner of the Edgar Allan Poe Award, Jess Walter is the author of six novels, one book of short stories, and one nonfiction book. His 2012 novel, *Beautiful Ruins*, was both a No. 1 *New York Times*

Bestseller and a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2012, as well as *Esquire's* Book of the Year and NPR Fresh Air's Novel of the Year. His 2009 novel, *The Financial Lives of the Poets* was *Time* magazine's No. 2 Novel of the Year. His most recent book, the 2013 collection of short stories called *We Live in Water*, was described by the *Seattle Times* as "[s]tories that twist and plumb, delivering unexpected laughs while playing with what it is we think we know ... Walter has emerged as one of the country's most dazzling novelists ... so freakishly, fiendishly good, it isn't fair."

Walter's work has been translated into 30 languages, and his essays, short fiction, criticism and journalism have been widely published, in *Best American Short Stories*, *Best American Nonrequired Reading*, *Harper's*, *Esquire*, *McSweeney's*, *Byliner*, *Playboy*, *ESPN the Magazine*, *Details* and many others. He lives with his wife Anne and children, Brooklyn, Ava and Alec in his childhood home of Spokane, Washington.

Walter will read from some of his works and discuss his writing process from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, in Foster Auditorium 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). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.

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# Bright Talents, Dark Tales

Clark College will host award-winning authors Benjamin Percy and Wells Tower in two separate installments of the college's renowned Columbia Writers Series. Percy will read from his work and discuss his writing process on October 21; Tower, on November 3.

This is the first time the series will feature two separate events with different authors during the same quarter. "We've been really fortunate in that the Associated Students of Clark College have supported our efforts to expand this series," says CWS co-director Alexis Nelson, who teaches English at Clark. "Bringing two authors to campus on two different days (and at different times of day) will hopefully allow us to reach a wider audience. I know Clark students can have packed class schedules and often have work and family obligations on top of that, so this gives them more than just one chance to attend a reading this term."

As writers, Percy and Tower have some things in common. Both explore themes of the natural world, violence, fathers and sons, and men struggling with failure and redemption. Both have successful careers in magazine writing as well as in fiction (Percy is a contributing editor at *Esquire*, while Tower is a contributor to *GQ*). Each has two Pushcart Prizes and one Plimpton to his name.

But each writer has a very different voice and style. Tower is known for his depictions of gritty American realism; Percy is perhaps best-known for his most recent novel, *Red Moon*, which author John Irving called a "literary novel about lycanthropes [werewolves]" and which earned praise on Twitter from none other than horror great Stephen King himself.

“Both Percy and Tower are writing fun, energetic stuff and working in multiple genres,” says Nelson. “Percy is a great crossover author, someone who writes literary fiction yet can also attract a wider audience of readers interested in horror, fantasy, or suspense. And I love Tower’s work for how funny and serious it can be at the same time, and for his exuberant and original use of language.”

Benjamin Percy will read at 12:30 p.m. on October 21 in PUB 258C. Wells Tower will read at 2 p.m. on November 3, also in PUB 258C. Both events are free and open to the public.

### About Benjamin Percy



Benjamin Percy.  
Photo by Jennifer  
May.

Benjamin Percy is the author of two novels, *Red Moon*, an IndieNext pick and Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection, and *The Wilding*, winner of the Society of Midland Authors Award for Fiction; as well as two books of stories, *Refresh, Refresh* and *The Language of Elk*. Percy is currently adapting *Red Moon* as a series for FOX TV with Oscar-winner Akiva Goldsman (*A Beautiful Mind*, *I am Legend*, *Winter’s Tale*) and *The Wilding* as a film with director Tanya Wexler (*Hysteria*). Percy’s next novel, *The Dead Lands*, a post-apocalyptic reimagining of the Lewis and Clark saga, is forthcoming in April 2015 with Grand Central. He also has a

craft book, *Thrill Me*, due out by Graywolf Press in 2016.

His fiction and nonfiction have been read on National Public Radio; performed at Symphony Space; and published by *Esquire*, *GQ*, *Time*, *Men's Journal*, *Outside*, the *Paris Review*, *Tin House*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Orion*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Ploughshares*, *Glimmer Train*, and many other magazines and journals. His honors include a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Whiting Award, the Plimpton Prize, two Pushcart Prizes, and inclusion in *Best American Short Stories* and *Best American Comics*. He writes for DC Comics, and his story "Refresh, Refresh" was adapted into a screenplay by filmmaker James Ponsoldt and a graphic novel by Eisner-nominated artist Danica Novgorodoff.

### About Wells Tower



Wells Tower.  
Photo courtesy of  
the author.

Wells Tower is the author of the short story collection *Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned*. His short stories and journalism have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *GQ*, *Harper's Magazine*, *McSweeney's*, *The Paris Review*, *The Anchor Book of New American Short Stories*, *The Washington Post Magazine*, and elsewhere. He received two Pushcart Prizes and the Plimpton Prize from *The Paris Review*. His magazine journalism has been

shortlisted for the National Magazine Awards. He divides his time between Chapel Hill, North Carolina and Brooklyn, New York.

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## Affairs of the Art



May 14 was a particularly artful day at Clark College, as the afternoon saw both the unveiling of the 2014 *Phoenix* as well as the opening reception and awards presentation for the 2014 Art Student Annual.



Mike Shank read his poem  
"Small Things Cost the  
Most."

*Phoenix* staff distributed free copies of the award-winning annual arts and literary journal to students in PUB 161. Clark student Mike Shank read from his moving poem, "Small Things Cost the Most," which earned Editors' Choice Award for literary work in the journal. Afterward, guests headed downstairs to Archer Gallery to view works by student artists, many of whom also had work published in *Phoenix*. Seventy-five students showed a total of 127 works in the show, in media as varied as watercolor, photography, welded metal, ceramics, and video. Awards were announced and presented during the reception.

For more photos of these events, visit our Flickr albums of the unveiling and art show.

## **2014 Art Student Annual Awards**

Joy Margheim "Gate", welded sculpture

Best Welded Sculpture award

Sponsored by Airgas and the Clark College Welding Department

Irina Burchak "Self Portraits", photography

Excellence in Photography Award

Sponsored by Knight Camera



The 2014 *Phoenix* staff.

Erin Merrill, "Columbia River Series", photography  
Excellence in Photography Award  
Sponsored by Pro Photo Supply

Shelby Warner "Drawing Room Chair", photography  
Photography Award  
Sponsored by Pro Photo Supply

Garry Bastian "The Act of Characterization", photography  
Darkroom Photo Award  
Sponsored by Blue Moon Camera and Machine

Anthony Abruzzini "There's Nothing Wrong with Having Only One Eye...", drawing  
Works on Paper Excellence Award  
Sponsored by Frame Central Framing

Sherrie Masters "Greys", watercolor  
Works on Paper Excellence Award  
Sponsored by Frame Central Framing



Students at the *Phoenix* unveiling waited patiently until the end of the program to open the paper wrapping around the new publication.

Jenny Avens "Flour Effect", photography  
Holga Camera Award  
Sponsored by Freestyle Photographic Supplies

Lauren Dwyer "Organic Free Form", ceramic  
Best Ceramics Award  
Sponsored by Georgie's Ceramic and Clay Company

Luke Entwistle "Puntitled", painting  
Muse Art Award  
Sponsored by Muse Art and Design

Krista Zimmerman "Self Obstruction", painting  
Muse Art Award  
Sponsored by Muse Art and Design

Liz Alexander "Out of Place", video  
Film and Video Award  
Sponsored by the NW Film Center

Anni Becker "John", video  
Film and Video Award  
Sponsored by the NW Film Center





Director of IT Services, Phil Sheehan was the asked to juror the student show this year. He has been a supporter of student work throughout his time at Clark.

Riley Donahue, "The Day I Became a Man", installation  
Best Contemporary Art Award  
Sponsored by the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art

Belinda Luce "Type in The City", typography  
Best Graphics Award  
Sponsored by Intel

Filip Popa "Matches", painting  
Painting Award  
Sponsored by Dick Blick Art Materials and the Clark College Bookstore

Jeremy Crane "Germ Evolved", painting  
Painting Award  
Sponsored by Dick Blick Art Materials and the Clark College Bookstore

Elise Cryder "Thank Your Mother", painting  
Best in Show Award  
Painting Award  
Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore and the NW Film



## Center



After the awards are presented, students had an opportunity to talk to each other about their work.

Mariah Lewis "Muse", painting

Painting Award

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

Martin Stone "Still Life #2", painting

Painting Award

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

Megan Ostby "30 Minute Pose", drawing

Drawing Award

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

Jason Cardenas "The Island", drawing

Drawing Award

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

Lauren Pucci "Botany", watercolor

Special Recognition Award

Sponsored by Kiggins Theater and Anna Banana's Café

Grace Edwards "Sun Color", watercolor

Special Recognition Award

Sponsored by Kiggins Theater and Anna Banana's Café

Sara Robison "Hipster George", digital illustration  
Special Recognition Award  
Sponsored by Kiggins Theater and Anna Banana's Café

Matthew Caravaggio "Abstract Revelation", drawing  
Special Recognition Award  
Sponsored by Kiggins Theater

Michael Jasso "For the Glory of Rome", ceramics  
Special Recognition Award  
Sponsored by Kiggins Theater

*Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley*

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<b>Subtext Russell</b>	<b>Features</b>	<b>Karen</b>
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Author Karen Russell will appear in the spring 2014 installment of the Columbia Writers Series on May 29. *Photo credit: Michael Lionstar*

During the spring installment of its renowned Columbia Writers Series, Clark College will welcome writer Karen Russell, author of *Swamplandia!*, *Vampires in the Lemon Grove*, and *St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves*.

This event is part of "Subtext," a three-day festival of words and literary arts. Other events include a free book exchange and a reading by students and faculty, including Clark County poet laureate Christopher Luna. All of these events are free and open to the public.

Karen Russell, a native of Miami, won the 2012 National Magazine Award for fiction, and her first novel, *Swamplandia!* (2011), was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. She is a graduate of the Columbia MFA program, a 2011 Guggenheim Fellow, and a 2012 Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin. In 2013, she was a recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "Genius

Grant.” Her short stories have been featured in *The Best American Short Stories*, *Granta*, *The New Yorker*, *Conjunctions*, *Oxford American*, and *Zoetrope*.

“We are extremely pleased to be able to host Karen Russell for our spring reading since she is not only a fabulously talented fiction writer, but has been nationally recognized by critics as an American author of true significance,” said Clark College English professor James Finley, director of the Columbia Writers Series. “It is not every day that we can bring a writer of this stature to Clark. Her writing—with all its cleverness, jaunty energy, and searing insights into the human condition—are a perfect match for college-age audiences, and I hope Clark students and the community at large take advantage of the opportunity to hear Russell read from her work in a live setting.”

Russell will read from some of her works and discuss her writing process from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 29, in Foster Auditorium. The book exchange takes place in the Cannell Library commons area on Wednesday, May 28, 10 a.m. to noon. Crossroads, the student/faculty reading, takes place Friday, May 30, noon to 1 p.m. The theme for this year’s Crossroads is “Plants and Animals.”

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