Selections from a speech delivered by Iona McIntire (70) to Clark Honors College students at the 2002 Graduate Appreciation Dinner:

“Out in the world, I have worked with gentlemen, I have worked with megamrks—in all different kinds of environments—and I’ve never been in any discussion where people would talk about things where I had very little knowledge, where I couldn’t catch on. It’s because my education was so diverse and I was taught to cut to the chase and see what was supposed to be there. Never have I been in a situation where I felt I was undereducated, and Clark Honors College get credit for that. This is the best investment I ever made; it’s the best thing I ever did.

“Stay in touch, we want to know what you’re doing. We want you to tell us what we should have done. Stay active.”

“It’s the best education, but it’s also a two-way education. You invest your time and energy and money, but please see that Clark Honors College invests its time, money, and energy in you. And it’s the best kind of investment possible. As you prosper in life, please don’t forget it. Don’t go away for 25 years and never give us a call. Stay in touch, we want to know what you’re doing. We want you to tell us what we should have done. Stay active. Stay involved. It’s not about money, although you will get calls about money. It’s about your energy, your perspective, the lives that you’ll lead once you get out there. Think about the changes you’ll go through in the next five, ten years. Think about things that you can pass back to this college to help prepare the students of the future. Be proud of where you’ve been and as you walk out the door, put the fighting ducks behind you and become thinking ducks, please. Be thinking of us.”

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ROBERT D. CLARK HONORS COLLEGE

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Information Overload in the Age of Enlightenment

Historian examines parallels with Internet era

The Internet revolution has prompted much speculation about the impact of technology on the way people interact and make sense of their environment. But these questions are hardly new, says Daniel Rosenberg, CHC assistant professor of history—in fact, people were grappling with remarkably similar issues more than 200 years ago.

“During the Enlightenment, there was a widespread sense that the world of ideas was changing quickly,” says Rosenberg, whose research focuses on the intellectual history of eighteenth-century France and Britain. “People were excited about new science answering age-old questions, but they were also anxious. Ideas were changing so fast that it was hard to know what was true or false, important or not.”

Rosenberg, who completed his graduate work at the University of California, Berkeley, is enthusiastic about communicating his ideas to CHC students. Last year, he introduced a new course titled “Histories of the Future,” in which he explores some of the connections between old and new worlds.

The course springs from an essay anthology of the same name that Rosenberg is currently editing for Duke University Press with Susan Harding, a professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz. The course deals with the changing nature of the idea of the future since the sixteenth century. According to Rosenberg, the very idea of a future that is subject to change based on human action is a modern idea—one that’s far from

CHC’s 2002 Award Winners Honored for Cutting-edge Research

Noushin Shakiba always had a knack for scientific inquiry, but it wasn’t until the winter term of her junior year that her interest in biology really took hold. It was then that she became acquainted with a group of roundworms known as C. elegans through a molecular biology class taught by Associate Professor Bruce Bowerman.

Shakiba, whose graduate thesis earned her the Aaron Novick award in biology last spring, joined the Bowerman Lab to research a mutant strain of C. elegans with defective centrosomes, tiny cellular structures involved in early cell division. The research eventually led to her thesis, “Characterization of a Centrosome-Defective Mutant in the Nematode Caenorhabditis elegans.”

Shakiba is fascinated by the intricate process of cell division in roundworms and its striking similarity to the same process in humans.

“The most interesting part of my findings was the abnormal behavior of centrosomes in the mutant embryos compared to normal embryos,” she recalls. “It was amazing how a small change in the normal course of cell division could lead to catastrophic effects like death of an embryo.”

Shakiba’s work with centrosomes is cutting-edge science. Recent studies suggest that centrosomes, which are critical to the equal distribution of chromosomes during cell division, may play a role in the development of malignant tumors. If genetic material is distributed unequally to new cells—possibly due to abnormal functioning of centrosomes—genetic imbalances result that can lead to cancer and other diseases.

Using fluorescence microscopy and imaging techniques, Shakiba discovered that, soon after fertilization, the mutant embryos displayed a defect that causes an unequal distribution of chromosomes to daughter cells at the end of cell division, which ultimately led to death of the embryo. She also used mapping techniques to narrow down the position of the mutated gene to a specific chromosome.

Shakiba is currently working as a research technician in the Bowerman Lab in the Department of Molecular Biology. She plans to enroll in the dentistry program at Oregon Health & Science University in the fall of 2003.

Preparing her thesis, notwith- standing its challenges and frustra- tions, stands out as her most memorable experience at CHC, says Shakiba. In general, the intellectual rigor of CHC classes is great preparation for any future challenge.

“A great part of my learning experience at the UO has occurred in my honors college classes,” she says. “All of those intellectual discussions in the classroom and those endless writing assignments have inevitably prepared me for facing the challenges of the remain- ing years of my education.”

Shakiba was one of two students selected for the Aaron Novick award, along with Jordan Pomeroy, and one of eleven CHC graduates who received awards at the commencement ceremony. Following are the other award winners, along with a brief description of their research.

1. AMY JO BIGGS, general science. President’s Award.
   “Understanding AIDS in the Light of Zimbabwe,” an analysis of the biological and social factors that have allowed and continue to assist the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome in Zimbabwe.

2. EMILY NEUHAUS, psychol- ogy. President’s Award.
   “Forest for the Trees: The Weak Central Coherence Theory of Autism,” an exploration of the theory (by Frith) that weak central coherence (the ability to integrate isolated information into a coherent whole) is the fundamental cognitive feature underlying autism.

3. SERENA KHADER, philosophy and international studies. Robert D. Clark Award.
   “What About Love?: Ethical Feminism, Political Liberalism, and the Capabilities Approach.” argues that Martha Nussbaum and Amartya Sen’s “capabilities” approach is useful in thinking about a political liberalism that takes the demands of love seri- ouly.

Continued on next page
From the Director: Scholarship All Around

Outstanding teaching—a hallmark of the Robert Donald Clark Honors College—depends on excellent research. The University of Oregon’s mission yokes scholarship to teaching and service, and nowhere is that relationship more evident than at the Clark Honors College.

Last spring, eighty-three graduating honors students completed theses on topics in their chosen field. Each thesis was judged by a three-member committee—the student’s adviser, a member of the honors college faculty, and a faculty member in the student’s field of study. Students were required to produce a written document and engage in an oral defense of their thesis. The vast majority of these students earned a “pass with distinction” or “pass with honors.”

A “pass with distinction” means the student’s work is near or on a par with graduate-level work, a level achieved by eleven honors students featured in the lead story of this issue.

Our students become good scholars because our faculty members embrace the teaching and research mission of the university and, like their students, are engaged in important scholarly projects.

Dan Rosenberg, assistant professor of history, is a rising star who recently published articles in such prestigious journals as the Journal of the History of Ideas and covered a book, Histories of the Future, to be published by Duke University Press (see story on front page). This spring we were fortunate to hire a new historian, Aaron Novick, who will analyze the genome duplication of Hox genes, which help create segmental and tissue identity during development.

5. ANDREA REECE, music. William J. Robert Award.

“A Comparison of Text Expression in Three Choral Settings of the Stabat Mater dolorosa (a medieval poem dedicated to the Virgin Mary) by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525–94), Domenico Scarlatti (1685–1757), and Francois Pouliot (1599–1663).


“The Effects of Inbreeding on Life-History Traits of the Pitcher-Plant Mosquito Wyeomyia smithii.”

A study of the effects of inbreeding on fertility, fecundity, survivorship, and mean-generation time, which provides some of the first evidence of inbreeding depression (a decrease in a population’s fitness) in the pitcher-plant mosquito.

7. JORDAN POMEROY, biology. Aaron Novick Award.

“Evolution of Morphology: Unraveling the Organization of the Hox AB Gene Cluster in Sphyrnodes Nepheles (Southern Pufferfish).”

Suggests that an extra copy of this genome duplication occurs in teleost fish, doubling the amount of a set of development genes in Hox, which help create segmental and tissue identity during development.

8. MEGAN GRIFF, planning, public policy and management. Barbara Cordato Pope Award.

“Oregon’s and California’s Alternative Sentencing Programs: A Program Evaluation, Comparison, and Policy Recommendation.”

Examines the pros and cons of California’s Proposition 36, which allows treatment instead of incarceration for all nonviolent drug possession offenses. Would Oregon be wise in adopting a similar approach?

9. BELINDA HOUGHTON, exercise and movement science. Barbara Cordato Pope Award.

“Oral Contraceptive Use and Nitric Oxide in Active Catataneous Vasodilation.”

Tests the hypothesis that oral contraceptives influence nitric-oxide-dependent vasodilation during hyperthermia.

10. EVGENIA FKIAKAS, English, Spanish. Robert D. Clark Honors College Director’s Service Award (chosen for service to the HCL community).

Fkiakas was honored for her outstanding engagement and intelligence as the student member of the History Search Committee.

Information Overload

Continued from front page

universally accepted even today. “In ‘Histories of the Future,’” Rosenberg says, “Robert is interested in the wide range of cultural artifacts in order to better understand what kinds of futures we have had and may have. Students wrote on subjects such as politics, proph- ey, utopias, education, and technology, and on music, art, fiction, and film.”

Just as in my written work, in this course I hope to make it possible to see the contingency in some things we take for granted today,” Rosenberg says. “Part of the joy of teaching a course like this is that we start in my area of expertise—the early modern period—but by the end of the course, we are talking about contemporary problems and issues on which my students can teach me as much or more than I can teach them.”

In coming years, Rosenberg plans to introduce a variety of new courses, including seminars on the material culture of the eighteenth century and the work of French historian Michel de Certeau, who wrote about religious mysticism, and a team-taught course with professors from the Departments of English and Comparative Literature on the history of science fiction.

Information overload is also the subject of several of Rosenberg’s works, including his forthcoming article “Early Modern Information Overload,” which introduces a special issue of the Journal of the History of Ideas, and his current book project entitled Senses of the Past: Language, Epistemology, and the Problem of Origins in the Enlight- enment.

“In order to understand information overload in its historical context, one must understand what it was like to be alive in the 1700s,” says Rosenberg. “Americans tend to have an image of people with wigs and candlelit drawing rooms, but if you go back you find that people then thought the world was changing so fast that they were never sure they wouldn’t recognize it in ten years.”

“A number of different factors—social, cultural, political, and intellectual—are responsible for this sense of historical vertigo felt by people in eighteenth-century Europe. Not least among these was the changing status of religion. The prospect that history contained contingencies unforeseen in scripture worried people tremendously, but it was also the source of excitement and hope.”

“The sense of historical acceleration is implied by the Enlightenment, as the sense that the world was changing rapidly, and that they knew that they needed new tools to navigate through this new world.”

Another of Rosenberg’s articles, “Mecier’s New Words: Neologism and Revolution,” to be published in the journal Eighteenth-Century Studies in 2003, explores precisely this question.

“One way of approaching the question of information overload during the early modern period is to provide a counterpoint to some of our contemporary expectations,” Rosenberg says. “While early modern thinkers believed in the importance of understand- ing technological change, in general they believed that tech- nology followed rather than led change in the arenas of culture and ideas. From the perspective of the Enlightenment, people and not machines were the great engines of progress.

“We think of computers when we think of progress, but for the writers of the eighteenth century, change has a lot more to do with philosophy and seeing the world in new ways,” says Rosenberg. Whether or not we agree with the philosophers of the Enlightenment, “comparing perspectives on these issues in both the eighteenth and the twenty-first centuries has been a useful exercise through this new world.”

Another of Rosenberg’s recent articles, “Materializing History: Senses of the Past in the Enlightenment,” was published in History and Theory, the flagship journal of intellectual history.

Our literary professors continue to make significant intellectual contributions. A short story by Henry Alley appeared this summer in the prestigious Virginia Quarterly Review. Frances Cogan’s recent book, Captured!—about the internment of American POWS during World War II—was praised by American History Review, and Professor Cogan was interviewed in the Chronicle Times as a legal expert on the internment issue. Louise Bishop has published well-received articles in the Yearbook of Langland Studies, and is working on a book, Measure is Medicine: Intersections between Healing and Read- ing, Gender and the Vernacular in Fourteenth- and Fifteenth-Century English Textual Culture. Our visiting assistant professors, Helen Franks- Southworth and Sharon Shuman, continue to publish in scholarly journals. Shuman’s “Bewitching the Mask: Dialogic Blackface” was published in Text and Performance Quarterly, while Southworth had an article published by Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature.

At the Clark Honors College, the scholarship and teaching goals of the university have the support of excellent faculty. The books and articles produced by members of our faculty, the superb teaching evaluations they receive, and the impressive quality of our students’ theses are all byproducts of the honors college’s rich intellectual life.

We can only discover in this update, the Clark Honors College continues to make its alumni proud.

—DAVID FRANK, DIRECTOR, ROBERT D. CLARK HONORS COLLEGE

David Frank
What are They Up to Now? News from Recent Graduates

STEPHANIE ERAK ’99, who received the President’s Award from Clark Honors College for her thesis on the development of elementary-level multicultural social studies textbooks, spent two years with Teach for America teaching fourth-grade students in the Mississippi Delta. She’s currently working in Portland as a project specialist for the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette’s Success By Six initiative, which helps prepare children for kindergarten. In the future she hopes to pursue a master’s degree in public health.

JESSICA SAVEN ’01 joined Teach for America after graduation, teaching summer school in New York’s South Bronx. She is now a seventh-grade science teacher at Lombard Middle School in Baltimore and is working toward a master’s in education from Johns Hopkins University. She plans to teach for a few more years but eventually hopes to incorporate her interests in urban planning and environmental science into a Northwest native, she was shocked by the dearth of green space in Baltimore.

“My long-term dream is to start a non-profit that organizes middle school children in planting community gardens and developing urban ecosystems to bring beauty into cities,” she says. “This spring, my seventh graders were planting sunflowers in class and they were so excited watching things grow. It was amazing to see their faces light up . . . inner-city children have too much disconnect from nature; I would like to change that.”

GREG THORSON ’01 moved to New York City after graduation to pursue a career in theater directing. He’s had internships with the Wooster Group and Queen’s Theatre in the Park, and directed a play reading. Currently he’s working as a waiter and usher for the Roundabout Theatre Company, trying to save money so he can help direct another play. In the next year, he hopes to apply for a Drama League Fellowship, and someday hopes to pursue graduate work.

“Working on my thesis is my best memory of the Clark Honors College,” says Greg. “Directing a full-length play in the Arena Theatre gave me a great opportunity to test my directing skills.”

OTHER 2002 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:

MARGARET ALFARI (philosophy, Italian major)—The CHC Service Scholarship, for her contribution to the CHC community.

NORA AHMED (English, French major)—The Jean Wittmeyer Scholarship, for exceptional academic achievement.

ROSE WHITMORE (music performance, mathematics major)—The Wittmeyer Wittmeyer Scholarship for outstanding academic achievement.

WINSTON BERNER (journalism, electronic media, theater arts major)—The Gallastey Scholarship, for demonstrating academic excellence, breadth of interest, and general social concern.


FRANCES COGAN’S second university press book Captured! earned strong reviews. Charles Kolb of the National Endowment for the Humanities wrote, “she presents the reader with a compelling account of the internecine’s lives during more than three years of captivity, Dec. 1941 to Feb. 1945. . . . the volume is unique in terms of its coverage and broad human-interest appeal.”

DAVID FRANK’S Shared Land/Conflicting Identity: Symbolic Trajectories in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict will be published this fall by Michigan State University Press. He coauthored the book with Robert Rowland.

Why I Give

Much of what we do at Clark Honors College would not be possible without the support of generous alumni and friends. In 2002, the college awarded six scholarships to students singled out for their outstanding promise and academic accomplishments. We asked some of our supporters what motivates their gifts. Here are their replies:

“The scholarship our family has established in honor of Dr. Ed Sargent, by his parents, sisters, brother, and Ed’s wife and children, has created an important link to Ed’s connection to the University of Oregon as a pre-med undergraduate student as well as a faculty member of the Clark Honors College. From him, the students were able to learn the value of the whole individual, each of whose choices deserve full respect, and that maintaining health is a lifelong commitment. Our support will continue.”

—EDWARD AND MARY JANE SARGENT. The Edward Sargent III Scholarship was awarded to Kevin Blaine, who is majoring in anthropology and biology. The award, established in honor of the late Ed Sargent, M.D., honors prehealth care or science students who demonstrate idealism, commitment to humanity, openness to alternatives, and love of nature.

“We contribute because our son, Run, got such a superb education at Clark Honors College. We told him that he shouldn’t be in a hurry to graduate and go to law school, that he should get a well-rounded education. The honors college provided exposure to a number of subject areas, and he still managed to stay on the swim team!”

—DAVID AND EVELYN WIGHAM. The Wigham Family Scholarship went to Marissa Gordon, a political science and Italian major chosen for her outstanding academic progress and promise.

“I give to repay the debt and honor the memories of the past. I give to fuel the current intellectual fires, to invest in the creation of critical-creative thinkers. I give with the hope of a future where today’s students are active and engaged in changing the world while investing in tomorrow’s students, so that the cycle never ends.”

—IVAL MCMAINS

Faculty News


LOUISE BISHOP has two articles coming out in academic journals: “Of Gods pryvete nor of his wyf’: The Confusion of Orifices in ‘The Miller’s Tale,’” appears in the fall issue of Texas Studies in Language and Literature, while “Queering Medieval Law and Piers Plowman” will be in the 2002 Yearbook of Langland Studies. Over the summer, she presented “A lady’s ‘verily’ x as potent as a lord’s: Counsel and Contraries in The Tale of Melibee’ and The Winter’s Tale,” at the New Chaucer Society Congress in Boulder, Colorado. In December, she will present “Old and New, Ideal and Real: George Eliot’s Middlemarch and Chaucer’s Nun’s Priest’s Tale,” at the Modern Language Association convention in New York. Last spring, she gave a public lecture on “Family Values as Political Concept,” hosted by Eugene’s Fortnightly Club.

SHARON SCHUMAN’s article “Authorizing Meaning in The Merchant of Venice” appeared in the June 2002 issue of Text and Performance Quarterly, a journal of the National Communication Association. The article, part of a book in progress on dialogic freedom, deploys Bakhtinian theory to suggest how we might read three speeches from Shakespeare’s contro-versial play, and also how competing literary schools of thought might suggest how we might read three speeches from Shakespeare’s contro-versial play.

HELEN SOUTHWORTH published an article on the French writer Colette in the Fall 2001 issue of Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature. She presented a paper at the annual Virginia Woolf Conference at Sonoma State University in June, and wrote a chapter for a forthcoming collection of essays on Virginia Woolf titled Locating Woolf.

Joe Fracchia — January 12, 2003

The decision to feature Joe Fracchia’s essay on history and cultural evolution was not without some soul-searching on my part. While the essay is certainly a worthwhile contribution to the field, it is not without its share of controversies and debates. I decided to include it because it reflects the kind of interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary approach that I believe is essential to the study of history and cultural evolution. Furthermore, it demonstrates the kind of critical thinking and analytical skills that I hope to instill in my students. I believe that Joe’s essay is a valuable addition to our library of resources, and I encourage our readers to consider it carefully.
Robert D. Clark Honors College

UO Scholarships

Class Notes

Keep in Touch
Find out what your classmates are up to and update your personal records online at the Clark Honors College website. Just click on the alumni section.

Jane Sommers

Linda [First Name] (2041), an independent consultant is organizational development and career counseling. This person was born on (date), in (city, county, state). She is a (occupation) in (industry).

Sonja Gustafson '85

is a software field service representative for (company). She heads a four-person staff of geologists and land planners.

June Twitchell McAtee '70

is vice president of land and natural resources for an Alaska Native regional corporation.

Michael James '72

is back in the United States from (country). He focuses on basic research in atomic, molecular, and optical physics. He is a (position) at (company) in (city).

Bradford Wright '79

is a part-time musician. He works in the military justice section, advising commanders and serving as an associate professor at the National Defense University. He earned a B.S. in physics at (University). He is married to (wife's name). They live in (city, state). He enjoys playing racquetball, running, scuba diving, traveling, and reading. He is the father of (number) children.

Jennifer Schafer '88

is a social security claims representative dealing with the supplemental security income (SSI) program. Her responsibilities include processing SSI applications, verifying and correcting information, running multiple software applications, and resolving problems. She helps people who need financial assistance to receive the benefits they are entitled to. She has a B.S. in computer science from (University). She is married to (husband's name). They live in (city, state). She enjoys (hobbies). She is a member of (organization). She has been working in this field for (years).

Adam Apalategui '86

recently sold his computer company in Eugene and is looking to buy a farm, where he plans to raise beef cattle. He is a (position) at (company) in (city). He enjoys fishing, flying, racquetball, running, scale diving, traveling, and reading. He is the father of (number) children. He earned a B.S. in business administration from (University) in (year). He is married to (wife's name). They live in (city, state). He enjoys (hobbies). He is a member of (organization). He has been working in this field for (years).

Patricia '94 and George Bradach

Student @ UO

is a public relations manager for Northwest Natural Gas in Portland.

Steve Sechrist '82

is a portfolio manager with an investment management firm in the Portland area. He is a member of (organization) and (organization). He has been working in this field for (years).

Note: For a full list of contributors, please visit the Clark Honors College website. Just click on the alumni section.