Clark’s Legacy Will Inspire Future Generations

By Jessica Goodburn ’09

Each year, students are introduced into the Clark Honors College with one persistent question: What is the importance of a liberal arts education? No simple answer is found, but through the discussion they are encouraged to question, form opinions, and learn from the environment around them. Now, as they embark on their educational odyssey, who better to emulate than former university president and Clark Honors College founder Robert D. Clark, who in his lifetime held the highest standards as a scholar, an educator, and as a person.

Clark passed away on June 28, still a scholar and an inspiration to students, alumni, and friends. He continued his involvement with the university in the times of war and, just weeks before his death, attended commencement ceremonies for the class of 2005.

Clark remained active in the community as well. He was a member of the Eugene Natural History Society who attended meetings as often as time allowed and took pleasure in plant walks and events with the organization. A longtime supporter of the Oregon Bach Festival, Clark was remembered at a July 10 concert in his honor.

Robert D. Clark addresses student protestors at San Jose State College, 1965.

Clark returned to the UO in 1965 to fill the same vacancy here.

Perhaps most of all, Clark will be remembered for his compassion and leadership in troubled times. During his presidencies at San José State and the UO, he saw both institutions through the tumultuous 1960s, where divisive issues such as the civil rights movement and the war in Vietnam often brought college campuses to the boiling point. Through it all, Clark remained fair and true to his beliefs in the power of dialogue. In one speech he is quoted as saying, “If we fall far short of truth or justice, we can, in the free expression of ideas, more nearly approximate them than by any other system. ‘The university is the peculiar guardian of this basic liberty.’” His sense of fairness and justice extended to his faculty as well. One year, as UO president, he was told that there would be no money available for faculty pay increases, but that university presidents would receive a certain additional amount. Clark turned his down, saying he did not deserve a raise if his faculty was not offered the same.

At a Beall Hall memorial service attended by several hundred family members, friends, colleagues, and admirers, Clark was eulogized for his intellect, wisdom, kindness, discipline, and drive, for his love of nature, dedication to students, and for his many contributions to the university and larger community. As each new class of honors college students learns about the man who established their school, who so greatly loved and admired his legacy will be carried on.

Novelist Visits Honors College

Clive Cussler, whose latest novel, Poseidon Shift, recently topped the New York Times bestseller list, was the honored guest and speaker at the Clark Honors College’s fall alumni reception.

Cussler, who enjoys a worldwide following of fans for his more than twenty-four books, came to the honors college at the invitation of Professor Frances Cogan, who is teaching his novel Treasure in her fall term seminar on adventure literature.

Cussler spoke to an overflow crowd of students, alumni, and community members on October 28 at the Gerlinger Hall alumni lounge on the UO campus. He spoke about his long career as a writer of adventure novels and his own adventures as founder of the National Underwater and Marine Agency (NUMA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to American maritime and naval history.

Endowment Established to Honor Robert D. Clark

An endowment has been established through the UO Foundation to honor Robert Clark and to ensure that his legacy of excellence continues. For more information, contact Shirley West, (541) 346-2442 or spwest@uoregon.edu.

CHC Alum Hosts Paris Reception

About thirty Ducks gathered for a fall reception at the home of Florence and James Shephard ’80 in Paris, France. President Frohnmayer and his wife Lynn were on hand to visit with alumni from Paris and Angers.

President Frohnmayer personally thanked the Shephards for hosting the gathering and for establishing two endowed scholarships supporting international students at the Clark Honors College and study abroad for CHC students. Tom Mills, associate vice president for international programs, and Cynthia Stenger, director of international alumni programs, also attended. Stenger said guests were treated to traditional French fare, plus some delicious Oregon wine. To view photos of the event, visit the UO Alumni Association website, www.uoalumni.com.
2005–6 CHC Scholarship Recipients

The following scholarships were awarded to Clark Honors College (CHC) students for the 2005–6 academic year:

**ROBERT D. CLARK HONORS COLLEGE SERVICE AWARD**

**ALLETTA BRENNER**

Majors: Women’s and gender studies, history

**EMILY CASEY**

Major: English

Scholarship criteria: For a CHC student who made a contribution to the Clark Honors College community.

**ANDREA GELLATLY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**EMMA TEPFER**

Majors: Music, English

Scholarship criteria: For women entering their final year in the honors college who demonstrate the qualities of academic excellence, breadth of interest, and social concern, which characterized the late Andrea Gellatly’s short but influential life.

**JOY POUST SCHOLARSHIP**

**TREVOR ATKINS**

Major: Journalism

**HANNAH BONTRAGER**

Major: Dance

**JOYCE MOORE**

Major: Architecture

Scholarship criteria: For a CHC student in good academic standing with demonstrated financial need.

**EDWARD SARGENT III SCHOLARSHIP**

**BRIAN TRUONG**

Major: Biochemistry

Scholarship criteria: For a CHC student majoring in the prehealth care field or a natural science who combines the qualities of idealism, commitment to humanity, openness to alternatives, and love of nature that characterized the late Ed Sargent, M.D.

**SHEPHARD FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD**

**AMIE LEAVERTON**

Majors: Spanish, political science

Scholarship criteria: For a CHC student attending an approved yearlong University of Oregon study-abroad program, particularly those studying a foreign language.

**WIGHAM FAMILY THESIS PRIZE**

**AMELIE BRAZELTON**

Major: English

Scholarship criteria: For a CHC student who has made significant academic progress and has promise for further outstanding achievement, with first consideration going to Canadian students.

**JEAN WITTEMeyer MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**KATHARINE LENZSER**

Major: Planning, public policy and management

Scholarship criteria: For a CHC student who has made significant academic progress and has promise for further outstanding achievement.

**WILMA WITTEMeyer MEMORIAL SCHOLARISTIC ACHIEVEMENT PRIZE**

**JOHN MURPHY**

Major: Art history

Scholarship criteria: For a CHC student who has made significant academic progress and has promise for further outstanding achievement.

From the Director

Our class of 2009 is now on board, and we are deep into the fall quarter. Among our many new students are some from previously unexpected places.

Clark Honors College has a new exchange program with the National University of Singapore. This is one of Asia’s great universities, an unusually multicultural institution where English is the language of instruction. Singapore’s University Scholars Programme operates much as we do, with small, discussion-based classes for a distinctively intellectual group of students. Our first batch of five Singaporeans seems an easy fit with us, and they bring to our campus a lively curiosity and a hearty sense of fun.

We are also happy to host two honors students displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Kelly Brown was preparing for her senior year at Loyola University when she suddenly found herself in flight from New Orleans. She attended the University of Oregon as a freshman, so she is familiar with our ways, and is now writing for the Emerald. Eugenian John Burns was about to begin his sophomore year at Tulane University. He had just furnished his apartment when he had to abandon it and return home. We are happy that we can accommodate these students, two of a much larger group of New Orleans students now studying in Eugene.

Clark Honors College students most typically learn about the wider world by studying abroad. A different but no less valid path to understanding others is to welcome others to our own community.
In June, Henry Alley read from his new novel, Men Touching, at the frozen language, Virginia Woolf Conference at Lewis and Clark College. In August, he also read from the book at the Coffee Break Café in Salem. In September, he read from his other novel, Precincts of Light, at the In Other Words bookstore in Portland. This was part of a celebration of Gertrude Press, which has newly arrived in the city. In 2003, his story, “The Remberndt Brotherhood,” received honorable mention in the Richard Hall Memorial Contest, sponsored by the Lambda Literary Foundation, the organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender writers, and has now been accepted for publication by Harrington Gay Men’s Fiction Quarterly.

Monique Balbuena presented her paper, “Armistice: Laments and Modernism in the Maghreb,” to the fourteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem this summer. Before the congress, Balbuena also presented a paper at the pre-congress organized by the A. Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry, titled “Sephardim in the Americas: An Agenda for a Comparative Research.” There she delivered a version of her paper “Sephardim in Brazil: Between the Metaphorical and the Literal.” Almost concurrently with the congress, Balbuena was also part of the Latin American delegation at the International Dialogue for Peace of Latin American, Israeli, and Palestinian Intellectuales, an annual gathering of encounters held in different cities, on the eve of the Israeli disengagement from Gaza, and culminating with a stay in a kibbutz on the border with the Gaza strip. As an activity of both the congress and the dialogue for peace, a tertulia literaria (literary tea- ler) titled Writing, Identity, and Gender in Latin America and Israel—gave Balbuena the chance to read some of her own poems at a table that included Luisa Futoransky, Esther Seligman, Silvana Rahinovich, and Edith Goel, with comments by Saul Sosnowski. Following the congress, Balbuena took part in the weeklong Continuing Workshops shop on the Hebrew Language, organized by the International Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilizations. The workshop theme this year was “Hebrew Language as a Theme in Literature and Culture.”

Louise Bishop’s entry on the myth of the flat earth will appear in Routledge’s Medieval Misconceptions in 2006. This summer, Frances Cogan worked on her new book, The First Ellis Island: Castle Garden, NYC, 1855–1890. During winter break Cogan will be presenting two three-day seminars on clear communication in business and the nature of problem analysis to IBM and Morgan Stanley employees.

David Frank, with colleagues James Crosswhite and Anne Laskaya of the English department, received a Williams Council grant to create a rhetoric program on writing, public speaking, and critical reasoning. Frank’s “Argumentation, God, Taliban, Discourse, and the Jewish Counter-Model: Implications for the Study of Argumentation” was published in volume 41 of Argumentation and Advocacy. His article, “Barack Obama’s Address to the 2004 Democratic National Convention: Trauma, Compromise, Consilience, and the (Im)possibility of Racial Reconciliation,” is forthcoming in Rhetoric and Public Affairs.


Roxanne Prazniak’s paper on the social and political history (1850–1930) of the lower Yangzi delta region, appearing in Shanghai, as context for understanding the work of UO museum founder Gertrude Bass Warner was published in a conference collection, Jijielring niandai de Zhongguo, June 2005, by the Social Science Academic Press (China). In connection with a current project on social and artistic exchange between northern Italian city-states and Mongolia in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, Prazniak attended a conference in Rome, September 2005, the fifth European Ecumenical China Conference, where she was able to speak with scholars working on records of the early Franciscan missions.

This summer, while he was enjoying a National Endowment for the Humanities research fellowship at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, Daniel Rosenberg’s new book Histories of the Future (Duke University Press) appeared. This volume, coedited with Susan Harding (University of California at Santa Cruz), contains a variety of essays on the ways in which visions of the future have changed over time. Rosenberg also traveled to the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin to speak about his new book project, The Graphic Invention of Modern Time, and he was named editor-at-large for Claytor Quarterly of Art and Culture.

Class Notes


Amy Rittenberg-Kari ’82 (art history) joined the Clark Honors College Alumni Advisory Council this fall. She is a math specialist for the Mt. Diablo Unified School District in northern California.

Don Klotter ’86 (political science, Italian) is in his first year of his honors college thesis. “The Invention of Modern Time: A Symbolist Kinah?” appeared in Medieval Romance Literature in the Americas: An Agenda for a Comparative Research.


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Marissa Picard ’04 (political science, Italian) is in her first year studying public interest law in the Georgetown University Law Center. For the past year, Picard has worked in D.C. Henry Waxman’s personal office as a staff assistant and legislative correspondent.

In Memoriam

Greta Anne Wrostland, a 2003 graduate of the Clark Honors College, died in August in Missoula, Montana, from injuries sustained in a car accident. In 2003, Wrostland received her B.A. in English, was a teaching assistant at the University of Montana, and had completed one year of the master of fine art program in creative writing. She was awarded a scholarship through Fence Books to the 2005 Summer Literary Seminars program in St. Petersburg, Russia. Greta’s diverse work experience included working as a field biologist for the U.S. Forest Service, an account manager in an Alaska fish cannery, and as context for understanding the work of UO museum founder Gertrude Bass Warner was published in a conference collection, Jijielring niandai de Zhongguo, June 2005, by the Social Science Academic Press (China). In connection with a current project on social and artistic exchange between northern Italian city-states and Mongolia in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, Prazniak attended a conference in Rome, September 2005, the fifth European Ecumenical China Conference, where she was able to speak with scholars working on records of the early Franciscan missions.

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Donor Honor Roll: Your Gifts, Our Thanks

Special thanks to all the alumni and friends who generously support the mission of the Clark Honors College, to nurture an environment of scholarship and inquiry. Your investments help us to maintain the highest standard of instruction and to provide the resources needed to foster academic success among our students. The gifts listed below reflect those received between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005. While space constraints limit our public acknowledgment to those who made gifts of $100 or more, we thank all of the donors who made contributions.

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Giving Tips from the Office of Gift Planning

By Hal Abrams
As director of the Gift Planning office, I am pleased to provide regular giving tips. These tips are designed to help inform you of opportunities to support the honors college, and illustrate available incentives provided by the IRS.

If you have provided for the honors college in your estate plan, please tell us so that we can make you a member of the Arnold Bennett Hall Society, the campus honor society.

Here is why Dar and Mary Ellen Isensee let us include them as members of the Arnold Bennett Hall Society:

“...It did just for the membership pin and free annual luncheon,” joked Dar Isensee ’62. “Actually, Mary Ellen and I were glad to be included, to help encourage others to put their estates in order.”

“...And don’t forget the honors college,” chimed in Mary Ellen, a 1963 graduate and longtime supporter.

Support the honors college through your IRA (or other retirement benefit) rather than with another estate asset. When any person, other than your spouse, inherits funds from your IRA (or other retirement benefit), that distribution will be subject to income tax and may be subject to estate tax (if your estate is more than $2 million). In some cases, the tax liability owed has exceeded 75 percent of the value of the IRA. The honors college and the university, as a qualified charity, can inherit this asset without either tax being imposed. Therefore, an IRA may be worth twenty-five cents to your heirs, yet be worth a full dollar to the honors college.

I’ve got more of these tips up my sleeve. Please do not hesitate to contact me about this article and other techniques to save taxes and increase your income. I can be reached directly at (541) 346-6044.