Two New Faculty Join Honors College

The shelves in Samantha Hopkins’ small, sunny office in Chapman Hall are bare except for a few stuffed toys and vinyl bound books belonging to her sixteen-month-old daughter Rowan. With less than two weeks in Eugene under her belt and two weeks to go until the term starts, Hopkins laughs at the possibility that entropy might ensue. She’s on a tight schedule to pick up Rowan at daycare and her husband at the airport. Or is it the other way around? Tomorrow, she says, they may well sign papers for their first house.

It’s all part of the whirlwind that took Hopkins in the past two years from graduate studies at U.C.–Berkeley to a teaching position at Sonoma State College in northern California, to a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center in North Carolina, and back to the West Coast and her position as the honors college’s new paleontologist.

The position was created to strengthen the honors college science curriculum, especially for nonscience majors, says director Richard Kraus. In a unique arrangement Hopkins, whose area of interest is the growing field of paleoecology, will operate a lab and supervise graduate students in the Department of Geological Sciences.

“My research focuses on Miocene mammals, and what they can tell us about how climate change and immigration affect community structure,” Hopkins says.

In particular, she is studying the evolution of burrowing or how and why some mammals go underground. While her research doesn’t strictly require that she hunt for fossils (there are enough accumulated to study any given area or era), her new proximity to the fossil beds of Eastern Oregon offers a great opportunity for taking students into the field. This fall Hopkins will teach a course, The Age of Mammals, which she describes as a mix of paleontology, geology, and evolutionary biology.

Name: Samantha Hopkins
Position: Assistant Professor of Paleontology
Hometown: Knoxville, Tennessee
Education: Ph.D. ’05 in integrative biology, U.C.–Berkeley; B.S. ’99 in biology and geology, University of Tennessee at Knoxville

New literature professor Susanna Lim brings a world of perspectives to the honors college. As the daughter of a Korean diplomat, Lim spent much of her youth in Brazil, Portugal, and Paraguay, where she says she developed an interest in languages. Early experience with Fyodor Dostoevsky, Nikolai Gogol, and Leo Tolstoy led her to study Russian literature in Russia and at Koryo University in her native South Korea. Now, Lim says, she sees her role as a promoter of Korean culture as well as Russian.

Lim’s current research is focused on Russian Orientalism—the perception of East Asia by Russian writers and thinkers and its relationship to Russian nationalism.

“Really, my work is about promoting cross-cultural understanding,” Lim said.

Most recently Lim was a visiting assistant professor of Russian and Russian studies at Wheaton College in Massachusetts, which she says offered the kind of teaching environment she looks forward to at the honors college. This fall she is teaching one of the world literature sequences that, she says, will definitely include the Western canon as well as works from the non-West. She hopes to offer a course in the Russian novel this spring.

Just back from her annual visit with her family in Korea, Lim is busy unpacking boxes and preparing for her first term of teaching. An admitted Korean drama junkie, Lim says once she is settled, she hopes to resume practicing yoga and perhaps volunteering in the community. And if the opportunity presents itself, she is always up for a wild night of karaoke with friends.

Name: Soojung (Susanna) Lim
Position: Assistant Professor of Literature
Hometown: Seoul, South Korea
Education: Ph.D. ’06 in Slavic languages and literatures, U.C.–Los Angeles
M.A. ’99 in Slavic languages and literatures, U.C.–Los Angeles
M.A. ’98 in Russian language and literature, Korea (Koryo) University
B.A. ’96 in Russian language and literature, Korea (Koryo) University
Moscow State University-Korea University Student Exchange Program, 1995

Robert D. Clark Honors College
at the University of Oregon

Fall 2007

Volume 5 No. 1

ROBERT D. CLARK HONORS COLLEGE
at the UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
From the Director

GETTING READY FOR GROWTH

The fall quarter of 2007 is in full swing, and with 202 new students, Clark Honors College has the biggest freshman class in its history. This is about thirty more than our original plan, but with a little scrambling and the support of the UO administration, we are able to accommodate this band of enthusiastic new students.

This year’s growth was an unanticipated consequence of some new UO Admissions software that made it simpler to apply to Clark Honors College. As a result we were able to consider a larger pool of talented students: 1,113 completed applications in 2007, a 20 percent increase over 2006 and 25 percent over 2005.

How big should the honors college be? No one wants to diminish its intimacy, its charm, or itsquirkiness. And no one wants to dilute the high standard of our student body. We believe that we can both retain our unique features and better serve the university by moving systematically to a somewhat larger student body.

The university faces some barriers to increasing its undergraduate enrollment, which introduces opportunities to enhance the quality of the UO student body, in part by emphasizing Clark Honors College and other programs that appeal to high-achieving, brainy students. For example, if 5 percent of the UO’s 16,000 undergraduates were in the Clark Honors College, we would have 800 students, instead of our current 650.

Even modest growth demands a larger faculty and enhanced facilities, and no one suggests serving additional students without continuing both our class size limit of twenty-five and our high standards for our faculty. Our ability to recruit outstanding new professors is clear. New Ph.D.s regard teaching in the Clark Honors College as a very desirable job, and we have been able to hire our top choices among applicants.

With the help of our donors, we have recently commissioned a study by the architectural firm of Bowell Brokaw to evaluate several possible renovations to make Chapman Hall a more satisfactory home for the Honors College, and to accommodate expansion. Even the most modest of these scenarios will enable us to bring all honors college faculty members into Chapman Hall, ending a dispersal into other buildings that has persisted for too long. The most ambitious scenario would make Chapman Hall a dedicated Honors College home, with additional classrooms and student facilities.

Clark Honors College was not included in Campaign Oregon: Transforming Lives that is nearing its $600 million goal. However, UO leaders are now discussing putting us front and center in the university’s first “postcampaign” round of fundraising. While we anticipate a somewhat more predictable application process in 2008, we hope to be ready soon to welcome more and more bright and talented students to Clark Honors College and the university.

New Alumni Council Chair Wants to Spread the Word About the Honors College

Amy Rittenberg Kari is passionate about the Clark Honors College and she wants to make sure others know what a gem it is and give it the attention and resources it deserves. As chair of the Alumni Advisory Council she is in a great position to lead the charge.

“It was an absolutely fantastic place to go to school. I had really great relationships with professors that lasted the entire time I was at the university. They were there to support me when I changed my major, when I wrote my thesis. They were there to hang out with. They let us do so many things,” said Kari. “You see that today in the students’ self confidence, their ability to express themselves. I think if anything, the program has just gotten stronger.”

A 1982 graduate of the honors college with a major in art history, Kari received her teaching credential from California State University at Hayward in 1990 and began teaching elementary school in northern California. Last year, when husband Ross Kari ’81, M.B.A., ’83, accepted the chief financial officer (CFO) post at Safeco Insurance, the family moved to Seattle and Kari “retired.” With daughter Chelsea away at the University of Colorado, it was very good timing for her to step up participation with the Alumni Advisory Council.

She says two priorities for the council will be raising the profile of the honors college in the university community and laying the groundwork for remodeling or expanding Chapman Hall. The council will be working with Linda Brady, senior vice president and provost, this fall and plan to host an open house for the UO Alumni Association Board of Directors.

“We’re also very focused on increasing the diversity and size of our student body, and reaching out to our alumni,” says Kari.

She says the 2007 Convocation held last May was not only a successful event for bringing alumni, faculty members, and students together, but it also continues to put the council in touch with alumni who had otherwise lost their connection with the college. (The 2008 Convocation will again be held the first weekend in May to coincide with the Twilight Track Meet hosted by the university.)

Kari says she is ever amazed that alumni identify so strongly with their honors college experience when they are also part of another school or department at the university.

“That’s why I’m excited about the Alumni Advisory Council and the fact that [senior vice president and provost] Linda Brady is interested in creating the synergy. She said we have the opportunity to be a college without borders, and I love that idea because our students go everywhere on campus. It’s an opportunity for us to participate more fully in the university community and take advantage of the university, and for them to take advantage of what we have to offer as well.”

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2007 Commencement Award Winners

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WERE RECOGNIZED AT THE 2007 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES IN JUNE:

PRESIDENT’S AWARD
Two students received this honor for their especially distinguished senior theses, thesis defenses, and exceptional academic record:

Stephanie Go, for her thesis “Mechano-active Tissue Engineering of Articular Cartilage.”

One of her thesis advisers had this to say about Stephanie’s work: “Stephanie’s thesis was of a thoroughness and quality I would expect from a doctoral student. The breadth and depth of her knowledge of the related literature was stunning. She is one of our treasures.”

Daniel Alan Keller, for his thesis “Public Buses to Public Open Spaces: Analyzing Lane Transit District’s Ability to Provide Access to Nature Recreation for University of Oregon Students.”

His major adviser wrote: “I thought Dan’s thesis was an excellent and original piece of work that contained both scholarly and applied elements—quite a combination for any thesis, but especially impressive for one at the undergraduate level. I will use his thesis as a model for future students to be motivated by.”

ROBERT D. CLARK AWARD
This award recognizes a distinguished senior thesis and thesis defense that reaches beyond academic boundaries.

Emily Frances Casey, for her thesis “Deborah: a Historical Short Novel Based on the Life of Deborah Sampson.”

Her thesis adviser told us: “What makes Matthew exceptional is not just being smart or talented or accomplished, but that he really thinks like an artist. The position and questions he articulated in his paper were far more nuanced and poetic than the vast majority of Master of Fine Arts theses I have read.”

2007 History Essay Contest Winners

Each spring, Clark Honors College history professors nominate student essays from their history classes for recognition. In 2007, four professors nominated eleven student essays from six sections of H2C233. Congratulations to all.

WINNER

HONORABLE MENTIONS
Korin Bishop, “The Urban League of Portland: Ending World War II Discrimination in the Name of Democracy”

Jacob E. Meacham, “Technological Eden: The Evolution of America’s Dreams for the Future During the Great Depression”

Caitlyn Moe, “Sex and Power in the Kingdom of Heaven: How did the sexual practices of the Oneida Community affect its success as a communist utopia?”

OTHER NOMINEES
Kara Beasley, “The New Version of Genes”

Elin Gutormsen, “The Public Crusade of Mrs. Packard”

Christie Lowell, “Women on the Oregon Trail”

2007 Commencement Award Winners

Mauri Lowery, “Traditionalism in Colombian Politics: the Power of Political Identity”


Caleb Owen, “Teacher Don’t Teach Me Nonsense’: Fela Kuti and the Struggle for Democracy in Post-Colonial Nigeria”

Katy Pelissier, “The Media’s Influence on Public Opinion during the Vietnam War Era”

Save the Date
The second annual Clark Honors College Convocation is being planned for Saturday, May 10, 2008

Watch your mail in late spring, and our website (www.honors.oregon.edu) for more information about speakers and festivities.

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PROFILE: JOSEPH FRACCHIA

BY AARON RAGAN-FORE

There’s a reason the classes of Associate Professor Joseph Fracchia are standing room only. Fracchia’s Visions of Freedom courses make history current and compelling for the undergraduates he teaches in the UO’s Clark Honors College. Each of the courses, which Fracchia describes as “variations on a theme,” examines the concept of freedom through a specific lens, such as socialist worldview, the constraints of race and class, or utopian thinking.

It’s all a bit heady for freshman students tackling these graduate-level concepts, but Fracchia believes in elevating his students to the level of the material, not the other way around. “Students get really excited talking about these kinds of issues,” says Fracchia. “It’s going to get discussion going, and that makes for a successful class.”

Fracchia actively collaborates with his students, entrusting them with leading class discussion and posing questions to visiting experts. His teaching approach incorporates two key guidelines: “Respect the students by challenging them,” and “translate the material into terms the students can understand, without diluting the content.”

And his students seem to respond. “I am a psychology major, so taking history classes from Professor Fracchia meant that I was completely out of my element and comfort zone,” says recent graduate Katie Spaventa ’07. “He was challenging me because he knew that I could actually do it, and when someone has that kind of confidence in you it makes all the difference in the world.”

Fracchia credits his students with keeping his job interesting, citing as an example a biology major who, on his own initiative, penned a thirty-seven-page essay replicating the style of a nineteenth-century novelist, when the assignment called for only eight pages in modern English.

“I never get bored,” says Fracchia. “I never find it tedious to teach the same material. No two classes have the same students, only eight pages in modern English.”

Graduate experts. His teaching approach incorporates two key guide

Name: Joseph Fracchia
Teaching experience: More than twenty years at Oregon, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in history and sociology.
Awards: Numerous, including the Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching (1988), the Beryl K. Coleman and Margaret E. Guiteau Professorship in the Humanities (1992–93), and the Evelyn Nelson Wulf Professorship in the Humanities (1998–99). Most recently, the Thomas F. Herman Faculty Achievement Award for Distinguished Teaching (2007).
Off campus: Fracchia enjoys cooking Italian cuisine, as well as skiing and kayaking. Also, he reports, “I’m very good at doing nothing.”
Last word: “Fifty percent of the responsibility for the class is mine as the teacher. The other fifty percent is yours as the student.”

Faculty News

Hank Alley’s long story, “Would You Mind Holding Down My Body?” appeared in Stone Table Review, and his article, “Arcadia and the Passionate Shepherds of Brokeback Mountain,” was included in a critical anthology on the film and story, Reading Brokeback Mountain, published by McFarland Publications. His article, “Mrs. Dalloway and Three of its Contemporary Children,” came out in Papers on Language and Literature last fall, and his two stories, “Carter’s Aido” and “Lucy in the Sky,” appeared in two anthologies, HIMIS and Herstory. This May Alley read from his story, “Birth,” at a collective LGBT reading sponsored by the Equity Foundation and Gertrude Press at Mother Kali’s Books, and this July he attended the PEN/Truman’s Writer’s Conference on the Olympic peninsula and took part in Thomas Glave’s fiction workshop.


Louise Bishop’s essay in “Medieval Misconceptions,” to be published by Palgrave, in which she debunks the idea that medieval people believed in a flat earth, will be published late this year or early next year.

Joseph Fracchia received the 2006–7 Thomas F. Herman award for distinguished teaching at the University of Oregon. His translation of W.E.B. DuBois, “The Negerfrage in den Vereinigten Staaten (The Negro Question in the U.S.),” which was written in German in 1905 and in Germany in 1905 where DuBois studied for his Ph.D., was published in CR: The New Centennial Review and appeared in June.

David Frank’s Frames of Evil: The Holocaust as Horror in American Film, which he coauthored with Carolyn Picart, was tipped as one of the Choice magazine editor’s picks for June.

Dayo Nicole Mitchell is on leave for the 2007–8 academic year. She holds a postdoctoral fellowship at the Africana Research Center at Penn State University, a position that will allow her to complete her book manuscript. During the summer, she spent three weeks in London researching Caribbean history in the British national archives and presented at a conference at Warwick University on the experience of people trapped between freedom and slavery in the island of Dominica. She also visited Tajikistan and Uzbekistan—while the jaunt to Central Asia was officially a pleasure trip, it will certainly enhance her teaching with first-hand

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knowledge of the Silk Road and post-Soviet societies.

Roxann Prazniak is back from Sokha University of America where she taught during 2006–7. The opportunity to work in a Buddhist inspired learning environment with an international student body from pre-dominantly Asia and Latin America will bring some new perspectives to her honors college teaching. This summer her essay, “Philosophical and Environmental Perspectives in Nature Art: Claude Monet and Qi Baishi,” was published in Chinese translation in Forum of Arts by Fudan University. She continues to work on her manuscript tentatively titled, *Eurasian Humanism: Translocal Cultural Flows Before the East/West Divide.*

*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 were received from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. While space constraints limit our public acknowledgment only to those who made gifts of $100 or more, we thank all of the donors who made contributions.

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- Judy Hove ’93
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- William Rudd ’69
- Abby and Alex Poust, J.D. ’92
- Susan ’67 and Fredrick Platt ’70
- Suin and Mark O’Brien ’80
- Christine Herrick and John Barlow ’78
- United Way of King County
- Mary and Edward Sargent Jr.

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- Donald Joseph Rugg ’71
- Lyn and William Savage ’66
- Heidi Scharffenberg ’90
- Jane Selvig
- Florence and James Shephard ’80
- George ’58
- Stephanie Stafford ’68
- Holly Stern ’71 and
- Donald Prather
- Leslie and Michael Stone
- Astrid Tantillo ’85
- Ian Templeton ’67, M.A. ’70,
- Barbara Van-Gram ’87 and
- Chreren Gram ’86, J.D. ’90
- J. McGrroy Wagner and
- Todd Wagner ’87
- Christopher Walsh ’97
- Darcel Warren ’85 and
- Mark Reynolds
- Shirley Perez West ’88, M.S. ’95, and
- Stephen West
- Grace Gray and
- Benjamin White ’82
- Julie and Mike Whitmore ’80 and
- James Whitmore
- Cynthia Williams ’85
- Miles Wilson Jr., M.F.A. ’68
- Sheryl and Joseph Wonderlinc ’88
- Katherine Wood ’96
- Joann ’66
- Cynthia Wenks ’03, G.Cert. ’05,
- M.Ed. ’05 and
- Michal Young ’83

### Join the University’s Legacy Drive!

Please contact the Office of Gift Planning to let us know when you have included the Robert Donald Clark Honors College in your estate plan. Estate planning gifts include wills, living trusts, IRAs, life insurance, and life income gifts.

By informing us that you wish to support the honors college through your estate, you have the opportunity to be recognized by the college, as well as being made a member of the campuswide Arnold Bennett Hall Legacy Society.

You can contact us in the Office of Gift Planning by calling (541) 346-1687 or (800) 289-2354.
Class Notes

Joy Walker ’64 (French) recently retired from her position as a special education teacher for the New York public school system. However, Walker, who studied art at the Sorbonne, Columbia University, and New York Studio School, continues to enjoy her long career as a painter. Over the past thirty-two years Walker’s paintings and drawings have been included in scores of solo and group shows in Ontario and Quebec; Canada; Cannon Beach, Oregon; Austria; and numerous galleries in New York City. For a look at some of Walker’s work, go to www.newyorkartworld.com.

Peter Glazer ’70 (journalism) was installed as the ninety-third minister he presides over the 271-member organization for the year 2007–8. A native Oregonian, Glazer is a graduate of the University of Oregon School of Law. He teaches as a guest artist at the Trisha Brown Studio, as well as in residencies across the country—including summer teaching at Conduit in Portland.

Michael Boobnak ’77 (mathematics) was named the Richard G. Cornell Collegiate Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. After they send their youngest son off to college, Mike and his wife Betsy Foxman will be on sabbatical this year in California, South Carolina, France, and Italy.

Keith Keana ’91 (chemistry), wife Christy, and children six-year-old Madelyn and three-year-old Seth, make their home on the Colorado Front Range, where he is stationed at Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Plans and Programs Directorate, located at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is responsible for the integration of space launch and range issues into the Air Force budget. In June 2003, he was promoted to the rank of major in the United States Air Force and later awarded the Air Force’s 2003 Arthur S. Flemming award. Applied Science category, as the number one federal employee under forty.

Tiffany Mills ’92 (dance) continues to direct and choreograph for the Tiffany Mills Company, a modern dance company based in New York City. Recent highlights for the company include a collaboration with Japanese composer Ikue Mori and Cuban-born filmmaker Ela Troyano. This multidimensional work was featured in the company’s 2007 New York City season at Joyce SoHo and a tour to Contemporary Dance Theater (Ohio). Side-by-side with the company, Mills teaches as a guest artist at the Trisha Brown Studio, as well as in residencies across the country—including summer teaching at Conduit in Portland.

Ryan Coonerty ’96 (history) is the vice mayor of Santa Cruz and a lecturer in legal studies at the University of California–Santa Cruz. His first book, Etched in Stone, was published by National Geographic this spring. The book profiles fifty sites around the country where ideals, aspirations, and histories have been made permanent by engraving words into stone, including Portland’s Talking Sidewalk and Japanese American Historical Plaza.

Marisa Tabizon Thompson ’98 (religious studies) recently took a position as assistant director of donor relations for the University of Oregon.

Windy Borman ’03 (journalism) opened her own video production business, D.V.A. Productions, in February. Borman writes that after graduating in 2003 in journalism: electronic media and theater arts, she moved to New York City to teach drama and dance in the south Bronx as part of Teach for America. She earned her M.S.T. from Pace University and in July 2005 moved to San Francisco to work in video production. More information about her new venture is available at www.dvaproductions.com.

Sarah Koski ’06 (political science) is now working for the University of Oregon’s Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations.

Emily Casey ’07 (English), and Daniel Keller ’07 (planning, public policy and management), were married in Portland in June.

Tell Us Your News

The CHC community of scholars wants to hear from you. Please note changes in your address, employment, career development, professional activities, or personal life that you want to share with your classmates and colleagues.

Mail your information to: Scholar, Clark Honors College 1293 University of Oregon - Eugene, OR 97403 E-mail: hc-awards@uoregon.edu

Nominations Sought for Alumni Achievement Award

Once again Clark Honors College wants to honor the achievements of outstanding graduates. As it did last year, the Alumni Advisory Council will present an award to an honors college alumnus or alumna based on lifetime contributions to industry, to society, and to the betterment of the human condition.

Please help the council identify candidates for this award by nominating classmates who qualify as outstanding examples. Self nominations are welcome. Please use the form on the website at http://honors.uoregon.edu/alumni/awards. The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2008.

This year’s Alumni Achievement Award winner will be honored at the Spring 2008 convocation (May 9), and announced in the spring edition of the Scholar.

Alumni Awards Committee - Clark Honors College 1293 University of Oregon - Eugene, OR 97403
Email: hc-awards@uoregon.edu