

ALUMNI & FRIENDS | **September 2022**

The Emergence of Immersive Art



A Fall Event Series for Clark Alumni and Friends

This fall, Clark alumni & friends are invited to an immersive and interactive experience that transports guests into history, art, and fantasy realms. Attend an event with us in Chicago, Boston, or Denver, or join us for a Clark alumni reception!

After the immersive events, all alumni are invited to join us for a virtual panel discussion on Thursday, October 27. Dr. Paul D. Cotnoir, dean of The Becker School of Design & Technology, will facilitate the discussion, featuring Clark's Interactive Media: Game Design and Development program.

Click the links below for event details or to register.

Chicago

Immersive Monet & The Impressionists on Saturday, September 24

Clark Reception: 3-5 p.m. | Immersive Experience 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Boston

Beyond King Tut on Thursday, September 29

Immersive Experience: 6-7 p.m. | Clark Reception: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Denver

Meow Wolf on Sunday, October 2

Immersive Experience: 4-6 p.m. | Clark Reception 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Virtual Discussion on Thursday, October 27

6:30-7:30 p.m. (EDT)



**Save the Date for the Return of the
Cougar Challenge!**

October 19 – 21

The fourth annual Cougar Challenge is back this fall. This year, when we reach our goal of \$150,000, an anonymous donor will contribute an additional **\$100,000 to Clark Athletics**. Last year, more than 1,700 donors helped us to raise nearly \$275,000 for Clark Athletics and our varsity teams — let's do it again!

Stay tuned for more details!

If you'd like more information about how to set up a challenge or match for a specific team prior to the Challenge launch, please email nforgit@clarku.edu.



Back to School

On Thursday, August 25, Clark welcomed [the historic Class of 2026](#) to campus. Per Clark tradition, alumni volunteers were there to welcome the next generation of Clarkies and help them with move-in day. Many thanks to our alumni volunteers for making a difference for the Class of 2026 and their families.

On Monday, August 29, Clark seniors celebrated their last first-day-of-school with brunch in Tilton Hall, sponsored by The Clark Fund team. More than 250 seniors came by to raise a toast to their final year as undergrads. The event doubled as a recruitment opportunity for the Senior Class Gift Committee and the Student Alumni Relations Committee (SARC).



(left: Sasha Abby VanDerzee '00 and Summer L. Williams '01, M.A.Ed. '02 at "can i touch it?"; top middle: "can i touch it?" reception; bottom middle: Worcester Pride Week Wine Tasting; right: Professor Robert Tobin)

Affinity Group Updates

Clark Black Alumni Association

This July, the Clark Black Alumni Association (CBAA) and [Company One Theatre](#) (founded by six Clarkies) co-hosted a reception and viewing of “*can i touch it?*.” Written by Francisca Da Silveira and directed by Summer L. Williams '01, M.A.Ed. '02, “can i touch it?” examines Black hair politics, the racial inequities faced by Black-owned businesses, and creating social change.

Clark LGBTQ+ Alumni Association

To celebrate Worcester’s Pride Week, the Clark LGBTQ+ Alumni Association (CLAA) co-hosted a sold-out wine and cheese tasting last night at [Canal District Wines](#), owned by Rachel Scanlon '02, M.A.Ed. '03 and her wife Olivia. The group is also collaborating with campus partners on events celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month.

CLAA is also mourning the loss of [Professor Bob Tobin](#), a treasured, openly gay Professor who hosted the group’s first event last fall, a panel discussion on his research into Clark’s LGBTQ+ history. Professor Tobin was an enthusiastic collaborator, very generous with his time, and will be dearly missed. The University established the [Robert Tobin Memorial Fund](#) in his honor, which helps provide scholarships and defray the costs of student academic-related travel.

These alumni affinity groups are still growing and looking to expand their planning groups. If you’re interested in joining, please email alumni@clarku.edu or fill out this [brief form](#) to sign up for a mailing list.

ClarkCONNECT Communities

In addition to Clark’s alumni affinity groups, [ClarkCONNECT](#) now has three affinity communities alumni can join to help foster student mentoring and alumni networking within identity groups: BIPOC Clarkies, International Clarkies and LGBTQIA+ Clarkies. Login to your ClarkCONNECT account to [join these communities](#) within the platform.

Call for Volunteers:

Reunion Committees

If your undergraduate degree year ends in 3 or 8 – you’re headed for a milestone Reunion at

Clark! Help plan your celebration by volunteering on a reunion committee, encourage classmates to come back to campus for Reunion Weekend (May 19-21, 2023), and assist with class-specific programming.

International Student Career Support

International alumni can support and interact with current international students about post-graduation career development at a special event on Wednesday, November 16, from 4-6 p.m.

“Passport to Life After Clark,” held in Tilton Hall, will feature an alumni career panel and networking during International Education Week.

To learn more about either of these volunteer opportunities, please email

alumni@clarku.edu

Events in a City Near You

Starting with a successful alumni happy-hour reception in Seattle with President David Fithian '87 this past August, Alumni & Friends Engagement is hosting more gatherings and events in cities around the U.S. this year.

In addition to our Emergence of Immersive Art series, our Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Council is hosting “Welcome to the City” events for young alumni in [Washington, D.C.](#), [Boston](#), and [New York City](#). Click on your city for more info.

Want to suggest an alumni gathering or event in a major city near you – or are you willing to host one? Email us at alumni@clarku.edu.

Upcoming Events

Kimball Farm: Clark alumni, friends, and family are invited to Kimball Farms in Westford on Saturday, October 1. Enjoy a private area under the tent, the Great American BBQ, and an endless Ice Cream Buffet – plus access to mini golf, bumper boats, and more fun activities! **Please register by Wednesday, September 14.**

Visual & Performing Arts Department Fall Events: Check out the V&PA's fall lineup of events, several of which will be livestreamed.

Higgins School of Humanities: Alumni can attend a variety of public programs, including [Queer Comedy Presents](#), a series co-sponsored by Clark faculty members [Rox Samer](#) and [Liz Blake](#), which includes live streaming options. Follow Higgins on [social media](#) or sign up for the [Clark LGBTQ+ Alumni Association mailing list](#) to learn more!

Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies: Join the Strassler Center in person or virtually for their fall lecture series starting tonight, September 8 with a discussion featuring [Professor Frances Tanzer](#).

More Alumni & Friends Events

Get Involved

Join an alumni affinity group – Sign up for community-specific emails for the alumni affinity groups: the Clark Black Alumni Association (CBAA) and/or the Clark LGBTQ+ Alumni Association (CLAA), or suggest a new one!

Join ClarkCONNECT - You can play an important role in the career and professional development of Clark students by posting internships, jobs, and projects on the ClarkCONNECT platform. Share an opportunity and connect with 7000+ Clark alumni, students, and faculty, check out the [ClarkCONNECT Internships & Projects Guide](#), or reach out to the [Career Connections Center](#) at clarkconnect@clarku.edu.

Help us plan alumni events next year and beyond – The Alumni Council's Programming Committee will soon convene to plan an Alumni Speaker event series. This series will reflect Clark's academic strategy focus areas, which promote Clark as a destination university that provides a transformative liberal arts education and pursues research to address real-world problems. [Read more about Clark's strategy focus areas](#) or [send us your thoughts, ideas and contacts](#).

Support The Clark Fund – Making a gift to The Clark Fund helps current students and faculty as well as supporting alumni engagement activities.

Stay Connected



Make sure your contact information is up to date so you can stay in the know about Clark events, activities, and more!

[Update Your Information](#)

Share your News



Did you get a promotion? Get married? Write a book? We want to hear all about it, and your classmates do, too.

[Share Your News](#)

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