



## **GOLD Nuggets - October 2022**

### **Welcome (Back) to Clark**



When was the last time you were on Clark's campus? Do you miss being there?

Juliette Coatsworth '13, MBA '14, doubts she would have answered "yes" to those questions if she had been asked a few months ago. That is until this past August, when the Alumni and Friends Engagement team welcomed alumni volunteers back to campus to support families, students, and staff during the 2022 first-year Move-In Day.

Juliette was one of the lucky few who already had the time off, so she gladly made her way back to her alma mater.

[Read her experience here](#)

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## **Welcome to the City**

Last month, Clark's GOLD Council hosted Welcome to the City events in Boston, NYC, and Washington, D.C. to celebrate and connect with Clarkies in their communities.

[D.C. Clarkies](#) reconnected over apps and beers at Lucky Buns before enjoying the Adams Morgan Day festival, one of the city's biggest festivals. [Boston Clarkies](#) braved the traffic to meet up for a tour of Harpoon Brewery and then feasted on giant pretzels. And [GOLDies in NYC](#) snapped the most gram-worthy selfies at The Color Factory.

We loved meeting other GOLD alumni in these cities and can't wait to do it again next year!

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## Introducing New Council Members

We would like to recognize and welcome some new Clarkies to the [GOLD Council!](#)

- **Olivia Barksdale '19** majored in Environmental Science with a minor in Geography and is now a CR Stewardship Manager at Mass Audubon in Lincoln, MA.
- **Ben DiFilippi '21, MBA '22** majored in Media, Culture, and Arts with a minor in Management and recently graduated with his MBA. He now lives in New York, NY.
- **Parker Freedman '21** majored in Economics with a minor in Management. He now works as a Cash Flow Advisor with The Bulfinch Group in Needham, MA.
- **Anabel Riggio '22, MPA '23** majored in Sociology with a minor in Spanish. She currently works as a student caller for The Clark Fund while pursuing her master's degree in Public Administration and Cannabis Policy.



## Clark's Cougar Challenge Returns

The fourth annual Cougar Challenge starts at noon (EDT) on Wednesday, October 19 and ends at noon (EDT) on Friday, October 21.

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 contributed nearly \$275,000 — let's do it again!

Since 2019, the Cougar Challenge has provided essential funding to Clark's varsity teams, student-athletes, and coaches. The generosity of Cougar Challenge supporters allows coaches to purchase new gear and equipment, fund training trips, and so much more. Learn more at [clarkathletics.com/cougar\\_challenge](http://clarkathletics.com/cougar_challenge).



## LGBTQ+ ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### CLAA celebrates LGBTQ+ History Month

October is LGBTQ+ History Month and the [Clark LGBTQ+ Alumni Association \(CLAA\)](#) is celebrating in style!

Last month, during Worcester's pride week, the group enjoyed a [sold-out wine and cheese tasting](#) at alum-owned Canal District Wines. This month, the group is co-sponsoring an [Alumni and Friends Virtual Book Club](#) event with Clark's library, which features Dr. Rox Samer, professor of Visual and Performing Arts, and their new book, *Lesbian Potentiality and Feminist Media in the 1970s*. In addition, there are a variety of on-campus events commemorating the historic month for the LGBTQ+ community. [Check out the University event calendar to learn more!](#)

Both alumni affinity groups, CLAA and the Clark Black Alumni Association (CBAA) are currently looking for new members to help expand their reach and engage alumni. The planning groups meet monthly via Zoom to guide development and structure, determine programming, and help with promotion. If you are interested in getting involved, please fill out this [brief survey](#), or forward it to fellow alumni who might be a good fit.

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## Upcoming Events

- **[Alumni and Friends Virtual Book Club \(Oct. 19\)](#)** Join Clark's LGBTQ+ Alumni Association (CLAA), and Clark Libraries for "Between the Lines: A Clark Author Series" featuring a conversation with Dr. Rox Samer, professor of Visual and Performing Arts and their recent book, *Lesbian Potentiality and Feminist Media in the 1970s*.
- **[The Emergence of Immersive Art: Virtual Panel \(Oct. 27\)](#)** Dr. Paul D. Cotnoir, dean of The Becker School of Design and Technology, will facilitate this panel discussion, featuring Clark's Interactive Media: Game Design and Development Program and its place at the forefront of interactive media and the future of visual art.

- **Night Lights at Tower Hill with Clark Alumni and Friends (Dec. 1):** Join us for an enchanting evening filled with spectacular lights, awe-inspiring plants, and much winter wonderment! Reunite with the Clark community and celebrate the magic of the season at [New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill](#). This will be our fourth winter event at Tower Hill and has become a tradition for Clarkies of all ages. *Registration coming soon.*
- **See more upcoming events**

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## Get Involved

- **Update your info** - Make sure your contact information is up to date so you can receive exciting news and upcoming event information from Clark.
- **Share your ideas and feedback** - Please feel free to submit feedback, event ideas, and suggestions to the GOLD Council members.
- **Join an alumni affinity group** – The Clark Black Alumni Association (CBAA) and/or the Clark LGBTQ+ Alumni Association (CLAA) welcome you. [Sign up for community-specific emails](#).
- **ClarkCONNECT** - You can play an important role in the career and professional development of Clark students and alumni by posting internships, jobs, and projects on the ClarkCONNECT platform.
- **Support The Clark Fund** – Making a gift to The Clark Fund helps current students and faculty and also supports alumni engagement activities.

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950 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610  
Email: [alumni@clarku.edu](mailto:alumni@clarku.edu) | Phone: 800-793-6246

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