

DAR Speaker Series



The Clarkson Fund hosted its first ever "Speaker Series" lecture. The series, which was created by the DAR Office along with the Senior Class Gift Officers, was launched in response to a growing demand from students for more opportunities to engage and interact with Clarkson's distinguished Alumni and Trustees. It was clear communication could be improved in this area, and the series worked to do just that. By welcoming back notable alumni to share their personal stories and experiences with the students, we aim to inspire students to reach their full potential while also stressing the importance of giving back and staying connected to Clarkson long after graduation. The hope is that through these personal lectures from Alumni and Trustees, networking opportunities can be created and the spirit of generosity can be instilled within the students.

Trustee Mark Dzwonczyk, a self-made entrepreneur based in Silicon Valley and CEO of SLIC Network Solutions, was the first, of what will be many, noteworthy figures welcomed back to give a lecture to the student body. Held in the Student Center Forum, Mark shared his story of risk, triumph, and self-actualization before concluding his lecture with the inspiring message to follow your bliss; a sentiment extremely well-received by his audience.

The next speaker to take the podium was fellow Trustee Daniel Heintzelman, retired Vice Chairman of General Electric. Speaking to the importance of people, Dan emphasized the strong brand name Clarkson students before him and after him have created in the workforce, as he attributes much of his success to them. From there, he urged students to find a mentor, become a mentor, and have a strong drive to succeed that is equally met with a strong empathy for others. He concluded his speech by encouraging the students to work hard, do what it takes to get the task done, and through those efforts he ensured notoriety will come. Upon conclusion, Dan received the first ever Roundtable Society Award for his continued leadership and support of Clarkson University.

It was upon the conclusion of these lectures that students were invited to a networking reception where they could meet the speaker and ask questions. A lot of smiles were exchanged and even some business cards!

