

IN MEMORIAM: ERIK ANDERSON

Former Clark College instructor and cross country and track and field coach Erik Anderson died Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009.

Erik graduated from Clark College in 1994. As a student, he competed in both cross country and track and field events. He rejoined the Clark community in 2000 as a health and physical education instructor and coach. During his time at Clark, Erik received four nods as the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) coach of the year—twice for women’s cross country (2002 and 2003) and twice for track and field (2001 and 2003). Under his leadership, Clark’s women’s cross country team won the NWAACC titles in 2002 and 2003; the track and field team won the NWAACC title in 2003. Anderson, who taught physical education, was also honored for excellence in teaching as an Exceptional Faculty Award recipient for 2003-2004.

Erik left Clark in 2004 to coach and teach at Spokane Community College (SCC), where he served as head men’s and women’s cross country coach. At SCC, he has continued his legacy of excellence in coaching, garnering NWAACC coach of the year honors annually from 2004 to this past fall (2008).

“Erik was a wonderful person and indeed loved by his students and admired by his peers,” said Lori Jimerson, fiscal specialist at Clark College. “Long before our current use of the phrase, Erik was always ‘all about the student.’ It is saddening to know that we will all miss the sort of presence Erik brought.”

Erik maintained his connection with Clark College over the years, including participating in the annual K-Rod Run in memory of former student and award-winning track star Kalani Rodrigues, whom Erik recruited to Clark.

A memorial run/walk was held in Erik’s honor at the Clark College/Hudson’s Bay track at 6 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 25. Clark faculty, former teammates and friends, including members of SCC’s cross country team who traveled to Vancouver for the event, participated by walking, running or jogging for 14 minutes 52 seconds—Erik’s time on the very same track where he broke 15 minutes for a 5K run as a competitor for Clark. “It makes one realize just how much one individual can reach out and positively affect so many others in a community,” said biology and health occupations instructor Steve Woodley, who coordinated the memorial run.



Former Clark College health and physical education instructor, cross country and track and field coach Erik Anderson died Feb. 19, 2009. Anderson, who recruited Kalani Rodrigues to Clark, was the first-place finisher in the inaugural K-Rod Run in August 2005.