Edwin Aldrin '15 helped a nation look skyward alongside Goddard, Lindbergh, and a son named Buzz.
Clark students showed their true colors at the Holi celebration held during May’s “Go Green” sustainability festival.
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Eight Great Ways to Stay Connected to Clark
Visit clarkconnect.clarku.edu, the online community for Clark alumni, family and friends

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You’ve got the best of Clark.
Help us pass it on to the next generation.

To show your grit, make a gift at https://clarkconnect.clarku.edu/grit.

Be a Clarkie.

The magazine can be viewed online at: clarku.edu/clarkmagazine

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Letters to the editor are welcome.
Being a Clarkie is right for the times because global challenges require more than mere innovation and creativity. Issues of consequence demand what Clark cultivates in every student: grit, feistiness, unflinching courage and fearless imagination.

YOU’VE GOT THE BEST OF CLARK.
Help us pass it on to the next generation.

Be a Clarkie. Fund a Clarkie.

To show your grit, make a gift at https://clarkconnect.clarku.edu/grit.
Dear Alumni, Family, and Friends,

As I start my second year as president, I am thoroughly energized by the enthusiasm and exciting work that is visible around campus, and by the enormous potential of Clark University to meet the educational challenges of this new century. This past April the Board of Trustees approved a new strategic plan for Clark. Our plan lays out the steps we will take to elevate the reputation of Clark University as one of this country’s finest liberal arts universities and to enhance the resources available to Clark to realize this goal. The work we commit to together in this plan will propel Clark forward, unambiguously increasing the visibility and reputation of the University as a place of consequence in the world.

The cornerstone of our plan is Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP™), a set of initiatives that will establish Clark as the destination of choice for many highly talented and engaged undergraduate students. LEEP builds on the historic and distinctive strengths of Clark to offer a new model of liberal education for the 21st century, one in which our students will develop innovative, new approaches to tough problems; cultivate the wisdom and judgment to make good decisions; and build the resilience and creativity to translate ideas into action (to view a summary of the strategic plan visit clarku.edu/afplan; for more on LEEP, visit clarku.edu/leep).

Graduates of Clark whom I speak with across the country, both recent alumni and those from earlier decades, praise the quality of the educational experience at Clark and strongly believe that their liberal education has provided an excellent foundation for their lives, careers, and citizenship. Clark has always been firmly centered on the opportunities afforded to students by a high-quality liberal education delivered in the context of a small research university. Over the past decade we have invested in these core strengths, hiring a new generation of accomplished faculty, upgrading technology and facilities, and strengthening the campus life experience. With this strong foundation in place, it is time for us to act boldly and with urgency to advance liberal education. Our focus is on enhancing student learning. As in past decades, graduates will leave Clark with the knowledge, skills, habits of mind, and character needed to ensure their professional, personal, and civic accomplishments. LEEP will advance these skills and capabilities for the new opportunities and challenges facing our graduates in the workforce, in their communities, and in the world.

It is abundantly clear to me that the reputation of American universities in the new millennium will turn on our capacity to deliver enhanced learning outcomes for students. Colleges and universities that approach student learning with greater intentionality, rigor, and accountability will be well positioned to thrive in the coming decade. You and I know that we need graduates who are team-based problem solvers with imagination — leaders who can analyze risk and make thoughtful, confident, timely decisions in a fiercely competitive and demanding climate. Clark, through LEEP will lead the way.

Great strides have been made in recent years analyzing and documenting the types of experiences that best promote student learning. At Clark we are extending this commitment to rigorous analysis to all stages of the educational process, from how we admit students to the University, to assessment of student learning, through to how we can best support alumni in their critical years following graduation. You will read in the interview with Don Honeman, dean of admissions and financial aid (pg. 58), that Clark University has made the decision to become standardized-test optional in undergraduate admissions. We are doing so in large part because research has indicated that standardized admissions tests do not assess effectively and may overshadow in the admission process other capabilities that are critical to success in college, including such qualities as student engagement, work ethic, and individual responsibility.

Lastly, our focus in LEEP on learning outcomes reflects a commitment to documentation and accountability. In recent years a great deal of information has become available regarding what colleges and students actually do to accomplish educational goals. Using data from the National Survey of Student Engagement,
for example, we are learning much about such issues as how the level of participation of students in research at Clark University compares with that taking place at other liberal arts colleges and universities. Over time, I believe that we will see a shift toward greater availability of information on educational experiences and outcomes, increased consideration of these data by prospective students and parents in the college search process, and ultimately a trend toward measuring the reputations of universities on the basis of documented educational outcomes. These trends in my view will serve Clark students well and more broadly address the educational needs of our country and our world.

Our goal is nothing less than making Clark a national leader in liberal education, a university with an enhanced international reputation for excellence. We will accomplish this goal only with your engagement and support. A central part of our LEEP initiative is the adoption of a new model of alumni engagement, one in which alumni are full stakeholders in our goals, plans, and action initiatives. Starting with this issue of CLARK alumni magazine, I invite you to learn more about Clark and LEEP and to think about the ways in which you can join with us in accomplishing an exciting shared vision for our great University.

Sincerely,

David P. Angel
President

The LEEP effect

Clark’s innovative and developmental approach to liberal education combines the essential learning outcomes developed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities with a new learning outcome uniquely focused on effective practice.

Foundational Liberal Educational Skills and Capacities

1. Knowledge of the Natural World and Human Cultures and Societies — including foundational disciplinary knowledge and the ability to employ different ways of knowing the world in its many dimensions.

2. Intellectual and Practical Skills — including inquiry and analysis, the generation and evaluation of evidence and argument, critical and creative thinking, written and oral communication, quantitative literacy, information literacy, teamwork and problem solving.

3. Personal and Social Responsibility — including ethical reasoning and action, the intercultural understanding and competence to participate in a global society, civic knowledge and engagement locally as well as globally, and the lifelong habits of critical self-reflection and learning.

4. Ability to Integrate Knowledge and Skills — including synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies, bridging disciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking, and connecting the classroom and the world.

Clark’s Defining Contribution: The Capacities of Effective Practice

5. Capacities of Effective Practice — including creativity and imagination, self-directedness, resilience and persistence, and the abilities to collaborate with others across differences and to manage complexity and uncertainty.
The President and the Astronaut

In the past year I conducted two interviews that thrilled me for very different reasons, one offering a brush-with-greatness moment with an American icon, the other a final chance to learn about one of Clark University’s signature leaders.

Buzz Aldrin will be ever known as the second man to walk on the moon, and he’s something of a character to boot (gyrating your 80-year-old hips on “Dancing with the Stars” will net you that reputation). He’s also the son of a Clark grad, Edwin Eugene Aldrin Sr. ’15, an aviation pioneer in his own right who cultivated friendships with rocket inventor — and Clark physics professor — Robert Goddard, Charles Lindbergh and Orville Wright, and who became an ace pilot at a time when the notion of men being airborne was still more sorcery than science for many.

After about a month of requests to his media handlers, I was able to snag a 45-minute phone interview with the former astronaut for this issue’s cover story. Aldrin covered the waterfront during our conversation; his reputation for unvarnished honesty is well earned. He didn’t hesitate to tell me about his struggles with depression and alcohol — which he’s chronicled in two memoirs — nor about his mother’s suicide, which he attributed to the pressures that his world-wide celebrity brought on his family.

When he veered off topic to recall his days at NASA or offer his views on the state of the space program, I made a few fumbling attempts to bring him back to the subject of his father, until a voice in my head forced me to acknowledge a very important truth: Buzz Aldrin is talking to you about space exploration. Shut up and listen.

Former Clark President Richard Traina looked and sounded frail when colleague Melissa Hoffmann ’95 and I sat down with him in his Charlton, Mass., home in early January, just three months before his death from prostate cancer. He’d been battling the disease for 10 years, long outliving his prognosis, and, while weakened, he was not in pain, which astounded his doctors. President Traina was aware this would be his final interview and that his recorded recollections would accompany a slideshow about his life and career that we planned to post on the Clark website after he’d passed.

He couldn’t have been more gracious. Sitting in a comfortable chair in his living room, President Traina recalled the circumstances that brought him to Clark and the challenges that faced him once he arrived. Chief among them was the job of healing an often contentious relationship between the University and the Main South neighborhood.

Richard Traina is rightly lauded for his overarching vision for Clark, but he humbly recalled that some of the most significant actions he took to knit Clark to Main South were also some of the most basic: build more student housing to reduce noise complaints, carve out more parking spaces to ease congestion, and relocate the president’s home address from the Elm Park area a couple of miles away to Woodland Street, in the heart of the neighborhood to which he’d committed the talents of himself, wife Polly, and the wider Clark community.

This was Clark history being delivered from the mouth of the man who’d made it, a lesson from a trained historian whose extraordinary recall was supported by the clean, concise storytelling that marks a natural teacher. And so I realized, yet again, that when great men speak, all you really need do is shut up and listen.

To hear an audio interview with Richard Traina, visit clarku.edu/traina. A story about the former president can be found on page 34.

// Please email me at jkeogh@clarku.edu with your comments, suggestions, letters to the editor and, most importantly, your story ideas. All are welcome.
Clifford Trott story inspired

I thought the article on Clifford Trott in the last issue was the best article I’ve ever read not just in a Clark alumni magazine, but in any similar publication (I’ve seen a few). Great job! Congratulations on the new look.

Neal Meyerson ’74
Rockville, Md.

In Kenya in 1965, Clark’s reputation boosted my salary as a “Teacher Education in East Africa” fellow. An M.A. was regarded by the Ministry of Education as an automatic, meaningless award as some apparently similar British degrees were considered. Keith Hardiman, supervisor of teacher training, corrected that when he noted that Clark master’s degrees were awarded only for genuine scholarly achievement. Dick Ford and Saul Cohen, among other valued professors, had far-reaching influence. Thanks, Clark.

And teaching at the college level in Kenya for several years led me back to Clark for the doctorate. Thanks again.

Reed F. Stewart, M.A. ’63, Ph.D. ’86
Professor emeritus, geography and anthropology
Bridgewater (Mass.) State University

I hate to admit that over the years about the only parts of the alumni magazine I have ever read are the class notes. But I did read the piece on Clifford Trott in the last issue and found his story to be inspiring. Reading about his experiences and choices reminded me of the importance of living our values. Thank you to Clark for sharing his story — and to Clifford for living it.

Joyce Greenleaf ’85, M.B.A. ’86
Southborough, Mass.

I wanted to compliment you on the recent edition of the CLARK alumni magazine. Not only has the initial quality of the touch and feel of the publication increased, but the design, content, and organization of the periodical has reached new levels for the institution.

As a marketing professional and alumnus I commend the efforts of the entire staff in making this a publication worth investing my time to digest.

Kudos, and with my thanks as an alumn!

Patrick Davis ’00
Orange, Mass.
Wrock of ages

Joe DeGeorge ’10 has been busier than a snitch in a Quidditch match since he and his older brother Paul conjured up the band Harry and the Potters nine years ago.

Just as the final Potter movie entered theaters in July, the band wrapped up a multi-city summer tour capped by a sold-out, live-streamed concert at the famed Knitting Factory in Brooklyn. The tour was dubbed “Ride the Lightning” and, looking back, Joe DeGeorge still marvels at his amazing ride.

Since Harry and the Potters’ first appearance — in 2002 in their backyard in Norwood, Mass. — the DeGeorge duo has pioneered a new musical genre called wizard rock, or “wrock”; traveled the world while entertaining a loyal following among fans of the Harry Potter books and movies; been featured in major media from the L.A. Times to TIME magazine; played in 49 U.S. states (Hawaii awaits) and in Europe; entertained an audience of more than 10,000 at Harvard Yard; and been featured on a Trivial Pursuit card in Sweden.

There have been many more milestones along the way. (Check out harryandthepotters.com.)

The offspring of the Harry Potter books, from the films to DeGeorge’s band, constitutes “a pop-cultural phenomenon not rivaled by anything in the past,” he insists. DeGeorge quickly adds that “it’s always been more about the books than the movies. It’s an excuse for people to scream about a book, which is pretty cool.” Clark friends have been supportive all along, he says, noting that Jacob Nathan ’10, M.S.P.C. ’11 backed the band on drums for much of the summer tour.

Harry and the Potters proudly promotes literacy as well as social activism. Paul DeGeorge co-founded the nonprofit Harry Potter Alliance, which has enchanted Potter author J.K. Rowling herself with its enormously successful civic engagement campaigns. Joe DeGeorge talks excitedly about the Alliance’s recent campaign to ensure that Harry Potter products, such as a line of chocolates, use fair-trade products and practices. The band’s own Wizard Rock EP of the Month Club has raised more than $50,000 for literary-based nonprofit organizations.

Although Potter-mania will certainly fade, DeGeorge’s creative energy seems tireless. At Clark, he majored in physics with a math minor. “What drew me to Clark were the research opportunities for undergrads no matter what field you entered into,” he says, “and that you’d have a close working relationship with your professors.” He sees a connection between his academic and musical lives. “In our band we have certain restrictions; we can only write songs about Harry Potter, but we try to be as creative as possible. In the world of research and science, you have to be creative in that confined space limited by physical laws.” As an undergraduate in 2009, he was featured in a PBS/NOVA series called “Secret Lives of Scientists.”

Will Harry Potter’s legacy persevere with his “muggle” fans? “I never met anybody who’s too old for Harry Potter,” DeGeorge says. “This generation I’ve grown up in has grown up alongside Harry Potter. J.K. Rowling did a great job of recognizing that her audience was maturing with her writing. The series’ themes get heavier and the characters get more and more interesting and complex.”

DeGeorge continues to play in concept bands and is working on a self-published comic series he describes as a “punk rock fantasy about a time-traveling band.” Whether he pursues science or publishing, music will always provide a creative outlet. He laughingly recalls a jaded bartender working at a Harry and the Potters performance venue who told the brothers, “I don’t give a damn about Harry Potter. Your band was really good.”
Wit happens

If one man’s trash is another man’s treasure, then the Clark Recycling Center was the University’s Fort Knox. Located in a once-stately home at 5 Hawthorne St., the center opened in the early 1990s and became the halfway house for literally tons of stuff waiting to be repurposed. As a hand-scribbled sign hanging on a wall quipped, “Give us your poor, your tired, your plastics 1-7.”

Unfortunately, 5 Hawthorne St. had seen better decades, and on Aug. 10 the structure was demolished, with Clark’s recycling operations relocated to new digs at 501 Park Ave. Pieces of the old recycling center are themselves being recycled; Preservation Worcester salvaged elegant woodwork and hardware, and a Clark student group pulled some lumber with the hopes of fashioning campus recycling bins.

Lost for good, though, are the nearly 20 years of newspaper clippings, graffiti, defaced photos of random celebrities (take that, William Shatner!), student IDs, bad poetry and worse jokes that were either scrawled or posted on the walls in a time capsule/avant-garde art mash-up. Few student recyclers seemed capable of passing through the house without staking claim to a small patch of plaster board or exposed wood and leaving something there for posterity, or just to get a laugh.

Emerging from the mist of the ’90s were hanging Rolling Stone covers of the “X-Files,” a pre-pirate Johnny Depp, pre-Cruise Katie Holmes and pre-death Kurt Cobain. A student with a Sharpie recorded the happy message, “Feb. 23, 1999, 5:20 p.m. David Kelly finds a $100 bill in the paper bin.” Below it on the same wall was the rejoinder: “9/13/04 – Joe and Mike find 20 cents.” Apparently, times had gotten that much tougher.

A magazine advertisement stapled to the wall practically screamed the attributes of the “Bulgin’ Belly Burner — As Seen on TV!” and a front page of the Worcester Telegram & Gazette proclaimed “Hallelujah” in celebration of the Red Sox’s 2004 World Series victory. Letters from parents to their Clarkie offspring, discarded license plates, original limericks, and stenciled etchings all added to the do-it-yourself decor.

Can the new center ever hope to exhibit as much personality as its predecessor? As long as there is paper, glass and plastics 1-7 (and beyond), and a few imaginative Clark students with some time to kill, the odds are pretty good that it will.

View from the top

According to rankings by the National Research Council, the doctorate program at Clark’s Graduate School of Geography is one of the best in the nation.

In April 2011, the NRC released an update to its Data-Based Assessment on Research Doctorate Programs in the United States, a complex and long-anticipated assessment first published in September 2010. Clark ranks first in one of four aggregate categories, along with UCLA, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the University of California at Santa Barbara. Clark is placed at 4th, 9th and 10th in the other ratings groups.

Clark also stands out among the 49 geography doctoral programs evaluated in the NRC report as the only top-10 department that is housed within a liberal arts research university, and as one of a small number of departments that sustains a balanced program of research and education across the full breadth of the discipline.

As the country’s oldest sustained geography doctoral program, Clark Geography has granted the largest number of doctoral degrees in the United States and is consistently ranked among the top programs, retaining its reputation in various polls and peer-review rankings. School of Geography Director Anthony Bebbington is the latest of five geographers to be a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences while appointed at Clark.

The NRC assessment is based on a variety of data, including faculty research funding, publications, faculty composition, program size, and others. The doctoral programs assessed were scored within two major categories: peer-to-peer survey assessment and objective categories. The updated NRC report also ranks Clark among the top in a number of objective categories, including percentage of students with external fellowships, average number of Ph.D. graduates, percentage of international students, diversity, faculty performance and awards, research activity, and citations per faculty publication.
DURING his spring semester astronomy class, Physics Professor Charles Agosta demonstrated that Clark has the capability to view worlds light years beyond our own, as well as the atomic universe at our fingertips — all within a single class period.

Employing the University’s new radio telescope, installed on the roof of the Sackler Science Center, and new scanning tunneling microscope located in the building, Agosta determined the rotation of the Milky Way galaxy, while simultaneously imaging carbon atoms in graphite at distances of one angstrom. The presentation illustrated how forces at the atomic scale have influenced the structure of the universe. Agosta noted that by using the telescope to measure distances of 50,000 light years, and the microscope to measure an angstrom (a tenth of a billionth of a meter), the result may have been the largest span in measurements ever made in the same room.

Both pieces of equipment were purchased with funding from the Sherman Fairchild Foundation’s Scientific Equipment Program. Clark also acquired several other pieces of equipment using foundation money, including a thermo-imaging camera and sophisticated scanners that use radioactive isotopes to study DNA.

Clark received the Sherman Fairchild grant totaling nearly $500,000 in 2008. The University is required to make its expenditures within five years.

“Clark is grateful for the generous funding provided by the Sherman Fairchild Foundation for scientific imaging equipment that has invigorated our science programs by fostering integrated learning opportunities and interdisciplinary research collaborations for faculty and students,” said Nancy Budwig, associate provost and dean of research.

Budwig, a learning and developmental scientist by training, noted that the Fairchild funds are unusual in that they allow Clark’s renowned science faculty to work together across disciplinary boundaries, drawing upon state-of-the-art imaging equipment to build a carefully sequenced curriculum that explicitly engages students in research in increasingly sophisticated ways.

We’ve always thought that Clark is a pretty cool place, and now Sierra magazine has confirmed it. The official publication of the Sierra Club released its fifth annual rankings of the nation’s top 20 “Coolest Schools” that are helping to solve climate issues and operate sustainably, and Clark came in at number 17, the only Massachusetts school to earn a spot on the list. The feature spotlights the schools that are making a true impact for the planet (the complete list is available online at sierramagazine.com/coolschools). Clark boasts a wide array of sustainability initiatives, from the Climate Action Plan to the Eco-Reps program to the cogeneration plant. “When students take what they’ve learned in the classroom and proceed to get their hands dirty in the real world, they realize the potential they have to make a difference,” said Bob Sipchen, Sierra magazine editor-in-chief. The Sierra honor follows on the heels of Clark’s Graduate School of Management being voted one of the top “green” business schools in the nation by Entrepreneur magazine and The Princeton Review for its M.B.A. offerings in areas such as finance and sustainability, greening the corporation, and energy management.
Who’s your WooDaddy?

FOR 164 HOURS A WEEK, Moynihan’s Pub and Restaurant is your basic neighborhood bar/eatery. But from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Sunday, 897 Main St. is transformed into WooDaddy Waffles, your friendly local exotic brunch destination.

Walk into Moynihan’s and you get the instant impression that WooDaddy is like nothing Worcester has ever seen. For $7, customers can order frisbee-sized waffles that practically hang over the edge of a dinner plate, some covered with black beans, fried eggs and salsa (a.k.a. “Waffles Rancheros”), others served with southern-style fried chicken. A whiff from a Jack Daniels bottle reveals that it contains maple syrup, not the hard stuff.

On a recent Sunday, co-owner Zaliah Zalkind worked the griddle while business partner Sarah Herold bustled around in her sneakers and fancy get-up, her face adorned with glitter, attending to customers. WooDaddy Waffles typically draws up to 130 patrons who enjoy innovative breakfast creations the two have dreamed up. Their hand-drawn menu boasts an extensive list of unconventional vegan options, although meat-eaters can take comfort in knowing pork sausage, bacon and chicken are available. The menu is constantly evolving to include specials such as lentil curry waffles, BBQ waffles, and “Gravity,” a waffle that mixes zucchini and raisins.

Zalkind and Herold, who refer to themselves as “Cooportunistas,” started WooDaddy approximately five months after receiving their master’s degrees in community development from Clark in May 2010.

While they were at Clark, Moynihan’s became a home away from home for Herold (who also bartends there), a New Jersey resident, and Zalkind, originally from Arizona. It didn’t take long for the two to notice the place had an unutilized kitchen that was oozing with potential.

“Having been on the search for a meaningful project, an income, and a way to maintain life in job-sparse Worcester, we started WooDaddy after being offered the space and free range to run food operations out of Moynihan’s,” Zalkind says.

“A large part of our thinking on WooDaddy is around access to food as well as community participation and engagement,” he says. “WooDaddy is a hybrid organization that helps lots of people, myself included, to engage with critical issues of food, sustainability and responsibility. It’s emblematic of the new wave of social entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility.”

Herold and Zalkind are all about community focus and social justice. The WooDaddy owners proudly use ingredients grown by local farmers, and they donated food for the Green Solidarity Economic Conference this summer. Occasionally they even supply Food Not Bombs with their leftovers.

The duo hold a monthly potluck dinner at Moynihan’s on the third Thursday of every month. Community members come with homemade recipes, and WooDaddy supplies a big salad and an entree. The meal is free to the general public and attracts 75 to 100 guests. Donations help defray costs.

“I am committed to Worcester,” Herold says. “There are amazing communities here that I deeply love and care about. This city is magical and the people here are beautiful and committed to surviving and building.

“I hear a lot of stories at the bar about this city years ago, and I think of how each person around the bar represents a story weaving together Worcester’s anthology. I want to be part of that story. Anything is possible here.”

WooDaddy caters community and social events in the Worcester area, or you can sample the brunch any Sunday you’re in the city. Check out their menu at woodaddywaffles.com.

VERBATIM

Enclosed is a check for $250.00.

The reasons for my generosity are:

1. You called me.
2. You really can use the money now.
3. I approve of what you are doing.
4. You’re my son and I love you.

Keep up the good work.

DADDY

From a 1996 letter taped to the wall at the Clark Recycling Center
LONG-AWAITED U.S. CENSUS 2010 figures released last spring showed that the electoral map of Massachusetts — what a news columnist referred to as “bizarrely contorted districts formed by decades of cynical political engineering” — had to be redrawn to include only nine congressional districts instead of the existing 10. Easier said than done.

But a group of Clark students proved that it could be done, fairly, independently, and with only a modicum of cynicism.

In a project bridging college-based research and real-world problem-solving, students taking the spring-semester course “Congressional Districting: The Geography of Politics” were asked by co-instructors James Gomes, director of the Mosaicowski Institute for Public Enterprise, and Robert Boatright, associate professor of political science, to use the new census data and Clark’s Geographic Information Systems mapping technology to construct maps that, in the students’ judgment, would best serve the interests of the entire commonwealth, as opposed to a “gerrymander” that would favor one party, interest, or incumbent rather than another.

The students submitted five maps to the co-chairs of the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting at the State House in Boston.

The Clark course was included in “10 College Classes That Impact the Outside World,” a U.S. News & World Report feature on classes allowing students to “gain significant real-world experience before they graduate.”

Gomes said the students’ testimony supports the argument that independent commissions, armed with modern computer software and data, can do a “good, sensitive job at this task. Not necessarily better than what politicians do, but different.” For example, he said, the Clark students tended to pay less attention to incumbency protection or partisan gerrymandering than legislatures typically do.

This year’s redistricting is the first where citizens could learn how to use the same mapmaking software that legislators are using, Boatright said. “Our intention in teaching the course was to see whether students would be able to make the same sorts of careful decisions that legislators make. Our students showed that there is now the potential for redistricting to be far more democratic and open than it once was.”

Many of the students attended the state legislative committee’s regional hearing on redrawing districts, held on campus in April.

“We examined theories of representation, judicial precedent, demographic data and contemporary politics,” Adam Schulman ‘11 said of the project, “and it felt rewarding to apply this knowledge with the use of GIS. ... I think this combination of practical and theoretical work will serve me well in government.”

Building a better map

Cummings and goings

James Dempsey, M.A. ’78, a retired newspaper columnist and a part-time English instructor at Clark, stirred up a bit of a hornet’s nest in May when he published an article about the long-running correspondence between poet E.E. Cummings and his friend Scofield Thayer, publisher of the important literary magazine The Dial. In his research about their relationship, Dempsey uncovered a lost Cummings poem from 1916 that employed a racially charged epithet six times. Dempsey argued that the use of the word was very much a product of Cummings’ times and he didn’t ascribe a particularly racist context to its use. That didn’t stop a Slate.com writer from proclaiming the poem “reeeaaaallaaa troublesome!!” in a piece bearing the provocative headline: “Was E.E. Cummings a racist?” On his popular blog at the Chicago Sun-Times, famed film critic/culture writer Roger Ebert dissected the Cummings poem, noted the poet’s history of expressing outrage at the discrimination of African Americans, and backed Dempsey’s assertion that while the term in question is ugly and offensive, it was a more common part of the lexicon in Cummings’ day than we’d like to admit. Dempsey is putting the finishing touches to the biography “Tortured Excellence: The Life of Scofield Thayer.”
FROM THE PODIUM

Caught in the middle
Esteemed political scientist David Lake ’78 offered a bracing analysis of the United States’ role in the Middle East when he delivered the Harrington Lecture in April. The United States is in the difficult position of trying to build states “that are legitimate to their own people and loyal to the U.S.,” Lake said. “In the Middle East today, it’s likely you can have one, but not both.” To inspire fealty, the U.S. props up weak leaders who don’t engender confidence in their own people. Even if President Obama were able to put a stable regime in place in Afghanistan, the insurgents would simply move elsewhere, leaving the U.S. to chase them around the globe. “Insurgents can bleed the U.S. dry,” he said. “Our current strategy is unsustainable.”

Vocal politics
Political commentator and Democratic strategist Donna Brazile mixed keen-eyed observations about the state of the nation with often humorous personal anecdotes to help Clark celebrate Black History Month. From the stage in Razzo Hall, Brazil recalled her path from humble beginnings to become the first African-American woman to manage a presidential campaign, for Al Gore in 2000. Drawing on Martin Luther King’s allusion to reaching the “promised land,” Brazile said, “Our work is not done. We haven’t finished the revolution we started here.” She urged students to become change agents for their country, and to do it now, “because tomorrow isn’t soon enough.”

Truth to power
“Democracy Now!” radio and television host Amy Goodman minced no words and took no prisoners in a rousing keynote presentation that helped Clark’s International Development, Community and Environment department celebrate its 10-year anniversary. She described much of the current media as “some small circle of pundits who know so little about so much explaining the world for us, and getting it so wrong.” The nation needs a press “that covers power, not covers for power … [that] covers movements that create static and make history.” Goodman said the prevalence of corporate-owned and -influenced news outlets (“brought to us by oil companies, coal companies, the nuclear power industry”) has led to a “silenced majority.”

Making waves
“Now is a pivotal time not only for the Gulf Coast but the entire planet,” Jane Lubchenco told a packed house in Tilton Hall at the April 5 Geller Lecture. The administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration expressed hope the environment will stay healthy despite the Deep Water Horizon oil spill, global climate change and the release of radioactive iodine into the sea off the coast of Japan. Lubchenco warned that partisan discord over the budget could jeopardize the replacement of a polar satellite in Alaska, threatening the ability to do weather forecasting and hurricane predictions. “We must make decisions on likely conditions in the future, not the past and not today,” Lubchenco said.

Dear Prof. Ross, About your book...

Earlier this year, sociology Professor Robert J.S. Ross received an intriguing email from a Norwegian heavy-metal band’s lead guitarist:

“My name is Torfinn Sirnes and I am the guitar player in a Norwegian rock band accidentally called Slaves to Fashion,” the message began. “I just found out about your book on your website, not knowing we actually named our band the same as your book. It is pure coincidence and I’m very sorry about that.”

While searching for online reviews of their latest album, Sirnes noted Ross’ domain name slavesofashion nearly mirrored the band’s (except it’s .org for Ross and.net for the band). Sirnes’ gracious note also came with an offer to make amends — for a song. He expressed sincere interest in Ross’ field of study and the book’s focus on poverty and abuse in modern sweatshops. Sirnes asked for a copy to help him craft lyrics to accompany music he has already written. Ross complied and added some encouragement: “I am a fan of topical folk and labor songs (e.g. Woody Guthrie) so go for it with the song!”

Tickled by a brief news pitch about the exchange, The Chronicle of Higher Education’s Don Troop interviewed Ross and Sirnes and wrote a feature article titled, “Hey, You Got Your Heavy Metal in My Monograph!” Troop discovered that “Sirnes, who teaches high school classes between gigs at mid-size clubs in Norway and Germany, has a master’s degree in modern history.” A sidebar included other cases of rock band-scholarly book doppelgangers. Soon, perhaps, scholars and rock fans alike will be moved by the band’s musical release about Ross’s primary focus as a scholar/activist — the world’s real slaves to fashion.
FROM CLARK TO THE MOON

Edwin Aldrin ’15 helped a nation look skyward alongside Goddard, Lindbergh, and a son named Buzz

BY JIM KEOGH
ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN RITTER
Can you hear me alright? There's a little bit of street noise here.

Buzz Aldrin — moonwalker, author, dancer with the stars — is talking on his cell phone outside a busy Los Angeles restaurant, battling the drone of cars whipping by him. But his voice is clear and strong, and besides, he's in the mood to talk. His media representative had allotted fifteen minutes of conversation with the 81-year-old former astronaut; Aldrin will give forty-five.

What's intrigued him this day is the topic: his father Edwin Eugene Aldrin Sr., Clark University Class of 1915. While Buzz Aldrin earned a headliner in history as the second man to walk on the moon, Aldrin Sr. was himself an aviation pioneer who criss-crossed the country by air and broke bread with some of American history's most galvanizing figures of flight. He studied physics under Clark Professor Robert Goddard, the Father of Modern Rocketry, and drank with Howard Hughes at The Wings Club in Manhattan when the billionaire industrialist was building cutting-edge aircraft and making fighter-pilot movies.

Edwin Aldrin counted among his friends airplane inventor Orville Wright, and Jimmy Doolittle, whose squadron of B-25s conducted the bombing of Tokyo in 1942, known forever as Doolittle's Raid. His son also contends that Edwin arranged a fateful meeting involving another acquaintance, Charles Lindbergh, that helped usher in the very Space Age that would turn Buzz into an American icon.

The history books recount that Goddard, who taught physics at Clark for 29 years, was scrounging for the money needed to continue his revolutionary rocket experiments. News of his plight reached Lindbergh, who visited Goddard in Worcester. Convinced of the scientist's vision that a rocket could one day travel to the moon, Lindbergh prevailed upon the Guggenheim family to finance Goddard's experiments through the Guggenheim Foundation for the Promotion of Aeronautics. With funding finally in hand, Goddard in 1930 was able to take an extended leave from his Clark post and head for the open desert of Roswell, New Mexico, to work on his test rockets.

Buzz Aldrin offers an expanded version of the story.
“Dad was aware in the mid-1920s that Goddard needed funding for his rocket work,” Aldrin says. “He knew Guggenheim had a lot of money, but it was obvious that Guggenheim wouldn’t know who Eddie Aldrin was. So Eddie went to Charles Lindbergh and asked him to put in a good word with Harry Guggenheim. He did, and Goddard got his funding. Everyone thinks it was Lindbergh who did all that, but it was really Dad who saw the need.”

Understandably, Edwin Eugene Aldrin’s Clark senior yearbook profile offers no clues that he would seek a life largely spent in the skies. The Wright brothers had made the first powered airplane flight at Kitty Hawk only 12 years earlier, and aside from the World War I exploits of ace fighter pilots, the notion of being airborne still seemed an outlandish prospect.

The Worcester native, who was nicknamed “Shrimp” for his diminutive size, majored in German as an undergraduate, was a member of the Kappa Phi fraternity, performed in the play “The Enemy of the People” and pulled the trigger for the Senior Rifle Team. His profile describes a young man teeming with “good humor and optimism” who never seemed ill at ease, and it takes a good-natured poke at his study habits: “He has never become thin with over-study or worn away his expansive smile with too much strenuous work.” Aldrin played along. “Life is too short and art is too long,” he wrote in the yearbook, “for the over-consumption of my grey matter.”

The truth is that Edwin Aldrin was driven. Following graduation he studied math and physics — Goddard was his professor in 1915/16 — at Clark and Worcester Polytechnic Institute before earning his doctorate in aeronautical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Decades later, Buzz would also enroll at MIT, becoming the first astronaut to hold a doctorate. (Buzz Aldrin notes his own advanced education did not endear him to the other astronauts, and he consistently earned low scores in NASA’s peer-rating system. “Here was this egghead from MIT without test-pilot
THE WRITE STUFF

Artifacts often travel great distances to reach their final destinations in university collections. But 238,857 miles? (Or 477,714 miles roundtrip.)

Such is the mileage on a credit card-sized book titled “Robert Hutchings Goddard — Father of the Space Age,” the autobiography of the rocket pioneer and longtime Clark professor. The handsome leather-bound tome with gold-leaf edging, acknowledged as the first book ever flown to the moon, is part of Clark University’s collection.

So how did it land here?

The story begins with Worcester publisher Achille St. Onge, who produced specialty miniature books that were typically about three by two inches in size, weighed only a few ounces, and fetched as much as $100 apiece at auction houses. Prior to the July 16, 1969, moon launch, St. Onge mailed astronaut Buzz Aldrin two copies of the Goddard book with a request that Aldrin take them to the moon with him, leaving one copy on the lunar surface and returning with the second.

In a September 26, 1969, letter to St. Onge, reprinted in the Summer 1971 issue of the Goddard Library newsletter The Goddard Bibliography Log, Aldrin noted the books were flown to the moon aboard Apollo 11. Since the astronauts were not allowed to leave items on the surface, the volumes made the return trip to earth with Aldrin. He later gave a copy to Esther Goddard, the widow of Robert Goddard, who donated the book to Clark’s library. The book was presented in a frame with an American flag and an astronaut’s shoulder patch also taken to the moon.

The Bibliography Log recounts the book’s journey in response to a March 1971 United Press International story that claimed the first book taken from earth to the moon was a copy of the Bible on microfilm, carried by Captain Edgar D. Mitchell aboard Apollo 14 in 1970. Because Aldrin had slipped the Goddard book into a pocket without thinking to inform NASA, the nonofficial cargo had not been recorded, hence the confusion. Eventually, the UPI reached Aldrin, who confirmed that Goddard’s autobiography made the maiden voyage with him. Aldrin reconfirmed the story in a conversation with CLARK alumni magazine in June.

“Robert Hutchings Goddard — Father of the Space Age” is kept in a vault in the Goddard Library but can be viewed upon request. -J.K.
training working with the instructors who were teaching these hot-shots. Clearly my group did not put me at the top of their list,” he says.

In 1917, Edwin Aldrin was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Coast Artillery, but transferred to the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps where, Buzz says, “he bootstrapped his way into learning how to fly.” The Aviation Section was later designated as the Army Air Service, then the Air Corps, and finally the U.S. Air Force.

One of his early assignments was chief of the School Section of the Engineering Division at McCook Field in Dayton, Ohio, where he met Orville Wright. Aldrin served as commandant at the Air Force Engineering School, which became the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Throughout the 1920s and '30s, Edwin Aldrin earned a reputation as a skilled aviator at a time when flying an airplane was such a rare pursuit that it was considered by many as the sole province of daredevils and barnstormers. Aldrin was a judge at the Cleveland National Air Races that attracted the best pilots in the U.S. to compete in a variety of airborne competitions, including a cross-country race. In 1929, he set a U.S. cross-country record, flying from Glendale, Calif., to Newark, N.J., in 15 hours and 45 minutes, surpassing the old mark by three hours. He later flew to Germany aboard the Hindenburg, and as young Buzz would delight in telling his friends, his father predicted that the famous zeppelin would one day crash, which it did in spectacular fashion in 1937 in Lakehurst, N.J.

The elder Aldrin’s reputation spanned continents. A story in the Worcester Sunday Telegram tells of an incident in 1930 in which two French aviators, on a goodwill flight to Cleveland, dropped a silk American flag over the WPI campus. The flag was wrapped in paper, which was inscribed, “Felicitations to Worcester – Hometown of Maj. Aldrin.”

That same year, 1930, Edwin Eugene Aldrin Jr. was born, the third child and only boy of Edwin Sr. and his wife Marion. (He was nicknamed Buzz when one of his sisters kept pronouncing the word “brother” as “buzzier.”) Edwin Jr. would later officially change his name to Buzz.

Edwin had met Marion Moon, the daughter of an Army chaplain, in the Philippines when he was working as an aide to Gen. Billy Mitchell. The cosmic coincidence of her maiden name would only be realized four decades later.

In 1928, Aldrin had accepted a job with Standard Oil, heading up the company’s fledgling aviation division. Though based at 30 Rockefeller Plaza in New York, he flew all over the U.S. and Europe preaching the virtues of commercial air travel and was widely acknowledged as one of the country’s first flying executives. In Europe he flew a 6,000-mile tour of 12 European capitals, setting several city-to-city speed records.

Home base was New Jersey, where the Aldrins settled at the urging of another Clark graduate. “Harold Ferguson was dad’s fraternity brother at Clark,” Buzz Aldrin recalls. “Ferguson moved to New Jersey and became principal of the high school in Montclair. Dad was living in East Orange and commuting to New York. Harold said, ‘Eddie, why don’t you move to Montclair, it’s a really nice community.’ So Dad cashed in some of his stock in Standard Oil in October 1929 before the Crash, and he moved to upper Montclair on the same street as Harold Ferguson.”

Edwin Aldrin Sr. was a fixture in Buzz’s life, but like many a father-son relationship theirs was complicated. In his memoirs “Return to Earth” and “Magnificent Desolation,” Buzz Aldrin writes that his father demanded excellence from his son in every endeavor from academics to athletics, and, backed by a powerful personality, the senior Aldrin often held sway. But the two also clashed, notably over Buzz’s decision to attend West Point in defiance of Edwin’s wish that Buzz enter the Naval Academy. Edwin also objected to his son becoming a fighter pilot during the Korean War, preferring that Buzz fly stateside as part of the national air defense.

Though he could be stern and difficult to please, Edwin also would rally around Buzz. Aldrin recounts the times his parents would drive to West Point from Montclair with bags of forbidden candy for Buzz and his roommate to smuggle into the dorm.

THE PUBLIC’S MANIA FOR ALL THINGS SPACE-RELATED WAS IN FULL FLOWER ON MAY 19, 1969, WHEN BUZZ ALDRIN HELPED CUT THE RIBBON ON CLARK’S NEW GODDARD LIBRARY.
In “Return to Earth,” Aldrin writes of his father:

“Even when he was away during World War II, his influence on our household, especially on me, was strong. He planted his own goals and aspirations in me. When I set a goal he encouraged me. When I conquered a goal he expressed the importance of still another, bigger one. I, in turn, strove mightily for his approval.”

Edwin left little doubt that his son would share his passion for flight. He took Buzz on his first plane ride when he was two years old, flying his son and the family housekeeper to Florida in Standard Oil’s Lockheed Vega. One can imagine the boy’s wonder as he soared in an aircraft painted to look like a flying eagle with outspread wings and claw-like wheels. So distinguished was the plane that a model of it was mounted in the Smithsonian Institution.

Despite his own connection to Goddard’s rocketry research, Edwin was skeptical about the astronaut program and instead had envisioned a military career for Buzz.

“Dad was well connected, and one time I asked him what my chances looked like for being selected as an astronaut,” Aldrin recalls on the phone from L.A. “He asked a few questions around Washington, and told me, ‘Well, I checked around and it doesn’t look like you’re still in the running. But that’s okay because you didn’t want to do that anyway.’ I said, ‘No Dad, you’re wrong’ I really did want to get into the astronaut business.

“As he began to look into the program, he picked up on what he felt was a significant shortcoming as far as his son was concerned, and that was that NASA didn’t have a rescue capability. In an interview, my father talked about that, without realizing there was no way we could have a second Saturn 5 [rocket] with a crew standing by to launch and rescue the first crew if we ran into trouble. We had the best redundancy we could possibly have, but there was no rescuing someone stranded on the moon.”

Faded newspaper clippings and Google searches hardly do justice to the white-hot frenzy that accompanied the July 20, 1969, lunar landing and the difficulty the astronauts experienced dealing with its aftermath. The Aldrins had first been thrust into the national spotlight when Buzz went into orbit in 1966 aboard Gemini 12, the last mission featuring a two-man spacecraft. The notoriety was a mild precursor to the national obsession that would greet the moon launch. To this day, Aldrin blames his mother’s 1968 suicide on the relentless public scrutiny leveled at his family following the Gemini mission and prior to the moon shot.

In his memoirs, Buzz Aldrin writes unsparingly about his battles with alcoholism and depression in the years following the moon landing. His father’s reaction — “He was nearly apoplectic,” Buzz remembers — when he learned Buzz wanted to publicly reveal his personal demons reflected his own desire to protect his son from
criticism and preserve Buzz’s image. But it was also a characteristic response from someone who would never experience the public-confessional ethos shaped by Oprah, Dr. Phil and others who turned therapy into a pop-culture phenomenon.

The retired Air Force colonel was ever reluctant to admit that his son’s depression could stem from internal struggles and instead suggested that his walk on the moon may have played a part in altering Buzz’s behavior. As he told a reporter, “Who is all-seeing to know what effect the moon might have on people? If the moon can affect tides, why couldn’t it influence someone’s judgment? We may be afraid of the answers, and Buzz deserves credit to come out and face that situation.”

That Edwin Aldrin remained fiercely protective of his son’s legacy is indisputable. In an April 16, 1969, letter to Goddard Library Assistant Director Arnold Bailey, one month before Buzz Aldrin would cut the ribbon on the new library, Aldrin Sr. lamented that NASA had failed to provide Clark with an updated photograph of Buzz to accompany his biography in the program.

“This has been delayed, even though I have complained,” he wrote. “Maybe your strong request would bring action. Don’t ask Buzz. Ask topside. This is disgraceful. ($25 billion spent [on the space program] and no pic!).”

Edwin also objected to the idea that Neil Armstrong would precede his son down the ladder from the lunar module and onto the moon’s surface.

“He didn’t quite understand the pecking order of seniority that dictated the commander would be the first person to go out,” Buzz Aldrin says. “It almost would have been an embarrassment for Neil to sit up in the cabin looking out the window while his junior person went down the ladder and said ‘...’ He hesitates, then chuckles. “Well, I don’t know what I would have said.”

The sense that his son had been slighted never left Edwin Aldrin. Buzz recalls that when the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp with Neil Armstrong’s image accompanied by the caption, “First Man on the Moon,” his father was so outraged that he picketed the White House holding a placard bearing the message, “My Son Was First, Too.”

The public’s mania for all things space-related was in full flower on May 19, 1969, a mere two months before the historic Apollo 11 launch. On that day, Buzz Aldrin helped cut the ribbon on Clark University’s new Robert Hutchings Goddard Library, whose then-radical design and educational mission honored the scientist’s legacy. Among the luminaries present were Sen. Edward Kennedy, who chose the occasion to propose a reduction in NASA spending, and Wernher von Braun, the German rocket scientist who was a leading architect of the U.S. space program. (The trip to Clark was a pilgrimage of sorts for von Braun, who proclaimed Goddard one of his childhood heroes.)

Photos from the event reveal a crowd of more than 3,000 onlookers and a media army staked out on the Clark greensward, with print, radio and TV reporters recording every uttered word, every smile and backslap, and the awarding of every honorary degree, including one to Aldrin.

Also pictured rubbing elbows is Edwin Eugene Aldrin ’15, whose presence at the event was, outside that of Robert Goddard’s widow, Esther, perhaps the most appropriate of all. Here, after all, was the man who saw a future in flight; who perceived the value of Goddard’s rocket experiments enough to recruit Charles Lindbergh to the cause; whose son would become the living embodiment of Goddard’s quest to put a man on the moon.

Buzz Aldrin says his father, who suffered a fatal heart attack in 1974, lived with a certain measure of ambivalence about remaining on the fringes while others took center stage.

“Dad never felt he got his due for his efforts in the Air Force. He just didn’t feel like he was ever fully recognized,” says Aldrin as the cars continue to zoom by on this Los Angeles morning.

But what were his father’s feelings toward that boy of his, who escaped Earth’s atmosphere and left footprints on the moon?

“Oh, he was proud,” the astronaut says. “Absolutely.”
JACQUELYN BESSELL, M.A. ’94, PH.D. ’96, CHAMPIONS THE BARD ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC

By Anne Gibson, Ph.D. ’95
Photography by Chris Gloag
When she arrived at Clark University in the fall of 1990, Jacquelyn Bessell was a fan of “Tank Girl,” a British comic series featuring an anarchic, unfettered-by-convention, punk-rocking young woman who drove and lived in a tank.

“Jaq was a force of nature,” recalls Raymond Munro, professor in the Visual and Performing Arts Department.

But he also compares her to another pop-culture figure — Wendy from “Peter Pan.” The pixie-haired Bessell, Munro says, was an unofficial mother figure to a group of “lost boys” in the Theater Department, cooking for them and making sure they were eating.

“I have great memories of working with Jaq,” recalls Shawn LaCount ’98, one of those “boys” who went on to make a name for himself as a founding member of Boston’s Company One. “She inspired me and many other students to think boldly about theater and to be fearless in performance. You could tell she was going to be a success in the theater world.”

Bessell’s journey to that success has taken her to the American Shakespeare Center and to the Globe Theatre in London, to university theater departments on both sides of the Atlantic, and to the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon. They are all estimable landing places for someone who has devoted her career to unlocking the magic within the Bard’s legendary works.

Her expertise, however, was influenced by that other significant stop made on her life’s path — Clark University, where she earned a master’s degree in 1994 and her Ph.D. in 1996, and found a home where she could be a scholar, a performer, and parts Tank Girl and Wendy.

What prompted this Brit from Yorkshire to cross the pond to study theater? Shakespeare, of course.

Not long after completing a B.A. with honors in English Language and Literature at England’s University of Birmingham in 1989, Bessell attended a Royal Shakespeare Company performance of “King John.” That experience was her epiphany, and she left the theater knowing what her future held.

“The production was inspiring,” Bessell says. “The actors were terrific, and the direction and design supported these really committed, exciting performances. I wanted to make that kind of theater then, and I still do.”

So whence for graduate studies? One of Bessell’s Birmingham professors spoke highly of Clark Professor Virginia Mason Vaughan’s expertise with the Shakespeare canon, setting in motion an application to Clark’s master’s program in English. Bessell was accepted and was awarded a teaching assistantship. After completing her master’s, she was given the opportunity — along with a fellowship from Clark’s Higgins School of Humanities — to design a rare interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Literature. Her panel of advisers included faculty from Clark’s English, theater, foreign languages and literatures, and music departments.

In addition to a 200-page dissertation on changing staging practices, with special application to the Faust myth, Bessell co-wrote (with Henry Akona), staged and directed her own version titled “Faust Sonata.”

During her six years at Clark, Bessell developed the skills that would help her prepare her for her roles as professor, director, actor, playwright, text and movement coach, and offered her a breadth of perspective that has allowed her to examine and inform theatrical performance on many levels. She also gave back to the University as much as she got, inspiring students and faculty alike with her talent, energy and enthusiasm.

Melissa Lynch Hoffmann ’95 still has vivid memories of Bessell as teaching assistant for her Introduction to Shakespeare course, where she directed students as they acted out scenes from the plays.

“She struck me as a fabulous director right away,” says Hoffmann, who has remained active in community theater since graduation. “She was hands-on, she was encouraging ... but tough. We respected her, even though, as a teaching assistant, she was still technically a student.”

Bessell also served as teaching assistant in a Renaissance Drama course taught by Vaughan. Hoffmann recalls acting in a skit from the medieval morality play “Everyman,” and how Bessell encouraged her to play the role à la Vaughan.

“The first thing Professor Vaughan would do when she came into the classroom was take off her blazer and put it over the chair, and then write something on the board,” Hoffmann says. “So that’s exactly what I did. I took off my blazer and wrote something on the board — I think it was ‘knowledge.’ It was an inspired idea and added some levity to what was a pretty heavy play. The second that Professor Vaughan saw me do that, she knew what we were up to. It was great.”

PAGE TO STAGE

By having students act out scenes instead of conforming to the traditional approach of reading plays as text or poetry, Bessell changed the way Shakespeare and other playwrights are taught at Clark.

Vaughan, who regards Bessell as “sort of an adopted daughter,” speaks of Bessell’s time as teaching assistant in her Shakespeare course as an event “that in many ways changed my life.”

“She started me on the custom of students doing scene work as part of their requirement for the introductory Shakespeare course,” Vaughan says. “And I’ve kept that ever since. She was a very lively person — she just sparkled, just loved the teaching.”

Theater Professor Gino DiIorio credits Bessell with being partially responsible for the popular Page to Stage course that he and Vaughan now co-teach.

“Jaq introduced me to Ginger [Vaughan] and the three of us began a long and productive theatrical relationship,” says DiIorio. “Jaq’s an outstanding director, one of my best students. I’m not at all surprised she’s been so successful.”

Munro describes Bessell as “a wonderful artist — one of my favorite students of all time. She has an amazing mind and incredible energy.”

After earning her Ph.D., Bessell spent three years at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, rounding out her training as a dramaturge — someone who shapes the presentation of a play from multiple angles. Her duties included text-consulting during rehearsals, developing study guides for local schools, and chairing post-production talk-backs with the actors.

“Dramaturgy,” Bessell explains, “describes a very broad range of inter-related activities, and is a perfect expression of my educational experience at Clark.”

In 1999 Bessell returned to England to become director of research at the new Globe Theatre in London, which she describes as “a transforming experience, because it gave me an unparalleled opportunity to specialize in
the plays of Shakespeare.” She especially enjoyed observing and recording
the development of each production from initial rehearsal to final per-
formance, and articulating that process in print for students and scholars.

Bessell has come full circle by returning to work at her undergraduate
alma mater. She is now in her third year as lecturer and fellow at the Uni-
versity of Birmingham’s Shakespeare Institute, where she undertakes the
normal professorial duties of teaching a wide range of theater courses, ad-
vising students, developing curricula and serving on university committees,
while at the same time balancing family responsibilities (Bessell is married
to actor Jan Knightley and they have a daughter, Rosie).

WINDBO ON THE WORLD

Why, half a millennium later, do people around the world still find reading
and watching Shakespeare’s plays worthwhile? For Bessell and her mentor
Virginia Vaughan, the questions raised in Shakespeare’s works, and the ideas
and themes illuminated in his prose, have remained relevant over time and
across cultures.

Vaughan explains how her students readily perceive parallels between
Shakespeare’s plays and current events.

“My students always see [Shakespeare’s plays] in terms of our own time.
We did ‘Richard II’ in the Advanced Seminar, the story of a king who is
so vain about his own position that he can’t see the world clearly anymore.
That was during the uprising in Egypt, and President Mubarak came up
again and again in discussions. Students were seeing these connections, and
what happens to somebody like this. So Shakespeare is a window on the
world in many ways.”

Vaughan, who, with her husband, historian Alden Vaughan, wrote
“Shakespeare in America,” says that in addition to the Bible, a volume of
Shakespeare was one of the most popular books to accompany pioneers on
the American frontier. In a more recent context, she points out references
to Othello that were invoked during the Obama campaign, noting each was
the son of a white woman and a black man.

Shakespeare’s plays have been in almost continuous production for
the last 400 years, Bessell says, adding that an understanding of how
Shakespeare has been edited, interpreted and staged in other times and
places can provide insight into how various cultures have wrestled with the great questions and dilemmas of life.

“Shakespeare can pack so many ideas into so few words,” she says, “The stories are archetypal.”

THE VOCABULARY OF MOVEMENT

In the 1953 Broadway musical “Kismet,” the poet Hajj, in an attempt to prevent having his hand cut off by the evil wazir, sings that “when you tell a story, amorous or gory, you can tell it best if you gesticulate.”

Bessell would concur. In an essay she wrote for the book “Speaking Pictures” — which she co-edited with Vaughan and Fernando Cioni — she notes that the ability to deliver lines eloquently is not sufficient in itself to portray the full meaning of a play. Theater is a visual medium, and actors must learn to use their bodies — what she calls “physical storytelling” — as well as their voices to bring a script to life.

Bessell has observed and studied the techniques of physical theater in her capacity as head of research at the new Globe Theatre in London, and as a director at the American Shakespeare Center’s Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton, Virginia. Both places replicate the spartan environments where Shakespeare would have seen his plays performed. And while an understanding of physical theater is key in any live performance setting, it is critical in low-tech theaters like the Globe and Blackfriars Playhouse that strive to recreate the way a play would have been staged in Shakespeare’s day.

“How,” she asks, “without help of contemporary stage lighting and other recognizable technical supports, can the performances achieve shape, change pace and tempo, pull and switch focus, and guide the audience’s eyes as well as cars?”

Bessell notes that in times past, actors often drew on a universal vocabulary of stock gestures, according to which parts of the body were positioned to signify emotions like anger, fear and joy. While modern acting style tends to demand more natural and less exaggerated movement, that doesn’t mean it comes easily. And while some cues describing a character’s emotional state or physical posture may be specified in a script, much room remains for interpretation.

In addition to training actors how to use their bodies, Bessell has coached stunt men and women, gymnasts, dancers and martial arts practitioners to be more facile with spoken text, at places like the London Stunt School and the British Institute for Chinese Martial Arts.

Her least favorite role is that of actor. Bessell confesses to suffering from stage fright, which “my students find very amusing.” At Clark she studied acting with Ray Munro, primarily so she could learn how to be a better director. She recalls only one acting experience that she truly enjoyed, that of playing Lady Macbeth opposite Gino DiIorio’s Macbeth.

With a special nod to DiIorio, she acknowledges that “acting is a lot easier if your scene partner is a real pro, willing to do more than half the work for you.”

Bessell credits Munro with one of the most valuable skills she learned — how to use questions to help actors make appropriate choices. “Actors can commit to choices they make themselves,” she says, “and directors who impose choices on their actors interfere with this fundamental process, to the detriment of the work.”

THE CLARK EFFECT

Bessell cherishes memories of her time at Clark, and despite having traveled extensively throughout the US and U.K., she still feels her intellectual and creative community is based in Worcester.

She praises her Clark faculty advisers as “brilliant people.” “My interdisciplinary Ph.D. was supported by recognized experts who nonetheless saw the value of learning from other disciplines, and from these people I learned to think outside the box,” Bessell says.

“I was very lucky to find my work supported at this level, by this caliber of faculty,” she continues. “I was given the time and the means to develop as a teacher and a director. The faculty and students I collaborated with helped instill in me some core values and work ethics — intellectual rigor, creative freedom and openness to new perspectives — that have influenced just about everything I have done since.”

This interdisciplinary approach has had enormous impact on Bessell’s teaching and professional work. Recently, she was commissioned to write an important new book for the Arden Shakespeare series exploring the work of major Shakespeare companies in the United States and United Kingdom. She is embarking on a three-year research project to interview prominent and emerging Shakespearean directors, actors and designers on both sides of the Atlantic.

“I publish work that is informed by both a scholarly and technical understanding of how Shakespeare’s plays work in performance, as well as the practical experience of directing,” she says. “Now I can teach my students the importance of understanding the relationships between text, performer, and the audience, having had instruction and experience in all of these areas.

“If I had studied elsewhere, I doubt I would have been encouraged to see the interconnectedness of different forms and disciplines in quite the same way, and my work today would be all the poorer for it.”
Taming ‘The Tempest’

SHAKESPEARE’S TALES are a goldmine for the movies, which helps explain why Hollywood heavyweights from Laurence Olivier to Leonardo DiCaprio have donned the tights (literally for Olivier, metaphorically for Leo) to bring the Bard to cinematic life.

Clark English Professor Virginia Mason Vaughan also has done her part to perpetuate that legacy.

Vaughan was recruited last year by film and theater director Julie Taymor — best known for helming Broadway’s “The Lion King” and struggling to launch the troubled Spider-Man musical — to provide voice-over commentary for the DVD release of her film adaptation of “The Tempest.” For Vaughan, who was nearing completion of a book on “The Tempest” for the University of Manchester’s Shakespeare in Performance Series, it was an ideal assignment.

In examining productions of “The Tempest” from its first performance in 1611 to the present day (including international, film and television versions), Vaughan has studied in minute detail the many interpretations of what is perhaps Shakespeare’s most fantastical story. Set on a remote island occupied by disinherited aristocrat-cum-magician Prospero, his minions the spirit Ariel and the monster Caliban, and opening with a great storm at sea, “The Tempest” provides numerous opportunities for special effects, both in the depiction of the natural world and of the creatures who shape-shift, vanish and reappear. Taymor’s film, shot in the volcanic landscape of Hawaii, stars Helen Mirren as a feminine incarnation of Prospero.

Vaughan, who co-chaired the seminar “400 Years of The Tempest” at the Prague meeting of the International Shakespeare Association in July of this year, had wanted to include information about Taymor’s “Tempest” in her book, and requested an opportunity to screen the film prior to its release. Her wish was granted, and with husband Alden she journeyed to the Disney offices in New York.

“There we were in a 75-seat, very plush theater all by ourselves,” Vaughan recalls. “After watching the film we had a one-hour meeting with Julie Taymor, and then I asked if we could watch it again so I could take notes after I’d interviewed her. I loved the film, and she was just charming in the interview.”

Unfortunately, critics weren’t as receptive as Vaughan. The movie was pulled from theaters after a couple of weeks, and by January 2011 production of a DVD version was next on the agenda. Vaughan, along with Oxford University Shakespearan Jonathan Bate, was asked to provide commentary for a bonus feature, her portion of which was taped in a sound studio in Whitinsville, Mass.

“It was really magic and great fun,” Vaughan says. “I had a computer with the video, and headphones through which I would hear the guy on the phone out in California, and I could stop and start the film. He had some questions to get me started, but mainly I just talked as the film was going. The whole thing took three hours and went by very fast. I thoroughly enjoyed it.”

Vaughan describes Taymor’s “Tempest” as “the first filmic adaptation to realize fully the camera’s potential to convey Shakespeare’s most spectacular play visually, as well as verbally.” Taymor’s special-effects extravaganza contrasts sharply with productions in Shakespeare’s day, when the absence of sophisticated technology (not to mention multimillion-dollar budgets) meant that the burden of creating a sense of atmosphere fell almost exclusively to the actors. How do you convince the audience that a tempest is raging with the limited staging resources of the 17th century?

This sort of question is just one of several addressed in a new book jointly edited by Vaughan, Jacquelyn Bessell, M.A. ’94, Ph.D. ’96, and Fernando Cioni, titled “Speaking Pictures: The Visual/Verbal Nexus of Dramatic Performance.” The book turns to historical documents to reconstruct the visual look of performances at times in history before film was available to capture them for posterity. It also sheds light on how, in absence of technology, actors and directors made the most of the limited physical resources available to them, tights or no tights.
WENDI TRILLING'S RISE FROM TEMP TO EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF COMEDY AT CBS IS THE STUFF OF... WELL...TV

make ’em LAUGH

Wendi Trilling ’86 knows something about long shots.
As the executive vice president of comedy development at CBS, she is pitched 400 sitcom ideas every year, and of those perhaps two will ever make it to broadcast.

She saw the everyman charm in the stand-up comedy of Ray Romano and helped shepherd it into the platinum success of “Everybody Loves Raymond.”

She battles the continuing fragmentation of a viewing audience distracted by near limitless entertainment options, with the goal of picking the shows that will amuse millions of people each week while also keeping advertisers happy.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN SCANLON

BY JIM KEOGH
The Clarkie is now the arbiter of comedy at the network that introduced America to the antics of Lucille Ball, wrung laughs from the rants of Archie Bunker and scored the highest-rated TV episode of all time with the finale of “M*A*S*H.”

Trilling is well aware of the comic tradition she now oversees. “I still remember the CBS lineup on Saturday night. I used to watch with my grandparents — ‘All in the Family,’ ‘The Jeffersons,’ ‘The Mary Tyler Moore Show,’ ‘The Bob Newhart Show,’ ‘The Carol Burnett Show.’ It was a big part of my life growing up, so to be at CBS — not to say I’m carrying on that exact legacy because those were such great shows — and to be attempting to put comedies on the air that people will remember years from now is always the goal.”

Trilling couldn’t have imagined her career trajectory when she arrived on campus in 1982, twenty-seven years after her father, Julian Goldstein ’55, graduated from Clark. The Long Island native majored in screen studies, a natural academic discipline for someone whose teenage excursions into Manhattan to watch old movies at the Bleeker Street Cinema made her something of a film geek.

“There were so few people with that major, we had to design it ourselves a little bit,” she recalls. “I thought loosely at the time that maybe I wanted to be a writer, but I didn’t have a grand plan for my professional life when I was in college.”

After graduation, Trilling moved to Boston with her Clark roommate, Diane Burstein ’86. She temped for a while, then got a job as a receptionist at a small advertising and public relations agency. Trilling worked her way up to account executive before switching over to the more creative pursuit of copywriter.

After four years, Trilling was eager to move to a new city. She decided on Los Angeles, figuring she’d work there for a while before ultimately settling in New York.

“When I came out to L.A., I looked for jobs as a copywriter because that’s what I was qualified to do. I interviewed at ad agencies and ended up getting a job at a small division of J. Walter Thompson.”

About two weeks into her new job Trilling had lunch with Tim Flack, head of the comedy department, and the conversation veered to Trilling’s own ascent to her current position, a storyline that at times seems so improbable that if it were pitched to her by anybody else she might not have given it the green light. Honestly, who would propose a plot about a young woman who more than 20 years ago ditched a promising copywriting career in Boston, moved to L.A., worked as a temp at CBS, and now oversees the network’s stable of hit sitcoms like “Two and a Half Men,” “How I Met Your Mother” and “The Big Bang Theory”? 
department at CBS and an old family friend, to get career advice.

“He gave me great advice about how important it is to love your job, because when you think about it that’s where you spend most of your time. Copywriting was not a passion for me; it was something I fell into. I didn’t really think I had the creative ability to be great at it. I could get by, but I was never going to be at a top creative agency doing national ads.”

Trilling still harbored a love of movies and television, so she seized the opportunity to do some informational interviews with other CBS executives. One of them had an assistant’s position open in the Current Programming Department, whose executives manage the shows that are on the air.

“He said they would hire me as a temp, and if it worked out I could become permanent. I was on my lunch break at the ad agency when I got the offer, and I said yes,” she recalls. “I was 26 at the time, which seems very young to me now, but at the time I thought that if I was going to start over again and work my way up, I’d better get going. My mother was not happy about it.”

Trilling worked as an assistant for a year and a half, the temp job evolving into permanent status. She then advanced to a junior executive position, a promotion that actually paid less than her secretarial job because there was no overtime pay. But the new job was a “huge break for me,” and eventually brought Trilling into the comedy department.

Tim Flack, the family friend who’d offered Trilling career advice, still ran the department, but he was only there for about another year before falling ill and passing away.

“Maybe 10 or 12 years after that initial lunch, I had [Flack’s] job, which I say with complete love,” she says. “I know he would have been very proud to see it.”

WOOING WENDI

So, you think you have a killer idea for a sitcom?

Get in line.

If Wendi Trilling hasn’t heard ‘em all during her more than 20-year career at CBS, then she’s certainly come close. Trilling will listen to about 400 show pitches between July and November in meetings that will range anywhere from a half hour to an hour — though they don’t always have to.

“Usually you know if it has a shot in the first five minutes or so. Sometimes you can start out interested in it and then lose interest,” Trilling says with a laugh.

From all those pitches, she and her team will narrow their choices to about 50 projects that CBS will pay to put into script development.

If you want to impress Trilling, be sure your story is character-driven.

“I feel when a television comedy works, it’s about the characters, not the setting,” she says.

“When people come in and start to talk about characters, and you get a sense that they really know them — maybe the characters are based on members of their family or their friends — it’s just much more compelling.”

As an example, Trilling points to the CBS comedy “Mike & Molly,” about a couple who find romance in a weight-loss support group.

“So many people have those struggles — with weight, and with just trying to find love, especially if they’re not in their twenties anymore. There was something about that that was very sweet and very relatable. You hear Mike and Molly’s story and you can imagine caring about them.”

Returning to the hard numbers: of the 50 projects that are developed, eight to 10 pilot programs will be produced. This is no small investment — each pilot costs more than $2 million. But the long-term reward from that up-front risk can be substantial, with a successful show reaping a great deal of revenue for a network over time.

The pilots are screened for CBS executives, shown to focus groups at a testing facility, and discussed and debated before a series commitment is made. Of the nine pilots produced this year, two of them — “2 Broke Girls” and “How to be a Gentleman” — are on the CBS fall schedule.

Your chances of getting a program on the air improve if you have a track record of success, Trilling says. It’s one thing to come up with a wonderful concept and shoot a single pilot episode, but professionals who know how to put out a TV show for a typical 22-episode run have a distinct edge. Trilling notes that most producers have logged years as staff writers on TV shows and built reputations in the industry. “Before they come into my office I probably already know who they are,” she says.

“2 Broke Girls,” about a pair of young women (played by Kat Dennings and Beth Behrs) from very different backgrounds working as waitresses in a Brooklyn diner is a rarity in network comedy. “What I love about the show is it has two strong female characters as the leads, which is pretty unusual,” Trilling says. The series boasts a strong pedigree: it’s co-written by Michael Patrick King, the long-time executive producer of “Sex and the City.”

The other rookie in the CBS lineup, “How to be a Gentleman,” pairs a refined columnist (played by the show’s creator David Hornsby) with a loutish personal trainer (Kevin Dillon of “Entourage”) as they navigate the ever-shifting expectations of what it is to be a contemporary man. “I think there’s an appeal to what the rules for men are now,” Trilling says. “Some men wear cargo shorts to a wedding, and some men are trying to do the right thing. There’s an interesting dynamic between two different kinds of men, both of which we see every day.”

That there is no guarantee either show will connect with the public helps explain why the network invests so heavily to find the winning combination of writing, acting and directing before a single episode airs. And why the odds are so long that your world-beater of a sitcom idea will ever survive from pitch to primetime.
(CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE)
TRILLING WITH CRAIG THOMAS AND CARTER BAYS, CREATORS OF "HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER." AND SERIES STAR JASON SEGEL. THE FUTURE HEAD OF COMEDY AT CBS AS A CLARK SENIOR. WITH "2 BROKE GIRLS" STARS KAT DENNINGS AND BETH BEHRS. OFFERING BEHIND-THE-SCENES INSIGHT DURING A PANEL DISCUSSION AT REUNION WEEKEND.
Trilling acknowledges that in an often volatile industry, it’s unusual for someone to be at the same company for two decades.

“I truly knew nothing when I came to CBS as a temp, at least nothing more than the average TV viewer would know in terms of how this business works,” she says. “People know more about the entertainment business today than they did 20 years ago with *Entertainment Weekly* and all the online stuff, but I certainly didn’t know that studios produced the shows and then licensed them to the networks, and the networks air them but don’t always own them.

“That’s the great thing about coming in as an assistant, where what I really needed to do was answer phones and learn as I went. I’ve seen people come into these jobs at higher levels, maybe from other businesses, and I rarely see them succeed. Everyone I’ve seen succeed started at the bottom, because it’s such a great way to learn under the radar. I just put my head down and read every script that came across my desk. I kind of pretended I knew things and learned them as they happened.

“CBS has been a great environment, and I really love the people I work with,” she says. “I’m proud of having started where I started, and gotten to where I’ve gotten.”

Of the shows that have come under her purview, “Everybody Loves Raymond,” is a particular point of pride. Fifteen years ago Trilling championed the series, and helped put together the creative package to get it on the air. The show became an enduring hit.

“I received a personal education at Clark,” she continues. “Some of my senior classes were just directed readings with the head of the department, which is something you can do at a small school. I think being able to forge those personal relationships with your professors is important on a number of levels. In my career, and I’m sure in many others, it’s those relationships, and interacting with people who want to help nurture your career, that makes all the difference.”

Trilling is now in the midst of the fall TV schedule — new programs began rolling out in mid-September. At the time of this interview she was feeling good about the prospects for CBS’s new sitcoms (see sidebar) and was also confident about the popular mainstays. Like much of America, Trilling will be closely watching the progress of “Two and a Half Men” in the wake of the stormy departure of former series star Charlie Sheen. She’s hoping the show’s fans will embrace Sheen’s replacement, Ashton Kutcher.

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The broadcasting landscape has altered dramatically during Trilling’s tenure. When she started in the business, three networks — CBS, NBC and ABC — virtually dominated the medium, with the newly emerging FOX just beginning to make inroads. Today, new cable networks sprout like dandelions to cater to every imaginable niche, and the Internet offers vast information and entertainment possibilities (including, on outlets like YouTube, the ability to turn schmoes into stars).

As such, audiences tend to be smaller even for successful shows when compared to years past. “If you get five million viewers now, you’re ecstatic,” Trilling says, noting that five million viewers is still relatively low for a CBS show. “At one time five million viewers would have gotten you canceled. The typical half-hour comedy doesn’t earn the numbers that ‘All in the Family’ used to get.”

With all that competition, Trilling notes, the demand for content remains unabated, which means she will continue to listen to hundreds of show pitches and pull the trigger on new sitcoms. After all, people are always looking for a reason to laugh.
RICHARD TRAINA ARRIVED ON CAMPUS IN 1984 PREPARED TO MAKE CHANGES. TODAY, HIS TENURE IS SEEN AS A TRANSFORMATIVE TIME IN THE UNIVERSITY’S HISTORY, AND IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT CLARK CALLS HOME.

By Melissa Lynch Hoffmann ’95 and Jim Keogh

Illustration by Alex Nabaum
So wrote Richard Traina in the introduction of his 2008 memoir, “Random Reflections.” By the time he penned those words, Clark University’s former president had known for some time that he was dying of prostate cancer. Still, ever the historian, he seized one last opportunity to record key passages about his life growing up in humble circumstances in the San Francisco area and, he said, to better understand “the families who spawned and nurtured me.”

Traina’s 16-year presidential tenure at Clark (1984-2000) is easily branded one of the most significant in the University’s history, a period that saw Clark’s academic reputation strengthen, its endowment multiply, new campus buildings rise and a partnership forged with the Main South neighborhood to become a national model for town-gown relationships.

When he died on March 8 at the age of 73, Richard Traina’s story would seem to have ended. But as he himself noted, memories are wonderful tools for reviving a person’s essence, which is why we’ve asked some folks who accompanied Clark’s seventh president on his journey to reflect on his time here.

Richard “Dick” Traina was a student at Santa Clara University in California when he met Mills College coed Margaret “Polly” Warner on a blind date. Actually, Dick was supposed to be the date of Polly’s roommate, Jane, at a party that night, and she was meant to be the date of his best friend, Rich. But Jane came down with the Asian flu, Rich had too much to drink and nodded off, and Polly and Dick talked deep into the night.

Polly Traina
Dick had wonderful brown eyes, and he was tall. I liked that. The night of the party we went to his room and he dug out some poetry he’d written, and he started talking about some of his favorite poets. I hadn’t run into very many men that early in a friendship, at the initiating point, who would have been willing to make themselves vulnerable in that way.

A couple of weeks later I called him and asked him if he would take me to a formal in San Francisco and he said yes. So we went, and there was no looking back.

Dick and Polly married in 1959, had three children together, Cristina, Michelle and Matthew, and adopted a fourth, Michael. With a Ph.D. in history from Santa Clara, Dick began his career as a professor and dean at Wabash College for 11 years, then spent a decade at Franklin and Marshall College as chief academic officer. But he was hungry for a new challenge.

Polly Traina
Dick wanted a presidency, and he was concerned that if he got to be 50 and wasn’t in a presidency the chances would diminish considerably. He applied at several places, and was a candidate at four or five colleges simultaneously. Clark appealed to him because I think he was a little bit of a radical at heart.

He told people he was willing to take the job because there were no fraternities, no ROTC, and no football. Dick would go to national meetings and most of the presidents would sit around and talk about scheduling games. He wanted no part of that.

Virginia Vaughan, Professor of English
I was one of three faculty members who were on the search committee that hired Dick, and there were only three women on the committee — [trustee] Alice Higgins, a female undergraduate and myself. At that time, there weren’t that many women on the faculty and generally Clark was pretty male-oriented. One of the things that I remember most about the search process was that we’d have these senior male candidates come in and they wouldn’t look at me; they ignored me as if I were part of the wall. But Dick engaged with everybody in that room. He was never afraid of strong women — and Alice Higgins was one strong woman.
Dick was the one who hired the first woman provost at Clark, Fern Johnson. He wasn't afraid of having a woman at that high echelon of the university. His presidency is when we started getting some really wonderful women on the faculty.

DAVID ANGEL, PRESIDENT, CLARK UNIVERSITY

Early in my career at Clark I had the chance to travel with Dick and Polly in Asia. As a young assistant professor, I was launching a new research project on the development of green technology in Japan. Dick and Polly were visiting with alumni, family, and friends of Clark in Japan and Korea. Quite by chance we were on the same flight to Tokyo. I remember well Dick and Polly encouraging me to attend the alumni reception in Tokyo and their taking a keen interest in my research. Dick was a strong supporter of faculty and took great pride in showcasing the accomplishments of faculty across the breadth of the institution. He was a mentor and friend from my earliest days at Clark.

FERN JOHNSON, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND PROVOST (1988-1993)

Under President Traina’s leadership, Clark moved from a relatively internally oriented place to a university much more engaged and knowledgeable about the larger environment. Richard Traina also understood and conveyed clearly the priority for what he referred to as “pluralism.” His vision was not only for a more diverse faculty, student body, administration and staff, but also for new ventures in programs and curriculum that would enhance the education of Clark’s students for the changing world. He also assertively and enthusiastically sought to create a culture of fundraising, without which Clark’s future would be compromised. He conveyed in every possible way to those inside the University that efforts to secure new resources must be substantially elevated, and to those outside he energetically presented Clark as a top-notch university for undergraduate and graduate study, and for its research accomplishments and potential.

JIM COLLINS, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER, CLARK UNIVERSITY

A short time after coming here, Dick Traina became the embodiment of the University. He had an impact on almost everything. His integrity was absolute, in the way he led, thought about things, conducted his life. It was one man, one person — one University. He was, from the time he got here, very focused on the student experience, and he believed we were not doing enough in that regard. We needed to make investments in those areas; the construction of the University Center was integral. He was focused on students, teaching — the whole experience.

HEATHER SCHOLACK ’95

I met President Traina at an admitted-student reception in 1991 in New Jersey. It always stuck out to me, because he’d obviously read each person’s file and memorized something about each of us. When I introduced myself to him I felt so at ease. He knew I was interested in sciences — I was a biology major — and for him to take the time and effort to learn about us personally was so impressive. I worked on The Scarlet and interviewed him several times for articles; he was always nice and cooperative. He was like Clark to me.

TAFFY (LEFKON) BREIT ’89

President Traina was a warm, loving person — getting a hug from him was like getting a hug from your dad. One of the first things I noticed was that he was a great orator. It didn’t matter whether or not I cared about the topic, he was such a talented speaker, with a wonderful sense of humor, that I loved to listen to him.

When I started The Clark Bars [an a capella group], President Traina was one of our first fans. Several years after I graduated, I watched the current Clark Bars perform during an alumni reception at Harrington House, and the alumni were talking boisterously among themselves. And he shushed the crowd, so they would appreciate the performance. He will be missed by many alumni who adored him.

When Dick began his tenure, the Trainas moved into the President’s House at 80 William St. in the Elm Park section of Worcester, one and a half miles from the Clark campus.

POLLY TRAINA

Eighty William Street was perfect for entertaining because it had tons of space. It wasn’t so great to live in because you had to heat all that space and keep it up. When I would come downstairs in the morning when Dick was on the road, it was like walking into a hotel lobby. Then I’d go into this cavernous kitchen, sit in a corner and eat my cereal.
The biggest problem was that the house wasn’t on campus. Every year the freshmen were brought over for a picnic the week they arrived, but we had to bus them to the house. We also had to bus the parents to hold a reception on Parents Weekend. It was like, “Well, we live in the nice part of town.” This was just not appropriate, and it bothered Dick very much.

Dick loved the idea of moving onto campus from the get-go. He had [Physical Plant Director] Paul Bottis canvas the neighborhood to see if there were any Victorians in good enough shape to convert and add on to. And that’s how we ended up in Harrington House on Woodland Street.

JIM COLLINS

We knew the cost of moving the president’s residence to campus [purchasing four lots and renovations] would be a lot more than we could get in the sale of 80 William Street. But we went ahead, knowing it was the right thing to do. It was a major statement.

The relationship between Clark and the Main South neighborhood was rarely less than strained, and sometimes hostile in the years before Traina’s arrival. He sought to change that dynamic, investing time, resources, intellectual capital and goodwill into regenerating a frayed connection. The crown jewel was the University Park Partnership, a grass-roots collaboration between Clark and the surrounding community that culminated in such projects as the opening of the University Park Campus School, urban redevelopment on Main Street, and field construction and neighborhood revitalization in the Kilby, Gardner and Hammond streets area.

JACK FOLEY, VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS, CLARK UNIVERSITY

We made some good progress during the early 1990s, but we felt as a neighborhood we weren’t making the kind of significant change that we needed to make. We were looking mainly at bricks and mortar — rehabbing a number of abandoned apartment units and houses along Main Street and around Clark, and bringing those back online. But some of the problems we saw around us were still creeping down the street. At the Main South Community Development Corporation we had been developing this plan of what do we do next and getting feedback from folks and from neighbors.

We were having lunch at Tarragon’s [now Peppercorn’s], and started discussing how to really get a sense of what was happening in the neighborhood, what the next steps were. I was rattling off some of the things I’d heard in our conversations with the CDC, synthesizing the commentary. As I was talking, Dick grabbed one of the napkins from the table and started writing out the different categories of things to be done, groups to be formed.

We talked about physical rehabilitation, and the work we were doing, how to ramp that up. How do we promote home ownership? Beyond that, what do people need now, in order to live in this neighborhood? What’s going to attract families to live here? Safety, economic development, creation of jobs and commerce, the whole issue of programs for kids and families, and, finally, educational opportunity as the critical component.

Dick wrote this out, and we added more to it, and, really, that napkin became the beginning of the University Park Partnership. I wish we’d kept the napkin and framed it.

POLLY TRAINA

In early discussions with the neighbors it was asked, What's the biggest problem Clark presents? The answer was parking and noise. Dick had Jim Collins start working on a plan for the parking garage with Paul Bottis, and they began trying to get more kids onto campus, short and long term. Dick had been prepared to hear a million things, but that was it in a nutshell: parking and noise.

KEVIN O’SULLIVAN, M.P.A. ’87, PRESIDENT AND CEO, MASSACHUSETTS BIOMEDICAL INITIATIVES

Before Dick came to Clark, the predominant feeling in the community was that nothing could get in or out of the black gated fence in front of the school. I was with the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce at the time, and had a chat with the chairman of Morgan Construction, Paul Morgan, who said we’ve got to go see this guy Dick Traina, the new president at Clark.

Dick wasn’t a month or two on job, and here we are, these two upstarts, sitting in his office and delivering the somber message that Clark had neglected the neighborhood and needed to get involved. Dick listened patiently, and said: “What do you think I should do?” Paul looked at me, flabbergasted. I said, “Invite the neighborhood for a cookout.” Dick didn’t flinch. He said, “Let’s do it.” At the time it was so unClarket to invite the neighbors in — hundreds of people showed up. They either had never been on campus or been chased off campus.

Getting so deeply involved in neighborhood issues was unheard of for a college president. It would go down in the annals as a national model that took Dick’s leadership, foresight and vision to pull off. He brought such credibility to the table; treated everyone fairly. Honesty, trust, kinship, part-
nership — this wasn’t about ego for Dick. He was global in thought. He knew what was good for Worcester was good for Clark, and what was good for Clark was good for the world.

STEVE TEASDALE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MAIN SOUTH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP.

My first impression when I met Dick was that this was an impressive man, a man of stature — I was a little intimidated at first. As I gradually got to know him, it became very apparent he was not just a man of presence, but a man of substance. He had firm philosophical beliefs of what Clark’s role in the neighborhood should be and a sense of social justice. Dick institutionalized the need for Clark to give back, and to address the needs of those less fortunate in today’s economic circumstances.

I never thought of it as just Dick — it was Dick and Polly. They were a team that broke down the walls that had made it “us versus them.” People believed Clark was sincere about using the University’s resources to benefit the neighborhood. What Dick seeded has continued to grow; his vision has impacted a huge number of lives in the neighborhood, for the good.

JACK FOLEY

In June 2000, a month before John Bassett began his tenure, Senator Ted Kennedy was here with Congressman Jim McGovern to announce federal support for the work in the Kilby, Gardner, Hammond area. John Bassett happened to be here, and we walked down to Gardner Street, which was pretty shady back then. Soon, Kennedy was up on the stage talking about the great leadership of Dick Traina, his vision, and what he’d meant to this neighborhood. Kennedy said, “I also understand that somewhere out there in the audience is the new president of Clark, and I want to tell you — you’ve got some pretty big shoes to fill. And I hope that you’re able to step up and continue the great work of this great president, Dick Traina.” That stuck with John. He walked away realizing the impact that Dick had had, and realized that this was his charge: to continue Clark’s work in the community.

RICCI HALL ’97, M.A. ED. ’98, PRINCIPAL, UNIVERSITY PARK CAMPUS SCHOOL

After graduating from Clark I worked on my master’s degree in education and did my graduate work here at the school in 1997-98, which was the year the University Park Campus School opened. Early on in the process it was really a handshake between President Traina and then-Superintendent Jim Garvey that got this whole partnership kicked off, but it was also the way in which Dick supported the partnership after that handshake. He never walked away from it. He had a real, day-to-day belief in the vision of the school. I think he felt great joy in the part that he had in creating it, and the work of the school and how it transforms the lives of the kids who come here.

Two or three days after we opened, Governor Paul Cellucci came to our school to make an announcement. When the governor shows up, dignitaries show up with him — congressmen, city officials, and, of course, Dick was there, too. They wanted some kids from the school for a photo opp. When Dick took the podium, the kids were in the background and the politicians were up front. And Dick said, “We need to move these kids to the front.” So they did, and the politicians went to the back. For him, the creation of the school was not about a photo opp, or pressing flesh with the governor, or getting a chance to have the bully pulpit for a few minutes. It was about what we were going to do for the kids, and how the lives of the kids were going to change. They were, in his mind, up front.

DAMIAN RAMSEY, FIRST GRADUATING CLASS, UNIVERSITY PARK CAMPUS SCHOOL

Through President Traina’s vision and passion, an open invitation to purse the halls of Clark University became a permanent pipeline to four years of quality education for 31 college-ready UPCS students (and their families) living in the Main South area. As a member of the founding class, I can say first-hand that the ability to navigate a college campus from middle school through high school made the prospect of post-secondary education a real possibility. It was not an unreachable aim. It was tangible; and that reality changed my life-course trajectory. Dick Traina’s legacy lives on through each and every UPCS graduate who is guided to and through college. His legacy lives on through me.

Dick Traina retired in 2000, completing 16 years at the helm of Clark University. Not long afterward, he was diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer, but he defied the doctors’ prognosis not only in the amount of time he had left, but by the rich quality of the life he led.

POLLY TRAINA

The doctors gave Dick three to five years after he was diagnosed with Gleason 10 prostate cancer, which is the most aggressive form. Within two weeks he had surgery, but it was already in his system. He tried some chemo, trekking back and forth to Dana Farber. It did a number on him; it was absolutely all he could do to get out of bed. Eventually he asked the oncologist, “What kind of additional time is this going to give me?” She said, “Maybe two months.” And Dick said, “I’m going to take it now” and stopped treatments. When he died, he’d lived with the cancer for 10 years. But for the first five years, other than going to the oncologist or trying some medication, you were just unaware of it. He played golf; we went to Africa twice. He started throwing pots at the craft center and had a wonderful time doing it.

Dick experienced no pain right up until he died, and nobody could understand that. The oncologist said it was totally bizarre. He was very weak the last couple of months and was having trouble following ideas. So to put together a story or an article — he had the idea but couldn’t execute it. Honestly, I think he was bored.

Dick, of course, planned his own funeral down to the last detail, including the program and the music. Afterward, a friend of ours, Sister Rose, said Dick could have died sooner, but there were too many questions left that he still wanted to have answered. 
SPONSORED BY K&K MANUFACTURING

By Kevin Anderson

Gubitose found his niche with the Cougars on the hardwood with his sharp-shooting from behind the three-point line. He appeared in 23 games and made at least one three-pointer in 14 of those games. His best performances came when Clark needed them the most — in the final four games, he went 11-for-22 from behind the arc and finished second in the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference in three-point percentage (40.9).

[B] JANELLE PASTERNACK, Women’s Soccer, North Brookfield, Mass.
Pasternack emerged as a talented playmaker for the Cougars in 2010. She saw action in all 16 games, making 11 starts and wrapping up her first season as the team leader in assists (four). Her biggest play of the season, however, came in the 96th minute, when she found the back of the net for the game-winning goal against Mount Holyoke.

The California native opened up her collegiate career handing out 30 assists and never looked back — racking up 565 helpers as the Cougars posted their first winning season since 2001. Spera ranked fifth in the NEWMAC in assists per game (7.57) and dished out a career-high 43 in a win over Babson. With Spera leading the way, Clark won 13 games and advanced to the NEWMAC Tournament quarterfinals.

Fish was a fixture in the Cougar lineup, starting all 18 games and finishing second on the team in scoring with 23 points (11 goals, one assist) as Clark advanced to the NEWMAC Tournament quarterfinals. Her 11 goals ranked 10th in the NEWMAC and she had four games where she scored two goals or more, including a hat trick (three goals) in a win over Anna Maria.

The relentless floor leader sparked the Cougars with her run-through-a-wall mentality. She started all 26 games, leading Clark back to the postseason following a year hiatus in 2009-10. She finished second on the team in scoring (9.6) and ranked fifth in the NEWMAC in assists (3.0) and second in free throw percentage (80.9).

Gimme Five!
After first-year seasons that saw them establish themselves, here are five members of the Class of 2014 ready to take off as sophomores
In each of his first two seasons, lacrosse head coach and alum Jeff Cohen ’02 has been named Pilgrim League Coach of the Year. He has led the Cougars to 12 wins in his first two years — the second highest win total of any two-year stretch in program history.

The number of individuals who have been named All-America during Paul E. Phillips’ first eight seasons at the helm as the swim/dive coach. In addition to Eileen Garcia (2009, 2010 and 2011) and Ryan Garr (2010), alum Liz Rosen ’11 became the third Academic All-American in school history in 2010-11.

Women’s tennis head coach Jim Hayes has led the Cougars to their most successful four-year stretch (17 victories) in the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference era. With five wins in two of the last three seasons, Clark seems to be on the cusp of a breakthrough, buoyed by a 6-3 win over Division II Assumption and a narrow 4-3 loss to Division I Holy Cross last season.

The number of combined wins the Cougar baseball team has posted in the last two seasons under head coach Jason Falcon — the most victories in a two-year span in school history. Included in those 32 victories is the second winning season in school history, in 2010, and the first since 1960.

The win total for the volleyball program over the past three seasons, culminating in the 13-win campaign in 2010. The 13 victories were the most in a decade and included a Worcester City Championship and a berth in the conference tournament for the fourth straight season under head coach Mickey Cahoon.

The all-time winning percentage in 27 seasons on the sideline for women’s basketball head coach Pat Glispin. She has won 462 games at Clark, including 11 seasons in which the Cougars won 20 games or more. Clark has made seven trips to the NCAA Tournament under Glispin and won four NEWMAC regular season titles (1997, 1998, 1999 and 2004).

Entering his 14th season as the head coach of the men’s basketball program, Paul W. Phillips ranks second on the team’s all-time wins list with 200. During Phillips’ tenure, the Cougars have made five trips to the NCAA Tournament and won four regular-season NEWMAC titles (1999, 2001, 2002 and 2003).

The combined number of wins in field hockey and softball for head coach Linda Wage. In 26 years on the field hockey sidelines she has amassed 262 victories, while collecting 383 from the softball dugout.

Make it count
Behind the numbers of some successful Clark coaches
CLARK LABS RECEIVES $1.8M GRANT

Clark Labs is the recipient of a two-year, $1.8 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to develop a decision support software application for land management.

The new software suite will be built upon Clark Lab’s Land Change Modeler, an application developed for land change analysis, prediction and the examination of impacts on habitat and biodiversity. New elements will include an integrated environment for multi-criteria and multi-objective land allocation planning, enhanced tools for habitat management, adaptation planning tools for climate change (such as the ability to downscale climate projections and assess their impact on crop suitability and species distributions) and the incorporation of ecosystem service valuation procedures developed by the Natural Capital Project in its InVEST toolkit.

The InVEST (Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Tradeoffs) software quantifies and maps the values of ecosystem services in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems and is designed to inform decisions about natural resource management. Ecosystem services are the benefits humans get from natural systems; their values can be expressed in monetary terms or in non-market terms, such as the number of people affected, or the intrinsic value of a species.

“Clark Labs is quite fortunate because we are comprised of a staff with combined expertise in geography and software development,” said Ron Eastman, professor of geography and the director of Clark Labs. “It truly provides us with a rich environment to fully evaluate and test methodologies, algorithms and work flows. Such conservation and land management tools are desperately needed and it is our hope, through the generosity of the Moore Foundation, to make a significant contribution to this effort.”

MARSH INSTITUTE WELL REPRESENTED

Robert Johnston, director of the Marsh Institute, presided over the 2011 Joint Annual Meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association, of which he is president.

The July conference, held in Pittsburgh, attracted more than 1,200 participants. Along with additional sessions, several special events included a preconference workshop on Economics and Child Nutrition, as well as a mentoring workshop on Early Career Development. The latter was designed to provide emerging scholars with the opportunities to develop skills essential to success — skills including best practices in grant writing, making presentations, writing manuscripts, and networking. Johnston and Jacqueline Geoghegan, professor of economics and past-president of NAREA, played significant roles in these and many other conference events.

Other researchers from the Marsh Institute gave papers and workshops as well, giving Clark a strong presence at this major national conference.

HINES GOES TO PARLIAMENT

Denise A. Hines, research assistant professor of psychology, was one of 12 experts called upon to participate in the Roundtable of Family Dynamics of the Senate of Canada, a symposium chaired by Sen. Anne Cools in May at Parliament in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

“Senator Cools believes in the use of research evidence to guide Canada’s laws, and in this case, she focused on laws regarding divorce, child custody, and domestic violence,” Hines said. “I was asked to present my work on male victims of domestic violence, along with research and policy implications of my work.”

Hines participated in a panel called “Domestic and Family Violence,” and discussed “Overlooked Victims of Domestic Violence: Men.”

All of the Roundtable proceedings, presentation slides, and papers will be published as a book to become a lasting document and record of the Roundtable, and to be used as reference to revise and update Canada’s laws on divorce, child custody, and domestic violence.

WILSON EARNED ELDREDGE PRIZE


“Wilson has written a significant book with a clear argument, articulated throughout with graceful writing that is accessible to the general reader,” wrote the jurors who awarded the prize.

Wilson’s research interests include painting, photography and design in the United States during the period between 1918 and 1939 and the history and criticism of museums. In addition to “The Modern Eye,” she also is the author of “Livable Modernism: Interior Decorating and Design During the Great Depression” (Yale University Press, 2004), which accompanied an exhibition at the Yale University Art Gallery. It won the Charles F. Montgomery Award from the Decorative Arts Society in 2006.
Published and Presented

From an exploration into the cultural significance of Shakespeare’s “The Tempest” to a clear-eyed assessment of some of America’s hardest truths to a spirited debate about the phenomenon of “emerging adulthood,” Clark faculty produced a number of provocative books within the past year. A sampling of recent offerings:

1. **INTEREST GROUPS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA** // By Robert Boatright, Associate Professor of Political Science

   In the early 2000s, the United States and Canada implemented new campaign finance laws restricting the ability of interest groups to make political contributions and to engage in political advertising. While the reforms sought to reduce the role of interest groups in campaigns, these laws have had opposite results in the two nations. Boatright explains the disparate results by placing campaign finance reforms in the context of ongoing political and technological changes.

2. **LISTENING FOR UTOPIA IN ERNST BLOCH’S MUSICAL PHILOSOPHY** // By Benjamin M. Korstvedt, Associate Professor, Department of Visual and Performing Arts

   The musical writings of the German philosopher and theorist Ernst Bloch are extraordinarily rich, but also unusually dense, at times even cryptic. “Listening for Utopia” is both an explication of Bloch’s musical thought and a critical development of it. Ultimately, the book seeks to reanimate Bloch’s philosophy of music in ways that connect with current musicology.


   Packed with fascinating facts and illustrated throughout with clear, easy-to-read, four-color graphics, “The Real State of America Atlas” draws back the curtain on our complex nation to reveal the myriad realities of the American experience — from our changing demographics to patterns of home ownership to the kinds of food we eat. This comprehensive and enlightening work upends many long-held myths and shows us who we are today.

4. **DEBATING EMERGING ADULTHOOD: STAGE OR PROCESS?** // By Jeffrey Jensen Arnett, Research Professor of Psychology; Marion Kloep, Ph.D., Leo B. Hendry, Ph.D., and Jennifer L. Tanner, Ph.D.

   In this book, Arnett and Tanner argue that as young people around the world share demographic similarities, such as longer education and later marriage, the years between the ages 18 and 25 are best understood as entailing a new life stage. Hendry and Kloep counter that stage theories — including the theory of emerging adulthood — have never been able to explain individual transitions across the life course and ought to be abolished altogether.

5. **SHAKESPEARE IN PERFORMANCE: THE TEMPEST** // By Virginia Mason Vaughan, Professor of English

   “The Tempest” occupies a unique place in cultural history. Probably no play of Shakespeare’s has been so subject to appropriations and adaptations, many of which have had tremendous impact upon the play’s subsequent performance history. This study traces this complex dynamic through the play’s 400-year history, examining the role of “The Tempest” as a cultural mediator from its inception to the present.
LETTER TO ALUMNI:

This summer, I was lucky enough to spend a good amount of time with a number of my Clark classmates and roommates. And it reminded me of one thing: that our connections to each other can be the most powerful (and entertaining) reminder of our time at Clark.

If there is one frequent refrain I hear from my fellow alumni, it’s that you wish that sense of connection was a bit more prevalent when you return to campus.

With that in mind, I’m excited to say we’re making progress on one of the main goals I established as alumni president — the creation of a “Virtual Alumni Center” for all alumni returning to campus. While details are still being finalized, the plan is that by next year, you will have a much more useful and complete campus experience (stay tuned for more details in an upcoming issue of Clark magazine). In the meantime, send suggestions of what you’d like to see as part of a Virtual Alumni Center to szoback@alumni.clarku.edu.

I encourage my fellow alumni to visit Clark Connect, the directory/networking site for alumni, and I urge everyone to register, and to make public any information you want shared. (I suggest location and employment be among the categories.) Currently, due to privacy restrictions, almost all of your information is defaulted to private, and not available to your classmates and other alumni. Register and set your profile information to public at clarkconnect.clarku.edu.

Finally, a few more important ways you can stay connected with each other and with Clark.

Attend an alumni event in your area; join your local Regional Alumni Council; or plan to visit campus for your next reunion or just to reconnect with your former faculty. Visit Clark Connect for a calendar of upcoming events in Worcester and in your area (clarku.edu/alumnievents).

Make a gift to Clark to signal your support for the kind of education you received, and to sustain what makes Clark unique: student-faculty partnerships, and meaningful internships and experiences in Worcester, across the United States, and around the world. Be a Clarkie. Fund a Clarkie. (clarkconnect.clarku.edu/give).

I also have one more request of you as I enter my last academic year as Alumni Association president. Let me know what you want to see from the Alumni Association over the next several years. I’m thrilled about the future of Clark, and of our association, but your ideas keep this group functioning. I want to hear what you have to say. I can be reached by sending an email to szoback@alumni.clarku.edu.

Best regards,

SCOTT ZOBACK ’04, M.P.A. ’05
Alumni Association President

// As always, I welcome your thoughts or comments. Contact me anytime at szoback@alumni.clarku.edu, or by mail at Scott Zoback c/o Alumni Office, Clark University, 950 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610.
Art, economics, and Zen Dunes

DANIEL RANALLI '68 was supposed to go to college so he could land a stable job in a traditional field.

“I was a blue-collar kid from New Haven. I was the first in my family to go to college, so it was a rough sort of scenario. My family was very supportive, but in my demographic you didn’t go to college and major in art. You went to college and became a lawyer, doctor or businessman.”

So Ranalli majored in economics at Clark. He recalls the University offered a handful of studio and art history courses taught in conjunction with the Worcester Art Museum. “The first time I went to the Worcester Art Museum I saw a serious collection of photography. I was amazed. I always thought a black and white photograph had these funny scalloped edges and went from light gray to medium gray. And all of a sudden I saw these works by Edward Weston and Ansel Adams that were just astonishing in their kind of radiance. There was somebody speaking behind them. For me, that was an epiphany.”

Despite his buttoned-down major, Ranalli wasn’t interested in just fitting into the system.

“I was pretty radicalized by the war in Vietnam, and economics seemed like a powerful tool for dealing with injustice. Studying economics was a way, hopefully, to bring about the social change that I was interested in.”

Ranalli went on to do graduate studies in economics at Boston University. He was teaching at a junior college and working toward his Ph.D., but his fascination with photography persisted. After two years of juggling his competing interests, “probably in a moment of less than great clarity,” he recalls, “I burned all of my dissertation notes. That made my decision to become an artist irrevocable.”

Ranalli says he couldn’t have become an artist without Clark.

“One of the things I think Clark wanted us to understand is that, once we had our liberal arts education, we could use those tools to teach ourselves anything that we wanted to know,” he says. Clark teaches you “to do it yourself by giving you a sense of what to read, what canon to study, and how to integrate that learning into yourself. That sense of opening your mind to all the possibilities was very empowering.”

Ranalli learned everything he could about photography, mastering use of a large-format camera so he could understand turn-of-the-century photo techniques, reading voraciously, taking workshops and museum-hopping to hone the technical, emotional, and intellectual facets of his photography.

In the late 1970s he landed a position as an arts administrator at The Artists Foundation in Boston, and by the mid-1980s he was writing and teaching about art and guest-curating exhibitions at the Boston University Art Gallery. Then came the opportunity to develop and teach in a graduate program in arts administration — first at Lesley University and then at Boston University’s Metropolitan College, where he has directed the program for the past 19 years.

“Ironically, it was my economics background that made me credible for my first arts administration job,” he recalls. “I think they said, ‘He has degrees in economics, he must know how to manage stuff.’ And, of course, I never took a management or accounting course. But I knew I could learn it. That was Clark’s influence again.”

Today, Ranalli balances his teaching and administrative positions with his life as an artist. He lives in Cambridge, Mass., during the academic year and in his beloved Wellfleet, Mass., in the summers, having fallen in love with the outer Cape 25 years ago. It was with that move to Cape Cod that his art began to change.

“I let go of my earlier abstract photograms and wanted my work to be informed by the environment, but I didn’t want to paint another sunset or make a photograph of sailboats in a harbor,” he says.

Ranalli’s critically acclaimed Cape work been called “ethereal” and, in his own words, “based on chance effects.” He explains, “I like being able to make something that doesn’t last; to find that moment when it seems just right.” In his “Snail Drawings” series, he “choreographs” the drawing of snails in wet tidal sand; in his “Zen Dunes” series, he rakes large Zen gardens in the dunes and beaches of Cape Cod, which disappear with wind or the incoming tide. “I’ve established a kind of intimacy with the Cape Cod landscape that I hope is evident in my work.”

Ranalli’s work resides in the permanent collections of more than 20 museums in the U.S. and abroad, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York and Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts, and has been included in more than 150 solo and group shows.

Looking back, Ranalli muses, “I didn’t even know what I didn’t know about photography. But I did know how to learn. And that was because of Clark.”

Daniel Ranalli’s work embraces a wide range of themes and subjects. To view more, visit danielranalli.com.

By Wendy Linden
Welcome back

Reunion Weekend 2011 offered what reunions always do: an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and classmates, an occasion to share memories and laughs, and the chance to learn how Clark continues to evolve since that day you left campus with a diploma in hand. Classes whose graduating years end in the numbers “2” and “7” will get their shot at all the fun next May. Here’s a parting glimpse at some of this year’s good times.
From top: Former president John Bassett and wife Kay react to one of the tributes made to them during the dedication of the John and Kay Bassett Admissions Center. A Clark alum spends some quality time with Sigmund Freud.

The Dolan Field House was dressed up for the occasion when classmates broke bread at the Reunion Dinner. Jeffrey Goldman ’07 and Nolan Thompson ’76, show their moves under the big tent.

Shelia McCann ’71 and Robin Cohen ’06, M.P.A. ’07, served on the panel for the symposium “Evolving Nonprofits in a Changing Economy.”
1961

**ALLEN CHRISTOFFERSON** enjoyed a trip to Botswana after attending his 50th reunion on campus this past May.

1963

**H. CALVIN (CAL) COOK** and his wife, Annette ’64, are now retired from careers in city and regional planning and elementary school teaching, respectively. To help celebrate Cal’s 75th birthday this past spring, he and Annette took their son and his family, who live in Fairfax, Va., to historic Williamsburg, Va.

1965

**JUDITH LORIMER** heads up a small, all-volunteer nonprofit organization, Build a School in Africa (buildaschoolinafrica.org), which is building its sixth and seventh schools in the Sikasso region of southern Mali, in partnership with Save the Children. A primary school in Tabarako and a middle school in Heremakono were recent projects. Fundraising is underway for two more schools, scheduled to begin construction by the end of 2011. For more information, check the website or email Judy at jmlorimer@verizon.net, or call 978-433-2384. Donations may be sent to Build A School in Africa, Inc., 83 Groton St., Pepperell, MA 01463.

1966

**NADINE (BUNNY) CHURNICK KRASNOW.** Judy Schwartz Merriam, Ray Lantz, Tenney Bennett Lantz, and Phyllis Roth of the Class of 1966 write: “Distinguished as we were on our Reunion Weekend by the fact that we are almost all 66 years old, are members of the class of ’66, and by our small numbers in attendance, we were very happy to reconnect with each other. We engaged in some fascinating conversations and very much look forward to far better attendance at the next notable gathering. Recalling what we perceived in the elders at their reunions on our graduation weekend in ’66, we immediately observed that we are nowhere near as old as they were … and so it shall be for the 50th! Do plan on coming — there’s a remarkable bond among classmates, despite the differences there may have been among us while in college and the distances we’ve traveled since then.”

1968

**Best Lawyers**, one of the oldest and most respected peer reviews in the legal profession, named **HARVEY KAPLAN** as the “Best Boston Immigration Lawyer of the Year for 2011.” Kaplan received his J.D. from Boston University in 1974. He has been an adjunct professor at Northeastern University School of Law for more than 25 years and has also taught the immigration law course at Harvard University Law School. Kaplan has been named in **Best Lawyers in America** from 1991 to the present.

1969


1971

**TOM KOCH**, adjunct professor of medical geography at the University of British Columbia, has published “Disease Maps: Epidemics on the Ground.” The book makes the argument that the mapping of individual cases of illness as group events has helped us come to understand disease as a public thing affecting general populations. Collections of individual cases are combined on a map to create a single health
event, seen in place. Through this mapping, theories about a disease (and health in general) are first formulated and then tested. Koch is currently the director of Information Outreach, Ltd. Based in Vancouver, B.C., the company offers primary research and public education services.

1974
JEAN (GIANOPOULOS) JESENSKY is sole proprietor of Endswell Indexing, providing back-of-the-book indexing, electronic and Web indexing, and taxonomy services. She works with publishers, book production companies, editors, and authors to create indexes for their books. She also works with business and organizations to index documentation, both print and electronic. Jean has been in business for herself since 2006. She majored in music while at Clark and is especially interested in indexing books on music, both general interest and textbooks. Jean lives in Bolton, Mass., with her husband, John, and their two golden retrievers, Jackson and Maxwell.

STEVEN KANDARIAN is president and chief executive officer of MetLife Inc. He joined MetLife as the company’s chief investment officer in April 2005. Prior to that, he was the executive director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; founder and managing partner of Orion Partners, LP; president and founder of Eagle Capital Holdings; and managing director of Lee Capital Holdings, a private equity firm based in Boston. Kandarian is a board member of MetLife Bank and the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation. He also is a member of the Economic Club of New York and is an advisory board member of the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. He received a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

1977
NANCY BILLIAS, PH.D., associate professor of philosophy at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, Conn., will be on sabbatical during the spring 2012 semester to write a textbook, “The Future of Nihilism: Love, Hope and Faith in Post-Modern Conversation.” After earning her degree from Clark, Dr. Billias earned an M.A. from Claremont Graduate School, an M.S.Sc. from New School University, an M.Th. from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland), and her Ph.D. from Union Institute and Graduate School (Cincinnati, Ohio). She is a resident of West Hartford, Conn.

MICHAEL FISHEIN, M.A. ’77, PH.D. ’81, is president of Antioch University McGregor in Yellow Springs, Ohio. He assumed his duties on July 1, 2009, and was inaugurated on June 12 of this year. Prior to serving at Antioch McGregor, Dr. Fishbein was provost and vice president of academic affairs at Daniel Webster College in Nashua, N.H. Immediately preceding his appointment at Daniel Webster, he served as chief academic and chief student affairs officer at Lyndon State College in Lyndonville, Vt.
IRA MILLER, writing under the name IJ Miller, has published two books with Camel Press (camelpress.com). “Whipped” is about an affluent suburban housewife desperate to renew ties with her family while struggling to escape the terror of an unknown stalker. “Sex and Love” is a collection of short stories featuring men and women, some single, some married, some straight, some gay. All of their conflicts are rooted in their search for more sex, love, or both. These books are available on the Camel Press website, or through Amazon.com.

PHILIP D. BARTZ has joined the international law firm Bryan Cave LLP as a partner. He co-manages the firm’s Antitrust, Franchise and Consumer Law Group and leads the federal antitrust enforcement and litigation efforts in the Washington office. Bartz was with the Department of Justice from 1996 to 1999, holding the positions of deputy assistant attorney general for immigration litigation, deputy assistant attorney general for consumer litigation and deputy assistant attorney general for the Federal Programs Branch. He graduated with honors from Georgetown University Law School.

ANI APRAHAMIAN ’80, PH.D. ’86, a Freimann Professor in physics (experimental nuclear physics) at the University of Notre Dame, has been named a 2009 fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which honors efforts to advance science or its applications. Aprahamian previously served as director of the nuclear structure laboratory at Notre Dame, which is the longest continuously funded research effort at the university. She is also a fellow of the American Physical Society, a member of the DOE/NSF Nuclear Science Advisory Committee and a member of Armenia’s Expert Advisory Committee.

DR. JUDITH PEDERSON, PH.D., a marine ecologist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, received a 2010 Visionary Award from the Gulf of Maine Council in a ceremony in Portland, Maine, on Dec. 7, 2010. The award citation emphasized Dr. Pederson’s success in “working to ensure that the best science has been incorporated” into environmental policies impacting the Gulf of Maine. A resident of Worcester, Dr. Pederson is an international expert on marine invasive species and, here in the U.S., is a leader in coastal zone and marine environmental science in New England’s waters.
1981

ELIZABETH EPSTEIN, PH.D., is a research professor for the Center of Alcohol Studies at Rutgers University. Epstein, who majored in psychology at Clark, earned her master’s in psychology at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and her Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the University of Connecticut. She has been funded by several large National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism grants to do her research on development and testing of cognitive behavioral treatments for alcohol dependence, largely focused on treatments for alcohol-dependent women. Her research has been featured in Rutgers’ online and print magazines, as well as other media outlets. “I am always looking for ways to increase visibility for the problem of alcohol dependence in women, and for the availability of effective treatments for it,” she writes.

PHILIP SAVRIN, an attorney with the firm of Freeman Mathis & Gary in Atlanta, Ga., was recently named a Georgia Super Lawyer. He practices in the areas of insurance and business litigation.

1982

BONNIE (BACHAR) KINTZER was appointed chairwoman and chief executive officer of Women’s Marketing Inc. in Westport, Conn.

MICHAEL FEDER has six books currently in print; they are listed on his author page on Amazon.com. His company, Fame Farm, is involved in global licensing for celebrity, art, and corporate clients.

SEAN MCDONALD is a 2000 honorary alumnus of Oglala Lakota College in Kyle, S.D. He is also a member of The Council of Indian Nations, a program of National Relief Charities.

TRAINING IN PUERTO RICO

On Jan. 6, Edgardo Rivera ’86 and his wife Liza hosted the Clark University swimming and diving team for a barbecue dinner at their home in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, for the second time in three years. Edgardo’s daughter Gabriela (pictured sitting, fourth from right) is also an alum (2009), and their niece Cristina Negron (pictured sitting, bottom right) is Class of 2014. Gabriela Rivera roomed with several members of the team while an undergrad at Clark, so the relationship began several years ago. Edgardo was also instrumental in helping the team arrange to train at the Caparra Country Club’s aquatic facility, of which he is a member. Closer to home, Andrew Miller ’91, wife Jill, and their children Noah, 8, and Keaton, 7, hosted the swim team for dinner following the team’s meet at Wheaton College, something the family does every year.
1985
TEJA ARBOLEDA developed an iPhone app, “RaceOff,” which is now available on iTunes. “RaceOff” is a video Arboleda produced 10 years ago that is used by thousands of schools and colleges around the U.S. to demystify the notion that racial categories exist. “RaceOff” is also a permanent installation in the wildly successful national touring exhibit, “Race: Are We So Different?” which has led more than 2 million people to question their ideas and beliefs about race and identity. “RaceOff” will also start touring colleges this fall as a live performance program by Arboleda’s company, Entertaining Diversity Inc.

1986
SUE GREENE FUIRST, a resident of Chappaqua, N.Y., has been named to the Foundation Board of Open Door Family Medical Centers, which provides top-quality medical and dental care, and social services, to the Westchester community, particularly the economically disadvantaged. Fuirst is the founder of Basics Fuirst, a cooking school providing in-home classes for families, high school and college-aged students. Prior to starting Basics Fuirst in 2000, Fuirst was an entertainment marketing professional working with Music Choice and Time Warner Cable. She is an advocate for parents of children with learning and emotional disorders and has led a number of volunteer initiatives with the Chappaqua School District and Eagle Hill School in Greenwich, Conn.

1987
PAUL SCHONEWOLF has been promoted to area vice president with responsibility for all of Time Warner Cable’s business operations in New England. He previously was vice president for technical operations in New England. As area vice president for New England, Schonewolf will be responsible for approximately 1,000 employees serving more than 350,000 customers in more than 300 communities in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. He lives in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, with his wife, Paula, and their three children.

1988
In addition to his two paper books, “Modern Revolution” (focusing on the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia) and “Understanding Sociology” (an introductory textbook), DAN BROOK has two e-books, “Che Forever” (a poetic sketch) and “An Alef-Bet Kabalah” (Jewish mysticism). The e-books are available at smashwords.com/profile/view/brook.
1989

Jeffrey Getzin has accepted a position as senior software engineer at Google. He also published his debut novel, “Prince of Bryanae,” which is available in soft cover at Amazon.com. It is also available for the Kindle.

1990

Jacqueline Jock has published her first novel, “Big Girls Do Cry,” which has bullying as a central theme. Jock writes: “Eighth-graders Jade, Alissa, and Sam have been best friends since third grade. Get to know them through diary-like entries as they deal with friendships, boys, peer pressure, experimentation, family problems, cutting, and bullying. Join them on a 19-day journey that culminates in a night that will change their lives in unexpected ways.” The book is available through TBM books. Jock received a master’s in clinical social work from Boston College and has worked as a school adjustment counselor at Ware Middle School (Mass.) for the past five years. She lives with her 10-year-old dancing queen of a daughter, Victoria.

1992

Alana (Huchital) Goodman. Grant Goodman and big brother Eli of Cupertino, Calif., announce the birth of their daughter and sister, Hayley Yael, born July 19 at 7:02 a.m. Her current interests include loving hugs, sweet kisses, abundant food (available on demand), and her swaddling blankets.

1993


1996

Swarna Basu ’96 and his wife, Pavithra Vivekanand, welcomed their daughter, Aneire Layla, on June 19, 2011. They also have a 3-year-old son, Joaquin. Swarna is a faculty member in the Chemistry Department at Susquehanna University (Selinsgrove, Penn.), where he was recently awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor.

Chuck Anderson and his wife Merry share the good news that their son, Chase Alden Anderson, was born on March 25, 2011. Chase weighed 8 lbs., 12 oz. and was 21-1/2 inches long. “He is a happy and healthy boy. Everyone is doing well,” Chuck writes.

1997

Jessica (Maibor) Ferland recently accepted a promotion as program coordinator at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, where she manages adult support groups and other supportive programs for patients with cancer. Additionally, on June 11, 2011, she married Bryan Ferland of Franklin, Mass. Clarkies in attendance were Angela Knapp-Levesque and Dan Maibor.

1998


2001

Erin Scanlon ’00 and Christopher Boucher ’00 were married at the Brattle Theatre in Cambridge, Mass., on June 19, 2010. Clark attendees included Ayleen Peled ’01, Natalie Peled ’01, Zainab Rahman ’03 and baby Harissa. Not pictured are Kain Floyd ’01, Tricia Yang ’00 and Leiran Biton ’01.

Alumni are always encouraged to send us their news for Class Notes. If you’ve got something you’d like to share with fellow alumni, visit the Clark Connect site (clarkconnect.clarku.edu), which gives alumni more news, stories, personal and professional networking opportunities. There, you will find a Class Notes port to submit your information.

You can also mail your item to:
Clark University
950 Main St.
Worcester, MA 01610
Attn: Alumni Affairs

Please let us know what you’re up to!

Stay connected
2002

**CHRIS QUINTAL** married Sara DaSilva on June 12 in Edgartown, Mass., with a host of Clarkies in attendance. Among them were Schuyler Doten ’01, Ronen Seiger ’01, best man Dan Bobrow ’02, Ron Saykin ’01, Pablo Demarquet ’03, Mike Miller ’00, Geoff Pereira ’01 and Adam Sachs ’99.

2003

**JEFFREY J. MALANSON ’03, M.A. ’04** received his Ph.D. in history from Boston College in 2010, and has completed his first year as assistant professor of early American history at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

**COURTNEY PRICE** and **PATRICK OROSZKO**, both members of the class of 2003, were married on June 11, 2011, in Spencer, Mass. Mike Burlas, assistant men’s basketball coach at Clark, officiated at the ceremony. Courtney is an assistant district attorney in Worcester County, while Patrick works in Clark’s Graduate School of Management. About 25 Clarkies were in attendance, including (from left) Mark Stukowski ’04, Mike Burlas, Anthony Giampetruzzi ’03, M.A.T. ’04, Bryan Slack, M.A. ’98, Jon Weiner ’03, M.A.E.D. ’04, Rob Skowrya ’03, Chris Oroszko ’00, Renee Rosca ’05, Marcy Henderson ’04, Lauren Bressette ’03, Jenna Boutin ’03, Courtney and Patrick, Jordana (Herman) Levine ’03, Chris Bagdis ’03, Lauren Goode ’03, Julie Rodrigues Tanguay ’02, Tony Strickland Mettlach ’03, M.S.P.C. ’04, Dan Atting ’03, Clark women’s soccer coach Joe Brady, Adam Tanguay ’03, Sean Fleming ’03, Clark men’s basketball coach Paul Phillips, John Grinnity ’01, and Adam Polletta ’02.

2004

**JENNIFER MACDONALD** received the Young Leader Award at the Worcester Telegram & Gazette Visions Awards ceremony in February. This award recognizes outstanding achievement in business, professional life or community leadership by an individual age 35 or younger. Currently an M.D./Ph.D. student at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, MacDonald volunteers through the American Red Cross and at the Worcester Evening Free Medical Service Program at Epworth United Methodist Church, which operates free clinics for area residents. Also a member of the board, she recruits UMMS doctors to cover shifts at the clinic. At the medical school she is investigating which genes are involved in the reaction of glial cells to nerve injury.

2005

**BEN THEIN ’05, M.B.A. ’06** married Efrat Minivitzki on the beach in Caesarea, Israel, on July 6, 2011. The couple resides in Tel Aviv, Israel. Among the more than 600 attendees (many from abroad) were several Clarkies. Left to right: Bujana Perolli ’05, M.B.A. ’06, a native of Albania who is currently working at the World Bank in Washington, D.C.; Professor Mark C. Miller of the Political Science Department and the Law & Society Program at Clark; Ben Thein, and Mette Olwig ’05, M.A. ’06, a native of Denmark who is currently a Ph.D. student in geography at the University of Copenhagen.

**SAM SWARTWOUT** and **NORA SULLIVAN**, both Class of ’05, were married on January 2, 2009. Celebrating with them were many Clarkies, all class of 2005 (except where noted). Back row left to right: Eli Persing, Nichole Willy, Stephen Jacobson, Elizabeth Henry, Julia Spiro, Andrea Donahue, and Jennifer Shaughnessy. Middle row: Elizabeth Olson ’04, Christina Mammone, Alana (Shook) Cote, and Mary Kate Pagano. Front row: David Viegas, Ben Yelle, newlyweds Sam and Nora, and Sam Licciardo.

2007

**THERESE CLAXTON** completed her 27-month service in the Peace Corps in South Africa in 2010, where she worked in a rural village with orphans and vulnerable children, as well as with those infected with HIV/AIDS. She is currently pursuing her M.P.H. at Boston University, where she is employed full-time as a program coordina-

tor of a postdoctoral program in the Goldman Dental School.

2008

**ISIS NUSAIR, PH.D.,** has been awarded tenure by Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Nusair is a professor in the Department of International Studies and the Women’s Studies Program. She joined the Denison faculty in 2005 and teaches courses on transnational feminism, feminism in the Middle East and North Africa, and gender, war and conflict. Her current research focuses on the impact of war and displacement on Iraqi women refugees in Jordan.

2010

**LAURA FAULKNER ’10, M.P.A. ’11** works for the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, where she performs policy and budgetary analysis on state expenditures. Her primary areas of research include health and human services, state sales taxes, pension reform, FY2011/FY2012 state budgets, and Medicaid spending. Faulkner attends R.I. House and Senate budget and fiscal hearings, and the annual Revenue Estimating Conference to gather information for her research. She resides in Providence and can be reached at: laura.michele.faulkner@gmail.com.
WALTER KENNETH MORRISON ’52 died on Feb. 26, 2011, in Middleton, Nova Scotia, Canada. He was 86.

Morrison served with the U.S. Air Force during World War II; he flew 11 missions before returning to the United States. After he earned his master’s degree at Clark, he took a position as a professional cartographer with the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. In his nine years with the Society, he was an important part of a talented group that established mapping procedures that became standard in the business for 40 years.

In 1966, Morrison became head instructor in the Cartography Program at the Nova Scotia Land Survey Institute. He taught there for 19 years and was instrumental in the design and layout of the extensive labs that were installed in the NSLSI facility built in 1974 and used for all manner of map production activities that preceded the digital age. At the time of his death, he was cartographer emeritus at the NSLSI.

DR. EDWARD MASON ’48 died in Chicago on Monday, April 11, 2011. He was 86.

After his graduation from Clark, he received his medical degree from Tufts University Medical School. He practiced psychiatry in Worcester for 40 years. Besides his private practice, he was chief of psychiatry at St. Vincent Hospital and the founding chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He was professor emeritus at the time of his death.

He served as president of the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society and was an active member of the Worcester District Medical Society.

Mason is survived by his wife of 63 years, Ina; his three children, Rabbi Steven Mason and his wife Patsy of Chicago, Dr. Susan Mason and her husband Richard Wedge of New York City, and Andrew Mason and his wife Marianne; six grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

MYRA (HIATT) KRAFT, daughter of Jacob Hiatt ’46 and a former University trustee, died on July 20, 2011, in Brookline, Mass. She was 68.

Kraft, wife of New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, followed in her father’s philanthropic footsteps. Jacob Hiatt endowed the Jacob Hiatt Center for Urban Education in 1991 to enhance educational opportunity and achievement among the increasingly diverse students in the city of Worcester. He also endowed the Frances L. Hiatt School of Psychology in memory of his wife (Myra’s mother).

Kraft served on the Clark University Board of Trustees from 1982 to 1983.

She managed the Robert and Myra Kraft Family Foundation and was president of the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation, which contributed millions of dollars to charities in the United States and Israel.

SELIK JOSEPH GLICK, father of Allen M. Glick ’63, died on May 25, 2011, in West Palm Beach, Fla. He was 99.

Following his graduation from Clark, Allen Glick endowed the Lillian and Selig Glick Scholarship Fund, which provides a scholarship for an undergraduate student of high academic ability and character, who is deserving of financial aid.

Selig Glick was the founder and owner of Bancroft Motors in Worcester. He also established the Selig J. Glick Hospice at the Jewish Healthcare Center in Worcester.

Glick is survived by his son, Allen, and Allen’s wife Iris, of Umatilla, Fla., and his daughter, Wendy Glick, and her partner Joseph Orth of West Palm Beach.


Born in Worcester, Smith worked as a reporter for the Worcester Telegram & Gazette after he graduated from Clark, then served in the U.S. Army in Korea, where he was chief writer for the Armed Forces Korea Network.

He worked as a freelance playwright and film writer, and was cofounder of the O’Neill Theater Center’s National Playwright’s Conference in New York, where he met his future wife, Susan. Returning to Worcester in 1973, the couple established Worcester Foothills Theatre, a professional Equity regional theater that the Smiths led for 25 years. Foothills received an award for excellence in professional theater from the New England Theatre Conference in 1988.

Following his retirement from Foothills in 1999, Smith launched a new creative endeavor reflecting his strong interest in German/Jewish/Polish dialog and reconciliation. This project focused on two plays, “A Journey to Kreisau” and “Karski,” which related the story of Jan Karski, a Polish resister who was often referred to as the man who tried to stop the Holocaust. The two plays were presented in Worcester, Boston, Chicopee and in several locations in Germany and at The Kosciuszko Foundation in Poland.

In recognition of his work, the German government presented him with the German Friendship Award in 2008 for his efforts on behalf of German-American relations.

Smith is survived by his wife, Susan, who is an adjunct faculty member at Clark; two sons: Dan and his wife, Kenda, of Worcester and Joe in Los Angeles; his brother, Sidney, and his wife, Fran; grandsons Kelin and Eli; and nieces and nephews.


Gallo received his law degree from the New England School of Law, and also studied theology at Harvard University. He served in the United States Navy, participating in the Battle of the Bulge and the Invasion of Normandy.

He spent years as a judge for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents, and was offered an appointment to the federal bench by presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush.

Gallo is survived by his fiancée, Kathy Magnotta; a brother, Albert, and his wife Ellie, and their children; and a brother, Domenic, and his wife Connie, and their children. He was the uncle of Fr. David Gallo and was predeceased by his brother Carmine.

MARY A. SAURO, who was a payroll supervisor at Clark for 19 years, died on Jan. 12, 2011, in Worcester. She retired from Clark in 1982. She was 90.

JOHN “RUSTY” GAUDET, who was an administrator in the Buildings and Grounds department of Physical Plant from 1964 to 1975, died on Feb. 28, 2011, in Boylston. He was 84.

WILLIAM J. DECOURCY, who was a custodian for Physical Plant from 1981 to 1984, died on May 30, 2011, at the age of 91.
A Clark career measured in decades

SHIRLEY (KNOX) BUSSOLARI’s high school guidance counselor badly wanted her to go to college, prodding her to enroll at Smith or Mount Holyoke. But despite her outstanding academic record (third overall in her graduating class and the top female), Bussolari could not entertain the option of pursuing higher education as a student.

“This was in 1965, and people did not automatically go to college,” she says. “I came from a family that didn’t have an awful lot, so my main goal was to go out and earn money.”

The guidance counselor recommended Shirley for a secretarial position in the Clark Admissions Department at a starting pay rate of $62.50 a week. She got the job. This past May, following more than a few pay raises and a farewell party marked by equal parts laughter and tears, Bussolari retired as director of admissions operations, completing an astounding 45 years of unbroken service to the University.

Bussolari worked for 30 years under Dean of Admissions Richard W. Pierson, first as his assistant and later as operations director. The job was hands-on: when the all-volunteer Scarlet Key tour guides were unavailable, Bussolari would jump in and conduct the tour for prospective students and parents. “I was the first face of Clark a lot of these kids and parents saw,” she says.

Bussolari’s operations group maintained the student database, processed applications materials, oversaw mailings to students and supplied the data for thousands of students to departments across campus. It’s no coincidence that at her retirement send-off in the John and Kay Bassett Admissions Center she wore a sash bearing the title “Queen of Queries and Lists.”

For some perspective on the sheer length of Bussolari’s Clark career, consider that she served under seven University presidents (and during the tenures of nine U.S. presidents), and that much of Clark’s campus, including the Higgins University Center, the Sackler Science Center, the Kneller Athletic Center, the Dolan Field House and the Lasy Center for Bioscience did not exist on her first day of work. Man had not walked on the moon; Woodstock had not taken place; the Red Sox would not break their World Series victory drought for another 39 years.

“The most interesting times were the late ’60s, early ’70s, when Clark students were really activists,” she recalls. “I remember students would carry fake coffins down Main Street to City Hall to protest the Vietnam War.”

Once, a group of students made their way to the admissions building on Downing Street. Students had been taking over buildings on college campuses across the country and no one was sure of their intent on this occasion.

“We loaded the student applications into the trunk of my car so at least our work wouldn’t be impacted,” she says. The students briefly took over the switchboard on Downing Street but not the admissions office. “Those were really interesting times at Clark. I think the kids have mellowed over the years.”

Shirley and her husband are enjoying her newly minted retirement, but the decision to leave was not easy. Years earlier, Bussolari had asked then-admissions dean Harold Wingood the best way to graciously exit a work place, and his reply was, “Make yourself redundant.”

“I’m not sure I completely made myself redundant,” she says. “I did try to pass along some of what I knew, but you can never pass along everything. At some point you just have to say, ‘It’s time.’”

She notes that she has attended more employee recognition luncheons than just about anyone in Clark’s history.

“At those luncheons I’d see these special people — janitors, library workers, grounds crew, admissions people — who have devoted their lives to Clark. They are the heart and soul of what is always referred to as the Clark family,” she says. “This has been a great place to work. There really isn’t another college in the city that I would have gone to work for.”

Bussolari recently received a card from a former student calling her an inspiration and thanking her for instilling a sense of dedication and work ethic. “Who could ask for more at the end of their career?” she wonders.

“My work at Clark was not just a job. It was a major part of my life and my identity, and the opportunity to be a mentor and an example to the students and staff with whom I worked was hugely important to me.”

When she reached her 45-year career milestone, Bussolari sent her former guidance counselor a note to tell him the news and acknowledge his role in connecting her with Clark. Shortly afterward she received a letter from him congratulating her on a distinguished career in higher education.

“He said, ‘I so wanted you to go on to college, and I see you made the right choice.’”
When Peter Klein ’64 was a student at Clark in the early 1960s, the men were required to wear a sport jacket and tie to Sunday lunch or they would be denied admittance into the dining hall.

“We protested that, and we won,” Klein recalls with a chuckle. “It was a different world.”

Helping Clark adapt to the demands of an ever-changing world will continue to be one of Klein’s priorities as the new chair of the Board of Trustees, replacing William Mosakowski ’76, who recently completed four distinguished years at the board’s helm. He is ever ready to tout the value of his alma mater.

“We have a wonderful tradition of challenging convention and changing our world. We have world-class academics and research; this is the only place Freud spoke in this country, and we’ve done a remarkable job of reinvigorating the neighborhood surrounding the University. We have brought together the community and Clark through the University Park Campus School. If we have a failing, it’s our sense of modesty. We should not be shy about saying we do great things here.”

Klein arrived on Clark’s campus in 1960 as a psychology major, joined the Phi Sigma Delta fraternity and recalls that his college years “were a very nurturing experience for me. By the time I finished, I was a better student, I’d attained a certain degree of maturity, and I was much more confident than I’d been when I’d arrived.”

He earned a master’s in psychology from Boston College and pursued doctoral studies at New York University while working at New York Medical College, where he was a research assistant on a grant that supported a study of pain tolerance and attentional abilities.

In 1969/’70 Klein made a dramatic career shift. He formed a company with his architect brother, and the siblings oversaw construction of several houses in Westchester, N.Y., as well as the Hamptons. Klein later teamed with another partner “and instead of doing one or two houses at a time, we starting doing 50 to 100. That’s when I really learned how to operate a home-building business.” Today, Klein is president of PDK Development Corp. in Commack, N.Y., managing a series of commercial properties, including shopping centers and office buildings, in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

In an interview conducted on a patio outside Worcester’s Beechwood Hotel on a sun-kissed spring afternoon (Klein was in town for a meeting with President David Angel), he spoke animatedly about his relationship to Clark. He brings to the chairman’s position a mix of business savvy and a passionate advocacy for his alma mater.

“I’m proud of Clark,” he says. “I was at a family function a couple of months ago when a friend said to me, when told I was going to be chairman of the board of trustees, I hear Clark is on an upward trajectory. I wholeheartedly agree with that.”

Klein and his wife Andrea are deeply knit into the Clark fabric. They endow the Andrea B. and Peter D. ’64 Klein Distinguished Professorship, which recognizes and rewards a faculty member for outstanding scholarship, teaching and community involvement. The Klein name also graces the faculty dining room in the Higgins Center (jackets and ties not required), the coaches’ office at the Dolan Field House, a lab in the Lasry Center for Bioscience, the second-floor lobby and students’ study area in the Academic Commons at the Goddard Library, and an endowed scholarship for transfer students.

During his tenure, Klein chaired the Environment Committee, which helped guide the planning of capital projects like the Dolan and Lasry buildings.

“Clark does remarkably well to build these buildings with limited resources. We have very talented people like [Executive Vice President and Treasurer] Jim Collins and [former Director of Physical Plant] Paul Bot-tis, who are really exceptional. It’s easy to do terrific buildings when you have lots of money; much harder when your funds are limited.”

Klein stresses the importance of Clark’s Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP™) initiative that melds rigorous academics with the development of real-world capabilities “because at the end of the day it’s outcomes by which we will be measured. What will distinguish us from the others is our ability to make them the best possible outcomes for those who choose Clark.”

Increasing alumni engagement “on a whole host of levels” is paramount, both in terms of giving and personal involvement, Klein says. He notes that President Angel is making the necessary inroads, a task that will require constant attention.

“David Angel is a man with real vision, who has the ability to convince people of the merits of his position,” he says. “He was an excellent provost, and I think he’s going to be a great president. He’s the leader of this team — the University — and the team is a good one. But in terms of the future, how we get there and how we talk about it, that’s David’s job.”

Trustee chair always eager to champion Clark
Recruitment strategies reflect the changing nature of admissions

ON A STEAMY AUGUST MORNING, Don Honeman stands before the rows of filled seats in the program room at the John and Kay Bassett Admissions Center and addresses an audience of high school students and their parents.

“Try to find something different or distinct among colleges,” he advises. “Don’t focus on what’s the same.”

For the next hour, which will include a Q&A with two Clark students followed by a campus tour, Honeman and his admissions team will highlight the attributes that set Clark University apart from other institutions. The interactive presentation highlights opportunities for prospective students to benefit from a liberal education curriculum designed to develop the skills and competencies needed to succeed in the evolving professional landscape of the 21st century. Undergraduate research opportunities, the Accelerated B.A./Master’s Degree Program and participation in collaborative cross-curricular and cross-generational learning communities are presented as examples of Clark’s commitment to ensuring that an undergraduate experience at Clark really is different and relates meaningfully to “real world” opportunities following graduation. The presentation ends with a slide listing opportunities for prospective students and graduate schools that have attracted Clark grads in recent years. An important value of a Clark education — meaningful outcomes — is reflected in the names that emerge on the screen.

If the business of college admissions were static, life would be easy for Honeman. As dean of admissions and financial aid he could simply take the formulas and strategies that have worked in years past and repeat them, with little doubt about their continued success.

But he knows better. Today, admissions is more dynamic and competitive than ever, requiring colleges and universities to be on their game at all times. This means making necessary adjustments to meet the challenges of shifting demographics, a lagging economy and the evolving expectations of students and their parents as they hunt for the right college fit.

The figures tell the story. Honeman notes a significant decline in the last three years in the number of students graduating from high school and going on to college, particularly in the Northeast. The effect of this drop, compounded by the fact that more higher-education options are available in the Northeast than elsewhere in the United States, means intensified competition for the dwindling pool of students in the region. Colleges and universities, he says, are aggressively working to corner whatever piece of the market they can, and to do so requires admissions departments to be agile, adaptable, and unafraid to shake up the old ways.

“Those two colliding forces — the demographic phenomenon on one hand and the incredibly competitive marketplace — compounded by the economic conditions have caused us to rethink almost everything we do in college admissions,” Honeman says. “A huge part of parents’ decision-making process focuses on affordability issues, and we are making the case that a $45,000-a-year college education is an investment rather than an expense.”

In response to these challenges, the Clark Admissions Department has reengineered its approach to engaging prospective students, top to bottom. The campus tour has been reinvented so that it’s not simply a guided stroll from landmark to landmark such as the library, the athletic center, the newest dormitory, etc. When a student reserves space for a visit, he or she is asked about academic and extracurricular interests so that the visit can be personalized as much as possible. “We try to match them with a student tour guide from Clark whose interests parallel the interests of the student,” Honeman says. “We customize the visit so that it really capitalizes on what’s unique about Clark, and how it matches the student’s own interests.”

Putting SAT to the test

The SAT Reasoning Test (formerly known as the Scholastic Aptitude Test) was originally developed by Princeton psychologist Carl Brigham as a way to eliminate test bias between people from different socioeconomic backgrounds. It remained the lone college standardized test until ACT (originally an acronym for American College Testing) was launched in the late 1950s. Over the decades, the SAT went through a number of structural iterations — for instance, eliminating various skills sections and introducing new ones as educational priorities changed. The test has also endured its share of criticism in recent years, particularly claims of cultural bias in the verbal section and charges that it favors the affluent, who are often products of stronger school systems and who have access to rigorous SAT preparatory courses. According to the National Center for Fair and Open Testing, more than 800 accredited colleges and universities have made standardized test scores an optional piece of their admissions requirements. The movement picked up steam following a 2004 report by Bates College, a standardized test-optional school since 1984. The Bates study found there was effectively no difference in graduation rates or collegiate grade point average between test-score submitters and non-submitters, that Bates’ applicant pool had doubled since the policy was instated with approximately a third of applicants not submitting scores, and that applications from minority students rose dramatically.
Clark traditionally draws the majority of its students from the Northeast, but the population downturn makes it clear the University needs to be more aggressive with recruiting in other parts of the country, Honeman says.

He and his team have amplified their efforts in three geographic regions from which Clark draws a fair number of applicants — Metro Washington, D.C./Baltimore, Chicago and the Pacific Northwest. “The culture of college in New England resonates in those areas, and they are also cities with a certain amount of outward migration of college students,” Honeman says.

Admissions also expanded its reach by selecting two southwestern cities — Austin, Texas, and Albuquerque, N.M. — where Clark has little presence “but where there’s a population explosion, a fair amount of affluence and mobility,” he says. “These are two places where we are trying to get a foothold, even if it’s just experimental.

“One of most important things that we do in these areas is engage the people who are the decision-makers surrounding the college selection process, and those tend to be guidance counselors and independent counselors who work with families to help them find colleges.”

This March, Clark Admissions will host information sessions and tours for counselors from the Chicago and Washington, D.C. areas. Also in March, psychology Professor Jeffrey Jensen Arnett will lead a symposium about his research into “emerging adulthood” for guidance counselors from across the country.

Involvement of recent Clark alumni in student recruitment has been tapped as another priority for the University’s admissions efforts. Honeman observes that “supplementing the extraordinary work done by our Alumni & Parent Admissions Program with focused efforts by recent alums will add yet another important dimension to our efforts.”

Honeman notes that Clark’s inclusion in the book “40 Colleges that Change Lives” has been a boon.

“If you ask twenty Clarkies how they first heard of Clark, I’ll bet you ten of them would mention that book,” he says. Clark conducts college fairs throughout the country with the other 39 schools listed in the book.

A significant change for Clark Admissions launches for this year is that the University will give students the option of submitting their SAT or ACT test scores as part of their application. According to the National Center for Fair and Open Testing, Clark will join nearly 800 U.S. colleges and universities such as Bates College, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, American University and Wake Forest University that do not require standardized test scores be included in the undergraduate application package. The decision was made following the faculty Admissions & Financial Aid Committee’s year-long review of the issues surrounding the use of standardized test scores to gauge a student’s academic suitability.

“If you focus on what Clark is all about — working with faculty and other students in a collaborative learning environment, engaging in undergraduate research, making a difference outside of the classroom — these all involve a commitment and learning style that may not be measured very well by how you do on a test on a Saturday morning,” Honeman says.

“Instead, Clark’s admissions staff is examining those attributes and experiences students bring to their college applications that might best predict success in the learning environment offered by Clark.” In particular, “We are exploring ways to identify those students whose high school experiences demonstrate that they are likely to thrive in a learning environment focused on real-world engagement and practical problem solving.”

As Clark moves toward providing even more real-world engagement through its Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP™) initiatives, students will find themselves challenged not only to earn strong grades, but they also will be required to develop the types of capacities that will help them persevere in a professional or postgraduate setting, including their ability to adapt, problem solve, face challenges with creativity and resilience, and collaborate beyond the classroom.

Clark has determined that factors in the application package other than standardized test scores are better indicators of an applicant’s likelihood of success in a LEEP-based atmosphere: the student’s transcript, the strength of his or her high school curriculum, the application essay, teacher and guidance counselor recommendations, and extracurricular activities. It’s important that the student has shown a willingness to be challenged and has demonstrated a sustained commitment to achieving his or her academic goals, Honeman says.

“This is not just an instinctive feeling on our part,” he says. “We did a lot of research with our own data and with national data demonstrating that of the various things we look at in the college applications process, standardized tests are probably the weakest predictor of success. We’ve found there are other ways to demonstrate that a student has the intellectual capacity, and also the commitment, to do this kind of work.”

Voluntarily submitted scores will still be used to clarify other elements of the application, Honeman says.

Honeman’s presentation to prospective students and parents about Clark’s unique identity closes with the observation that “We want to be clear that we’re a place not just characterized by our academic programs; we’re a place defined by our values. In addition to being a solid academic institution, we’re driven by what we believe in as much as by our programmatic offerings.”

Don Honeman will address your questions and comments about Clark’s admissions program via an online discussion board that will be kept open through Nov. 9. Visit clarku.edu/alumnidiscussion.
Life after Clark, and together

THESE IS NOTHING LIKE HIGHER EDUCATION to bring two people together — the “What’s your major?” question has led to countless “I don’t!” years down the line.

Clark is no different.

On Reunion Weekend three couples — two married, one engaged, all Clarkies — stopped by Dana Commons to chat about their experiences as students, their careers, and the values they brought with them from Clark into the wider world. There was also some mention of Bugs Bunny, but for that you’ll have to read on.

DR. JOSEPH POKU ’91 AND MERYL POKU ’91 [a]

Dr. Joseph Poku refers to himself as a “heart electrician,” though his official title is cardiac electro-physiologist. Matters of the heart were far less scientific when, years earlier, he met fellow Clark senior, and his future wife, Meryl Krasnow (now Poku), in the winter before graduation.

“I think we met in January 1991,” Joseph recalls. “I think it was her birthday.”

“It was actually a few months earlier, but that’s okay,” Meryl corrects with a laugh.

As a biochemistry, molecular biology and math major, Joseph, a native of Ghana, enmeshed himself in the sciences, not just at Clark but also at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center where as an undergraduate he conducted research in molecular biology and diabetes.

“We met without realizing we had a lot of mutual friends,” Meryl says. “We had all gotten together and PaaJoe started talking about the research he was doing on diabetes, and I’ve been diabetic since high school. That started the conversation, and it kind of went from there.”

Joseph completed medical school at Tufts University, did his internship and residency at Duke University Medical Center and his fellowship at Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He practices cardiology in the Macon, Ga., area.

Meryl majored in psychology and received a certificate in gerontology. Following graduation she worked as a recreational therapist at the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center in Boston, then did clinical research for about 12 years.

“I’ve had different roles within clinical research starting off in gerontology and ending up at the Children’s Hospital in Philadelphia working with pediatric trials,” she says. Meryl is now a stay-at-home mom raising two children, Rosie, 12, and Adam, 7.

Prior to moving to Georgia the Pokus lived in various locales on the East Coast. But they insist no matter where they go, in some very elemental ways, Clark comes with them.

“There are a lot of rural communities that really need specialized or advanced care,” Joseph says. “And being able to meet people where they are, and truly care for them, I think a lot of that started here [at Clark]. It’s the ability to just see the human in everyone.”

Meryl says the opportunity to meet many international students at Clark (including her husband) helped equip her to conduct drug trials in other countries. The capacity “to be able to understand and to empathize with some of the problems between cultures and be able to work those out — a lot of people I worked with were very happy that I knew that naturally, and I think it came from meeting so many different people at Clark.”

On the Saturday morning of Reunion Weekend, Joseph walked into Annie’s Clark Brunch. Longtime owner Annie Jenkins took one look at him and said, “I know that face. You’re a twenty-year man.”

“I was like, wow! But that’s part of the experience of Clark,” he says. “This is going home. Whether you enjoyed or even hated the experience, this is where you started from and you cannot delete that. And so you need to come back, and give back.”

JONATHAN KAPPEL ’81 AND CAROL BOLTON KAPPEL ’85 [b]

Ten years after graduating, Carol Bolton Kappel was living in Boston when she was shown a photograph of a man who her friend insisted Carol should consider dating.

“I said, ‘My God, this guy looks so familiar — how do I know his face?’ She initially thought he may have attended graduate school at Boston University with her, then asked if he’d gone to Clark. Her friend responded, “Did he go to Clark? He’s the president of the Alumni Association.”

This past May, the man in the photo, Jonathan Kappel, and Carol, now married, returned to campus to celebrate Reunion Weekend.

Jonathan served as Clark’s director of development for several years, and today he heads up development for the Anti-Defamation League’s New England region. The values he learned at Clark have served him well in his profession, he says, and resonate deeply when working for an organization that coordinated the anti-bullying campaign in Massachusetts and advocated for the Matthew Shepard Hate Crime Prevention Act.

“Clark gave me an opportunity to interact with people, to learn about people, to listen to what was important to them and also to bring different views onto campus. In today’s world I think that is very important,
something I think I do with the Anti-Defamation League.

“Both at Clark and at the ADL, I always say to my family, I can come home every night and I’ve learned something.”

Carol’s first job after Clark was as director of external affairs for the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts. She later shifted careers, and now works as a social studies teacher in the Newton, Mass., public schools.

“Clark helped me to understand how individuals can be agents of change,” she says, “and it helped me to understand that we’re all responsible for each other in some ways. So whether you’re working with large populations and advocating on their behalf, or touching one life, I think the value of that is endless.”

Though their Clark years did not overlap, Jonathan and Carol share a connection: they both headed up the Speakers Forum during their time at the University. Carol still marvels at the political heavy hitters she chauffeured to and from Logan Airport in her father’s Chevy Citation, among them Bella Abzug, William Proxmire, Arthur Schlesinger and Julian Bond.

Jonathan’s highlight was bringing in Mel Blanc, the voice of countless cartoon characters. He recalls how Blanc performed to a packed Atwood Hall, then continued his “Looney Tunes” shtick at the El Morocco Restaurant in Worcester.

“That’s the difference,” Carol laughs. “I got the politicos ...”

“And I got Bugs Bunny,” says Jonathan.

SEAN HURLEY ’06, M.A.’07 AND FAUNA SHAW ’06, M.A. ’08 [c]

“Clark is home base.”

Such is Sean Hurley’s assessment of why his alma mater remains a significant presence in his life. Hurley, who is developing a software company called hearforward, spoke about social media and marketing during a Reunion Weekend symposium. He was quick to credit Clark with giving him the entrepreneurial tools that have allowed him to seize this business opportunity.

“My experience at Clark helped me get to where I am now because I was able to mold my education around what I wanted to do,” he says. “I never studied software or programming specifically, but I did a lot of research and statistics, and an Anton Fellowship allowed me to be creative in what I was studying. Being able to customize what I was doing and tailor it to what I was interested in allowed me to excel at a specific thing that I had a predisposition for.”

hearforward builds social media software that interfaces with Facebook and Twitter and helps bring that data into larger data platforms that are managed by individual companies. The software “helps companies span the data divide,” Sean says.

Fiancée Fauna Shaw has been doing fundraising and development for nonprofits, universities, and political campaigns — including Congressman James McGovern’s (D-Worcester) successful reelection campaign — for the past five years. She is now the finance director for the Vermont Democratic Party, but she got her first taste of it at Clark where, as a first-year student, she landed a work-study job with the Clark Fund making calls to alumni donors.

“It was a really tough job at first, but after about six months I felt comfortable talking with alumni on the phone,” she says. “I enjoyed catching up with them and hearing their stories about Clark. So most directly, my undergraduate work-study job gave me the experience I needed to get a job in fundraising, and I’ve been fundraising ever since.”

Sean and Fauna, who met through a mutual friend when they were first-year students, now live and work in Burlington, Vt. They plan to be married next July in Tilton Hall. Since they met at Clark, getting married here was an easy choice, they say.

“I believe alumni should continue to be involved with Clark, not just financially but through volunteering and events,” Fauna says. “You’ve invested in a Clark education and you want to make sure the value of your degree increases over the years, you want to help the students who are here now, and doing both those things helps you stay connected with your Clark community.”

To see videos of these and other Clark alums talking about their experiences visit clarku.edu/alumnistories and click on “Alumni Stories.” Or use your smart phone to scan the QR code.
The shelves in the Rose Library at the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies filled up so quickly that more space is now needed to accommodate the books. Diana Bartley made sure of it.

Over the last decade, the retired journalist and financial consultant donated about 8,000 volumes to the library, each book carefully catalogued in leather-bound notebooks she kept in her tiny Manhattan apartment. Bartley was purchasing books for the center right up until her death on July 31.

“The Bartley collection serves as the core research collection for undergraduates and the backbone for our Holocaust and Genocide Studies graduate students,” says Debórah Dwork, the Rose Professor of Holocaust History and director of the Strassler Center. “The doctoral students depend upon her collection as they work toward their oral comprehensive examinations, and they looked to her keen collecting eye to find works they needed as they developed their dissertation proposals.”

The daughter of a Navy captain, Bartley closely followed newspaper accounts of the war in Europe when she was a teenager and was aghast when she learned of the Nazi atrocities. Later, as she began collecting books, she devoted herself to accruing volumes about the Holocaust and other genocides.

As her collection grew to more than 1,500 books, Bartley began searching for a place where she could donate them. In the late 1990s, she learned about the newly opened Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark, and offered up the books. Dwork readily accepted, and agreed to Bartley’s stipulation that the collection be kept intact.

Upon learning that the books would be housed in the Rose Library, Bartley asked for one more thing: a library card.

“Platinum,” Dwork replied.

The books kept coming from Bartley — hundreds of them each year.

“With diminished eyesight but patient determination, Diana pored over bibliographies and catalogues,” Dwork says. “Amazingly, she accomplished this work without the aid of modern technology. Her meticulous records are handwritten in a series of leather notebooks that are a marvel of old-fashioned organization. Using humble tools and keen intellect, Diana built a first-class resource for our students and faculty from the comfortable perch of her Manhattan apartment.”

In an interview she gave to a Clark writer 10 years ago, Bartley recalled her colorful past, which included a stint as managing editor of *Auto Age* magazine despite knowing “absolutely nothing” about cars or automobile racing.

She learned enough to snag a job at *Esquire* as the magazine’s automotive editor, a post she held for 15 years. In that time she covered new cars, technical developments and Grand Prix racing. Bartley said she was instrumental in bringing to the Indianapolis 500 the first European Grand Prix champion to race there since early in World War II. She left journalism in the 1970s and became a private financial consultant.

Assessing her eclectic history, and her singular book collection, Bartley said, “If ever there was a liability in my life, it’s an excess of interests. But, if you’re going to accomplish something, you do have to specialize, to have a focus.”

Dwork notes that she’s currently drawing on the Bartley collection to write a piece called “Raising their Voices: Children’s Resistance through Diary Writing and Song.”

“I turned to the collection for works nearly no other university library holds,” she says. “Thanks to Diana, we have these books.”
Hitting her stride

BARBARA BIGELOW, professor of management in Clark’s Graduate School of Management, may be many things, but she’s not a fast runner. And she has no problem telling you that.

“When I’m running, I feel like I’ve got great form, but then I see the pictures of me, and, as usual, there I am just shuffling along,” she says. Bigelow has “shuffled along” 11 marathon routes to date. She turned 60 this year, and has set a goal of participating in a marathon in every state by her 70th birthday.

“I don’t look like a runner, I’m not thin and muscular,” she says. “I wish I looked like some of these elite runners, because that’s how I feel. I just look like me, shuffling along for 26 miles.”

Bigelow only became a runner recently. However, she grew up in a family in which age was not a factor in trying a new sport or activity. Her father was in his mid-50s when he took up competitive rowing and began racing in the Head of the Charles. Both her parents, despite being close to 90, are still active.

“I had wonderful role models,” she says.

It was in 2005 that Bigelow and her niece Heather, 20 years her junior, started running marathons. She ran her first full marathon in Seattle in November 2005.

“I ran my fastest time in Seattle, but every muscle seized up. Since then I don’t go for speed,” she says.

Bigelow moves slowly in the back of the pack, and enjoys meeting people and visiting new places. Since 2005, besides Seattle, she has participated in marathons in Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Vermont, Houston, New Jersey, Arkansas, Alabama, Michigan and Minnesota.

She’s learned a thing or two about perseverance, and the kindness of strangers. During one marathon when she was feeling mentally defeated and tempted to quit, she found someone who helped her reach the end. Such a person, called a “pace,” allowed Bigelow to refocus and attack her negativity.

“It was great, she was a riot,” she says. Photographers along the course captured silly pictures of the two as they smiled, laughed, and sang their way to the finish line in 5.5 hours.

“That was a real watershed for me,” she says. “It made me realize that when I’m training, I’m not just trying to train physically, I’m also training mentally. I really hadn’t appreciated it until that race.”

Like any serious athlete, Bigelow has endured injuries: a bruised bone in her knee and a fractured wrist among them. “I was in physical therapy for a long time,” she says. “It was really problematic. Every time I started training again, I’d trip and fall. I started to get very discouraged.”

But steadily she came back, and even improved upon her time.

When she participated in the Plymouth, Mass., half marathon, Bigelow was recognized for the fastest time in her age bracket. Her best marathon time since returning from injury was in Duluth, Minn., where she finished in 5 hours and 10 minutes.

Bigelow has added a new goal in recent years. “I want to run the same number of marathons as I am old,” she says. “If I continue to do four per year, I can do 76 by 76.

“Seventy-six by ’76’ could be a great title for a book,” she adds, saying she’d like to share her experiences and inspire other runners. Bigelow also wants to run a marathon on every continent.

Bigelow hopes to complete three marathons in 90 days later this year (one in Connecticut in October, another in Pennsylvania in November, and a third in South Carolina in January), and also wants to run a Disney marathon in the spring of 2012 so she can add a Goofy medal to her collection. To train for it, she plans to run across Massachusetts, north to south, in three consecutive days.

She is saving marathons in Hawaii and Alaska for last, so she can vacation there with her husband. One place you won’t be seeing her is at the Boston Marathon.

“Speed really matters in that marathon. I’m very slow. That’s the kind of thing that maybe I’ll do when I’m in my 80s. Maybe I’ll qualify by then,” she quips.

Bigelow says running keeps her “in the moment,” and helps her pace herself. It doesn’t matter how fast she gets to where she’s going, as long as she crosses the finish line.

“I have a fancy GPS watch,” she says. “While someone else might look at it and think, ‘I ought to be going faster,’ I look at mine and think, ‘I ought to be going slower.’”
I WITNESS

Candles in September

MY MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY is Sept. 11 and I was across the street at the pharmacy buying her a belated birthday card when I heard that American Airlines Flight 11 had crashed into the World Trade Center. I returned to my dorm, Sanford Hall, and went down to one of the common suites on my floor where a number of my friends lived. In a group of 15 or 20 people we watched for a while as events unfolded. I saw the second plane attack, saw both towers collapse, and in stunned disbelief started thinking: Okay, what do we do? What can I do?

A few other Student Council members and I (I was Student Council president at the time) began to walk around the campus just to see what was going on. I knew Clark had a number of students from New York, and quite a few from Manhattan, so my initial concern was for those families. I ended up in Dana Commons where there was a crowd watching the news coverage on flat screens, and I happened to get there when they started showing some disturbing celebration videos taking place in the Middle East. I looked around, and I thought I saw faces turning. The tenor in the suite where I'd watched events unfold was really just shock and disbelief and concern, and in Dana Commons anger and blame came across most clearly. And that seemed exactly what Clark was designed to prevent or eradicate; not what it should be fostering.

Even though the campus has always been very open and accepting, traumatic events have a tendency to cause significant changes in even the best places, and I was worried about that happening. So a group of us on Student Council decided that the best forum to address 9/11 was a candlelight vigil. We went down to the hardware store and bought up every candle and cup that they had; we scheduled the vigil for the next day. I took it on myself to announce the vigil and decided it shouldn't just be an event announcement; that if I was going to blast something to everyone's email inbox, I should take the opportunity to say something a little more meaningful.

I spent hours staring at my draft, trying to think about word choices. As Student Council president you don't have a lot of opportunities to say something that will have an immediate impact. Given the nature of the event, and the community's response in the hours and days following it, I was concerned not to inadvertently stumble into some inelegant word choices that could cause more harm than good. It hit me after looking at the finished draft that I couldn't believe I was doing this. I couldn't believe this had happened. I couldn't believe I needed to say these things, or think that saying these things might actually do some good. I was very reluctant to finally hit “send,” to transmit the email to Dean Darrigrand, who would send it to the student body. It took me a long time to actually get it off of my screen and into her email box.

After the message went out I got a lot of very moving emails from students, from alumni, and from others in the Clark community. People were just looking for some way to connect, because the attacks seemed to tear everything apart.

The vigil had no formal agenda, there were no speakers, no formal remarks. We just provided a place, some candles, and a sense of community. It was very moving, very emotional — in a variety of senses. The campus green was overflowing with people and flickering light; many lingered and let their emotions come out. This was the first time I think a lot of people really processed what happened and moved from a stage of shock to one of abject sadness.

I thought a lot about the vigil after the announcement that Osama bin Laden had been killed, and I contrasted the memory of those tearful faces illuminated by candlelight with the jubilant celebrations in front of the White House a decade later. Talking with folks who celebrated the news, I can understand their sense of relief. But I am quite proud to have been a part of the former image, and I think it's more reflective of the kind of world-citizens Clark creates.

Rich Fields ’03 is a lawyer and a consultant in Boston. His message to the Clark community can be found at clarku.edu/911 remembered.
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