INSIDE: JUSTICE FOR VARTER | A DRIVING FORCE AT FORD

HIS CHOSEN FIELD

How Jeffrey Lurie '73 went from sitting in the cheap seats to owning the Philadelphia Eagles.
BE A CLARKIE.
Fund a Clarkie.

Steve and his wife, Carola, have named Clark as the beneficiary of their estate and intend to create an endowed scholarship — a life-changing gift for future generations of students. To begin discussing your philanthropic vision for Clark, please call 508-793-7593 or visit clarku.giftplans.org

As a kid growing up on the wrong side of Main Street in Worcester, I never imagined going to college. This changed when my father died in a local steel mill and left me with the proceeds from a modest life insurance policy. Combined with scholarships from Clark, I was able to enroll in the University and discovered a completely new world of knowledge.

Guided by a truly dedicated faculty, I enjoyed opportunities and optimism with my fellow Clark students. I especially remember the brilliant lectures and discussions in Professor Ed Trachtenberg’s classes, and the encouragement and inspiration from Professor Gerson Kegeles. Even when I later earned my Ph.D. at a big university and taught at a smaller one — both Ivy League — it was clear that Clark is the best place to be a student.

I now do scientific research, and recently developed a mathematical method and software package that my company sells around the world for the automatic analysis of MRI data. All of this was made possible by Clark.

“CLARK ENABLED ME TO EMBARK UPON THE GREATEST ADVENTURE OF MY LIFE.” — STEVE PROVENCHER ’64
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Dear friends,

I AM OFTEN ASKED as to my thinking on the issue of guides and rankings of colleges and universities. Generally my answer over the years has been that we welcome such external assessments and the associated recognition for the excellence of Clark’s programs, while stressing the importance of truly understanding the basis of the rankings and how they map to University priorities and the educational aspirations of families. Over the past year, this issue of “what is being ranked and for what purpose” has taken on renewed significance as part of the debate around cost, access, and the quality of higher education in this country. With higher education at a pivotal moment of change, it is important that we at Clark University state clearly where we stand on the issue of rankings and the associated question of goals and priorities.

Here is a link to guides and rankings of Clark University: clarku.edu/rankings. We are delighted to receive this recognition for the excellence of our academic programs, for the educational experiences available at Clark, and more broadly, for the recognition of a robust “return on education” for life, career, and citizenship. We are confident this acknowledgment is well-earned, and indeed are seeking additional ways to increase the visibility and appreciation for Clark University across the country and around the world. The rankings listed here include recognition of the excellence of our undergraduate programs, as in the guides Colleges that Change Lives, Princeton Review and the Fiske Guide. There is also recognition for the quality of Clark’s graduate programs, including the National Research Council assessment of doctoral programs, and ranking of our AACSB International-accredited Graduate School of Management.

Clark is a great university on the rise.

A review of the guides and rankings on this Web page demonstrates that we cannot go far in discussing rankings without recognizing that what is being ranked is a statement about what is being valued. For example, you will see that Clark is identified by U.S. News as a top-ranked “best value” among research universities, a recognition also afforded to Clark by Forbes, Kiplinger and other guides. What distinguishes these best-value rankings is that they combine measures of institutional quality with those of net cost to students. That is, in assessing the value of education, the issue of cost of attendance cannot be ignored. At the same time, it is a reminder that efforts to cut costs that also undermine the excellence of a student’s education is a poor choice.

The question of how institutional quality is assessed in rankings has been especially vexing. The critique is rightly made that most of the well-known rankings are based heavily on input measures of institutional quality, such as the profile of the incoming class of students (selectivity) or the amount of resources spent per student. Outcome measures — direct assessment of the educational results of attending an institution — are for the most part limited to whether a student graduates (graduation rates) and do not contain information about the quality of the education received. Student appreciation of their college experience is typically measured by the percentage of alumni who give annually after graduation. That is, in part, why we invite all our alumni to give annually to the Clark Fund, according to their means, as this directly influences Clark’s reputation in many college rankings.

The responsibility for responding to the need for stronger outcome measures rests with the colleges themselves, and it is a challenge that we at Clark are taking on. As part of our Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP) initiative we are committed to putting in place more robust direct assessments of student learning and of educational outcomes, and to collaborating with external organizations that seek to build these assessments into a next generation of university rankings. As part of LEEP, our intent is to dramatically enhance the college-to-career transition for our students, and we will be looking to document these results one and five years out, and then more generally in terms of the enduring impact of a Clark education on a successful and fulfilling life.

In August of this year, President Obama announced plans to launch a new ranking system to measure college performance and to provide families with information needed to select institutions that offer good return on investment. The ratings will be based on measures of access (percentage of students receiving Pell grants), affordability (tuition net of grants and scholarships, loan debt at the point of graduation), and educational outcomes (graduation rates, graduate earnings, and advanced degrees of college graduates). The motivation behind this new ranking system is to promote change that will make college more affordable for students. This is a critically important goal, as it reflects the historically American values of equal opportunity and education as a societal good. At the same time, we will provide input to the Obama Administration encouraging a focus not only on cost, but also on a vision of educational outcomes that includes intellectual and personal growth that will serve graduates over a lifetime.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and reflections on these comments and thank you for your support of Clark University.

Sincerely,

David P. Angel
President
Clark DNA runs deep

D r. H. Martin Deranian ’47 jokingly refers to himself as a pack rat, but I’ve known true hoarders and he is not one. He is an archivist who pieces together history and then preserves it for fear that it will be lost forever to what he calls “the wrath of time.”

He owns many binders teeming with photos and documents, and a particular favorite contains the papers he wrote for his Clark University professors, who, judging by the copious number of blunt comments scrawled across the pages, were incredibly demanding. But they were fair, he insists. They made him a better researcher and a better writer.

Another binder holds the foundation of the story that begins on page 20, which weaves the tale of Martin’s mother, Varter, with the work of Taner Akçam, who holds the Kaloosdian-Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark. Varter’s husband and six children were killed in the 1915 genocide and she was deported through the desert, near death, before finding safety in Syria and then the United States. Events occurred in that desert about which she never spoke.

Varter’s story would not be found in this magazine — indeed, it would have vanished long ago — were it not for her son’s courage to coax it from the sometimes reluctant lips of eyewitnesses, and to corroborate the events with news accounts and other reports of the genocide. He knew what he learned would cause him pain yet serve the greater good. Varter’s saga would not die with her.

Martin has done his part to keep alive the memory of the “forgotten genocide” and its aftermath. He’s written a book about the Armenian experience in Worcester, and even (gently) twisted the arm of a Boston playwright to pen a play about his mother and her good friend, another survivor. At 91 he could have walked away from this very personal mission years ago, but chose not to because, he says, “I’m a Clarkie.”

Though he attended Clark decades ago, I see in Dr. Deranian, and in the other accomplished alumni profiled in this magazine, the DNA of the University’s newly launched model for higher education, LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice), which melds liberal education with authentic world, workplace and personal experiences to better prepare Clark students for lives of circumstance beyond college. Through LEEP they learn not only the technical mastery of a field, but the importance of being resilient, creative, and graceful in both victory and defeat as they progress through life.

Consider the persistence and ambition of Clarkies like Jeffrey Lurie ’73 (page 14), owner of the Philadelphia Eagles, who defied the conventional wisdom that he’d overpaid for the team and held onto his vision of a new model forming for professional football. Lurie studied, analyzed and drew on his knowledge of media to seize the opportunity to join the NFL before it became the sports and entertainment behemoth it is today. He took a risk, but it was an educated risk that was informed by his experiences dating back to his time at Clark. The University, he notes, values “independent thinking, critical thinking, emotional intelligence. All the things we now know drive success.”

Ellen Hughes-Cromwick, M.A. ’88, Ph.D. ’86 (page 28), the chief economist at Ford, exhibits another Clark attribute: humility. She is credited with seeing many of the warning signs of the global economic recession years before the meltdown and advising Ford’s brass on ways to successfully navigate the crisis and avoid bankruptcy. Hughes-Cromwick is quick to deflect attention from herself and onto her team, stressing the collaborative approach to problem-solving, which not so coincidentally is a key tenet of LEEP. “We got some things right,” she told our writer, “but there was much we didn’t know.”

Though hers is a modest assessment of some very significant work, we would expect no less. She’s a Clarkie.

Please email me at jkeogh@clarku.edu with your comments, suggestions, letters to the editor and, most importantly, your story ideas. All are welcome.
This past summer, Emma O’Melia ’15 stood hip-deep in the icy waters of Newfoundland and emerged with a story to tell. The LEEP Project Pioneer was among a group of Clark students researching the threespine stickleback fish at the Bonne Bay Marine Station with the assistance of station director and Clark alumnus Bob Scott, Ph.D. ’00.

Emma chronicled the team’s efforts in thousands of photographs and on her blog “We Seine in the Rain” because she knows that good science is too often obscured by poor communication. “Talking about science to people who don’t understand it is something many scientists struggle with, and there’s a danger to that,” Emma says.

“We need to effectively present what’s happening in the lab and in the field to those who may not initially be interested.”

As a LEEP Project Pioneer, Emma brought the stickleback findings alive through photos, social media and video — a new kit of essential science tools for the 21st century.

Consider a single gift or begin monthly installments through The Clark Fund. If 350 donors commit to $10/month on installment giving, we can grant two deserving Clark students a scholarship for one year.

Your gift could be their LEEP.

“Contribute to the great work students like Emma continue to do with their classic Clarkie enthusiasm. It will put a smile on your face.”

— Bob Scott, Ph.D. ’00

ADVANCE LEARNING IN THE 21ST CENTURY.
Joplin, The Boss, and James Brown in a cape

At the conclusion of our story marking the 45-year anniversary of Jimi Hendrix performing in Atwood Hall (CLARK alumni magazine, Spring 2013 issue) we asked readers across the generations to share memories of their favorite Clark concerts. We received responses exclusively from alumni who attended Clark in the ’60s and ’70s, and who clearly were passionate about their music. Here are some excerpted selections:

As a member of the class of 1970, I have strong but somewhat fuzzy memories (caused by the omnipresent indulgence of the time) of the most fantastic concert experiences I have ever had. Little did we know as 20-year-olds, struggling to make sense of a raging war and turmoil all around us, that we would be so lucky to have Atwood Hall become the locus of such incredible escapist musical experiences and memories. I remember clearly the Grateful Dead having so much juice that they blew out the amps and speakers and just left without finishing their concert. Janis Joplin was given a bottle of Southern Comfort from the audience to keep her mellow and happy. I gave James Taylor driving directions to Atwood Hall when he stopped me while walking on campus, thinking afterwards that I should have offered to get in the car and show him. No bus, no security, no advance people, just the performers and their instruments.

[You] were in an auditorium where you could see the performers on stage without opera glasses and go backstage if you were lucky to know one of the Social Affairs Board members (as I did) and get to see James Brown in his famous cape!

I am sure if prodded, I could remember more, but this is just off the top of my head as I read the article tonight about Jimi Hendrix. The article made me smile and sigh.

Susan Feinberg Stelk ’70

The best concert I ever attended at Clark was, hands-down, Bruce Springsteen. This one I remember vividly. He was just about to release “Born to Run” and break into stardom. Bruce was way late — like maybe an hour or two late — but he performed a fantastic, long concert. That would have been 1975. Back then, folks passed a joint up and down the rows for everyone to share. That changed within just a couple of years, with no smoking and undergraduates more dressed up for concerts.

Mimi Sexton ’74

After reading Jane Salerno’s article about the Jimi Hendrix concert at Clark (“45 years ago, Jimi Hendrix rocked Atwood”), I wanted to let you know that some of us had a totally different take on the concert. We were sitting very close to the front and counted about fifty amps and twice that many speakers, and believe that every one was turned up to maximum volume. Jimi may have played great guitar, but all we heard was a lot of noise. Many people walked out of that concert after just a few songs, but they couldn’t get far enough away not to hear the sounds. This was definitely NOT a “major experience” for many of us, and it did not have that big an impact on many of my fellow students.

Lou LeTourneau ’67

I was a little too late for the Jimi Hendrix concert. My time at Clark was from 1971 to 1973, but I did get to see some great shows. I can’t give you a lot of detail, but I remember seeing Jimmy Buffet and Steve Goodman in Little Commons; two separate shows as I recall. Little Commons, as it was called then, was a pretty small and up close and personal venue; very casual. I also remember seeing the Persuasions in Atwood. I sat next to the assistant dean of students, and she was beside herself with delight. I recall her saying something like, “I just want to take him home with me” (referring to the bass vocalist). I smiled at her enthusiasm. I wonder if she remembers any of that?

Hampton Island ’73

I was part of the group of students that began the Atwood Hall rock series, and I have many vivid memories. I remember James Taylor, who’d just been signed by The Beatles, sitting on a stool playing acoustic guitar. Old-timers may also recall the coffee house that we started around the same time. It was called Heimoff’s Hair (a decision I’d had no part in), after my long golden tresses! Our opening night act was the J. Geils Blues Band. Somehow, we convinced the administration to fund it and even provide a space for it on campus. That was a great place while it lasted.

Steve Heimoff ’69

Probably the most unforgettable Clark concert for me was one of the very first ones I attended, in the fall semester of 1970: The Mothers of Invention in the basement of Jonas Clark Hall (aka “The Women’s Gym”), with the J. Geils Band as the opening act. I’d never heard of the J. Geils Band before that, and I remember they announced at the show that their first album had just been released, or maybe it was that it was just about to be released. In any case, I was blown away by them. The venue might have been a dark, musty old basement broken up by a maze of support columns, but they played with the same intensity that they did in subsequent years at major concert venues: pedal-to-the-metal, giving it everything they had. I became an instant fan. As for The Mothers, this was my first exposure to Frank Zappa and company, and although I think the band that he was to put together in another three years or so was superior to this one, they were still very good. I remember Flo and Eddie — the lead singers, formerly of the Turtles — getting into a routine where they were making fun of the accents of the Boston-based flight attendants (guess they were actually “stewardesses” back then) on a flight into Boston: “Please place your bags in the overhead compartment.”

Greg Becker ’75
Admissions done right at Clark

By Howard P. Segal and Deborah D. Rogers, Clark parents

A few months ago, all across America, colleges and universities sent out their letters of acceptance and rejection. Harvard proudly announced that its acceptance rate for this year’s 35,023 applicants had shrunk to a mere 5.8 percent. So cruel, yet so prestigious.

Acceptance rates at the other Ivy League colleges were only slightly higher. And ever more students are applying to prestigious schools that have lower acceptance rates and higher costs. Clark itself experienced a remarkable 29 percent increase in applications from just last year. This trend flies in the face of growing public skepticism about the long-term economic and social value of college degrees, especially in the humanities. Go figure.

Although we are both longtime University of Maine professors, we felt unenlightened when our daughter, Raechel, who entered Clark this fall, began the admissions process. This journey has become ever more challenging since our son Richard went through it some five years ago. Not only must ambitious high school students take the most rigorous courses, they must prepare for nationwide examinations, visit initially attractive schools, and revisit them for official tours and interviews.

Then comes the “packaging” of students, including the composition of up to three separate essays for each college — in addition to the two common pieces required by all reputable institutions. Raechel wound up having to prepare 27 increasingly quirky essays: “If a life-changing package arrives at your door, what would it contain?” “If you were a candy bar, what kind would you be?” The fact that acceptance letters for the candy-bar school contained the specified treat is evidence of another trend: once colleges admit students, they woo them to enroll in order to increase their yield.

If, after all of this, The Chosen are admitted into several elite colleges, they are urged to revisit and to bargain for more funding, especially if financial awards differ significantly.

Raechel wound up choosing Clark over several other highly regarded liberal arts schools. Her brother’s experience did not determine, but certainly influenced, her decision. Richard graduated (Summa!) from Clark in 2012 after four wonderful years as a double major in studio art and in communication and culture, with a minor in entrepreneurship.

Raechel’s receipt of a Presidential Merit Scholarship was also a factor in her decision to attend Clark, but she did receive comparable financial aid offers from those other institutions. Yet Clark’s lovely dinner for Presidential and Traina scholars the night before Accepted Students’ Day, with an eloquent defense by President Angel of Clark’s cutting-edge and broad vision of the liberal arts, greatly impressed us. As faculty members in the humanities, we are frankly fed up with the relentless attack on the liberal arts by those with only a narrow “bottom-line” mentality.

What, however, also influenced Raechel was the warm and welcoming atmosphere found among Clark admissions staff and current students and the spirited sample classes she attended. Most important, perhaps, the friendliness and unpretentiousness of the other would-be Clarkies whom Raechel met convinced her that she should follow her brother.

Nevertheless, it is no wonder that the puzzling and opaque admissions process at many other elite American colleges generates hysteria among applicants — and their parents. But, especially for teenagers with limited perspective, getting into a prestigious college is not, as they say, a matter of life and death. It’s much more serious than that.
THE CLARK COMMUNITY was stunned and saddened by the death of Amanda Mundt ’14 in a July 10 motor vehicle collision in Haiti, where she’d dedicated herself to ensuring that educational opportunities were provided to the poorest children.

Also killed in the crash were Meagan Bell, daughter of Clark Professor David Bell, and Diana Mundt, Amanda’s aunt. The minibus carrying the Clark contingent collided with a truck in the area of Fonds des Negres in the southern part of the country.

Professor Bell and Kenneth Mundt, Amanda’s father, were injured in the crash and were treated at U.S. hospitals. Also injured were Haitian program director Timothe Indrik and translator Samy Emmanuel. The Mundts and Bells, including David Bell’s wife, Beverly, were traveling together in Haiti as part of mission work with Opportunities for Communities, a nonprofit educational organization co-founded by Kenneth.

In the immediate aftermath, President David Angel spoke of the devastating impact of the tragic accident and said members of the Clark community would “support each other with love, reflection and kindness in these difficult times.”

Amanda, 22, who majored in international development and social change, had devoted herself to the mission of securing a proper education for children who otherwise might never receive one. The Amherst, Mass., resident spent the summer of 2011 establishing and running a Lekol Dete (summer school) for third-to sixth-graders in Les Cayes, Haiti. The project was funded by her winning proposal to the Davis Projects for Peace Foundation, which earned her a $10,000 grant, as well as by a $2,000 dollar grant from the Restavek Freedom Foundation. “Restaveks” are Haitian children who are given, and sometimes sold, to another family, essentially to work as indentured servants in exchange for shelter. They are often physically, verbally and sexually abused by their host families, shunned by society, and rarely given the opportunity to attend school.

Amanda’s school brought together the Restaveks and the “free” children for the summer as a way to break down long-standing prejudices among Haiti’s classes. Of her experience, she once noted, “The Lekol Dete accomplished more than I could have imagined, achieving our goal of having one cohesive group of students with no discrimination or judgment.”

Laurie Ross ’91, M.A. ’95, associate professor of community and development and planning, worked with Amanda in her Going Local course.

“One of the most important things to Amanda was that she get as much as she could out of her education so that she could use it in the field — in Haiti — to work to improve the lives and education of children,” Ross said. “I was so impressed by her dedication to this and I am struck that she literally gave her life to this cause. Amanda was supposed to be in my class this fall. I will miss what she could have contributed to the conversation, but I know she has made a deep and positive impact on the world. I’m happy to have known her.”

Amanda was a Making a Difference Scholar as well as a member of the women’s field hockey team. Before coming to Clark, she
worked with Opportunities for Communities, where she cultivated partnerships in Les Cayes that helped her implement her Davis project. In 2010, Amanda spent 10 days in Les Cayes, and flew out of Haiti only hours before an earthquake struck the country.

Amanda’s passion for human rights work had been sparked in her sophomore year of high school during a service trip to the Dominican Republic. She took a leave from Clark in the 2012-13 school year to work as an intern in the Boston office of the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti.

Amanda was the “quintessential Clark student-athlete,” according to Sean Sullivan, former director of athletics and recreation. “[Amanda was] highly devoted to her studies, concerned with global issues, committed to thoughtful change, and passionate about her sport,” he said. “She showed us all how any number of personal interests and talents could successfully coexist and we deeply admired her spirit, values and commitment to the betterment of others.”

The Clark field hockey team this season is wearing purple (Amanda’s favorite color) bracelets with the Creole words “nou tout se you,” which translates to “We Are All One,” as well as Amanda’s initials, AKM. The bracelets are being sold at home field hockey games and by contacting Coach Linda Wage at lwage@clarku.edu. All proceeds are being donated to Opportunities for Communities.

Meagan Bell, 28, was remembered in her hometown of Belchertown, Mass., as a woman of boundless energy and empathy, with a passion to give back to her community, including as a leader in the local Best Buddies program and the Special Olympics. Nola Stephen, a senior lecturer in the University of Massachusetts School of Education and a close friend of the Bells, told the Daily Hampshire Gazette that she often invited Meagan, who had special needs, to speak to her class about the inclusion of special needs students. Those visits helped shatter stereotypes, she said, something Meagan accomplished throughout her life. “She knew so many people,” Stephen said. “I see her as a powerful advocate and an example for those representing difference.”

**Matters of Identity**

“WHERE ARE YOU FROM?” is a simple question with a simple answer for most people. But for many “third culture kids” it’s complicated and often fraught with social and emotional challenges.

This and other questions relating to the growing ranks of so-called TCKs were among topics discussed at the “Third Culture Kid/Global Nomad Conference” held in March at Clark University.

Conference presenter Tina Quick, author of “The Global Nomad’s Guide to University Transition,” notes: “Third culture kids/global nomads have typically interacted with two or more cultures during their developmental years — those years that shape who they are as human beings. As they go about living their normal highly mobile, cross-cultural lives, they have no clue as to how they are being impacted. But one day they have an experience that wakes them up to the fact that they are different from others. This commonly takes place upon repatriation for college or university when they are surrounded mostly by those who have never ventured away from their home country or culture.”

During the Saturday conference, sponsored by the Office of Intercultural Affairs, Clark University TCK students and alumni led several sessions. In “Stupid Things People Say to TCKs,” Maisha McCormick ’13 engaged the students in a candid and lively discussion about shared experiences and coping mechanisms they use when responding to comments from uninformed peers, staff and professors.

McCormick is a U.S. citizen who was born in Vermont, moved to China then back to Vermont. From age 10 to 14, she lived in Jamaica, then in Botswana. From Botswana she came to Clark, and her family is planning a move to Tanzania. Using humor and personal candor, McCormick presented several categories of comments that TCKs hear, ranging from innocently curious to mildly discomforting to downright ignorant and hurtful.

Participants began by discussing that most common, seemingly benign question: Where are you from? “I get frazzled every single time,” McCormick said. She and other students talked about the inevitable inner monologue that precedes their answers. “It’s complicated. Will I ever have an easy answer? I don’t think I ever will, and they might not want to know the whole story.”

“I can’t be mad for something someone hasn’t experienced. No one’s at fault. I try to be very Zen about it,” McCormick said. “Being a TCK has opened more doors for me than it has closed. It’s a really good filtering tool, and that is fine.”

Attendees at the “Third Culture Kid/Global Nomad Conference.”
The Bickman gets buff with recent expansion

Besides the dining hall and Academic Commons, the Bickman Fitness Center sees about the most foot traffic of any space on campus. Just ask anyone who’s tried to get on an elliptical machine during prime hours.

To meet the heightened demand for more health and wellness options, Clark this summer added 7,000 square feet to the fitness center, pumping up the opportunities for Clarkies to get, and stay, in shape.

“The bottom line is that Clark students and community members are increasingly interested in taking care of themselves, not only intellectually but also physically,” said Sean Sullivan, former director of athletics and recreation. He cited the growing participation in club sports and intramurals, as well as a passion for overall fitness among students, faculty and staff that the pre-renovation Bickman could not accommodate.

The expanded facility includes two floors. The top floor features cardio equipment (ellipticals, treadmills, stair climbers) with an elevated walkway leading to a large multipurpose room for wellness-related classes and group fitness activities. The bottom floor includes a large cardio room with dozens more machines, a room outfitted with weight-training equipment, and a separate semi-private room dedicated to free-weight use. An area for medicine ball and kettlebell workouts is also part of the new layout.

Trish Cronin, assistant athletic director/senior women’s administrator, notes that prospective students and their parents touring Clark routinely ask to see the fitness center, which had been outstripped by the University’s needs. The new space not only doubles the center’s size, but the once drab walls are painted in vibrant Clark scarlet, and even the black flooring is flecked with red.

With the addition of space and equipment — purchased from leading suppliers like Precor, Life Fitness and Matrix — visitors to the Bickman can “spread out and relax a bit, creating a better atmosphere,” Cronin said.

One of the most notable improvements is the doubling in size of the multipurpose room, to about 1,800 square feet. Cronin said she is anticipating that the large, glass-walled area, which looks out onto the campus, will attract more groups who need space for everything from yoga to karate, to dance and hip hop.

The goal, she says, is that all will feel welcome in the bigger, brighter, better-equipped Bickman Fitness Center.

“I think people will be pleasantly surprised with the size and the newness,” Cronin said. “We hope that by creating this space it will invite more people from the campus to participate. It’s a better home for everyone.”

The new space, Sullivan said, is “an investment in the total person.”

Watch a student video about the fitness center expansion at clarku.edu/bickman.

Daryl Tong ’15 pumps iron in the new free-weights room of the expanded Bickman Fitness Center.
OSCAR WINNER BRINGS STAR POWER TO CLARK

Clark University students enjoyed the rare privilege of meeting an Academy Award-winning actress when Melissa Leo, who won the 2010 best supporting actress Oscar for her role as the mother of boxer Mickey Ward in “The Fighter,” visited campus as part of the first Mobile Media Workshop.

But this was no star trip. Leo was a hands-on participant in workshops, screenings and question-and-answer sessions, all of which received blanket video and photographic coverage from students in the Visual and Performing Arts Department. Joining her at the three-day event were L.M. Kit Carson, a legend in the independent movie scene; film producer Cynthia Hargrave, and Cristine Garde, executive director of Could You?, an organization battling poverty in Mozambique. The Mobile Media Workshop was sponsored by the communication and culture, music, and screen studies programs.

Sarah Harker ’14, a screen studies and communication and culture double major, said the workshop’s seminars and screenings tied directly into her interests and studies. “As a female looking to enter a male-dominated field, I talked to Melissa Leo about being a woman in the film industry and its implications. She had a lot to say on the matter, but what stuck with me was her advice about not being afraid to try the things that scare us, even if we are outnumbered.”

A highlight of the three-day workshop was a screening in Razzo Hall of the 2008 film “Frozen River,” which earned Leo her first Academy Award nomination, followed by a Q&A with the actress.

Among Leo’s stops was a session with 12 students from screen studies Professor Hugh Manon’s screenwriting class — a dozen aspiring filmmakers getting an Oscar winner all to themselves for an afternoon. “This is way more than anyone can possibly expect from an Intro to Screenwriting class,” Manon said. “It’s really a golden opportunity.”

PLUGGING INTO MAIN STREET

The empty storefront at 912 Main St. was once a restaurant called Scarlet O’Hara’s — and it was gone with the wind years ago.

The 2,200-square-foot space takes on new life this fall with National Grid’s opening of the Sustainability Hub, which offers innovative energy solutions through hands-on demonstrations of “smart” meters, interactive displays on smart grid technologies and tips for how consumers can manage and reduce energy use. Clark University is donating the use of the space.

The Hub is an integral part of the company’s smart grid pilot — known as the Smart Energy Solutions Program — for 15,000 customers who choose to participate.

Student ambassadors from Clark will help staff the Hub, and also will participate in various internship opportunities under the pilot.

National Grid President Marcy Reed, Clark President David Angel, Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Richard K. Sullivan Jr. and city officials came together at a May 16 press conference to announce the Hub’s arrival in the neighborhood.
During the spring semester, studio art major Chris King ’14 found the perfect venue for his original sculptures: the Clark campus.

As part of directed study with Professor Jonathan Derry, King created a series of works that added some flair to the University landscape. These included a large red door and frame located near the Goddard Library, a “Star Box” — perforated to allow in light that formed constellations — hanging from a bonsai tree in the Zen Garden outside the Michelson Theater, and an animalistic twigs-and-rope sculpture, also in the Zen Garden.

The artist sometimes loitered by his sculptures to hear passersby commenting on them. He even engaged in discussions about the pieces, while retaining his anonymity so that folks would give him an honest appraisal. King used the feedback and applied it to other pieces that were in process.

“Most of the sculptures I make mean something personal to me, but at the same time I want the sculpture to appeal to others as well,” he said. “I love watching people interact with my sculptures, so that drives me to appeal to the campus.”

Encore! Encore!

In 1998 six Clark University alumni founded Company One, which has evolved into a nationally renowned, award-winning theater company in residence at the Boston Center for the Arts. This year Company One earned a rave review from The Improper Bostonian, which named it as Boston’s Best Theater Company in the magazine’s Boston’s Best 2013 issue.

“In the heated world of theater for grown-ups, Company One is provocateur supreme,” TIB wrote. “Going on its 15th season, the company strives to develop civically engaged artists while recognizing Boston’s diversity. With plays in which Dungeons and Dragons acts as a Ouija board for connecting with the dead and pro wrestling serves as backdrop for geopolitical satire, it’s no wonder this small theater sets the stage for change.”

All in all it was a very good year for Company One. Besides The Improper Bostonian honor, the group won several awards from the Independent Reviews of New England and a number of Elliot Norton Awards, including a best director prize for Artistic Director Shawn LaCount, M.A.Ed. ’98, for “The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity.”

From Art to Zen
Food is food, right?

Not quite.

In April, President David Angel signed a pledge that the University will serve 20 percent “real food” by 2020. Food Truth, the student food-sustainability club, made the request.

The commitment is part of a national campaign coordinated by the Real Food Challenge (RFC), an organization working with colleges and universities across the country to shift spending in cafeterias toward more locally produced, sustainably grown, humane, and fair-trade foods. Clark is the 13th school in the nation to sign the pledge and the first school in Massachusetts to do so.

Heather Vaillette, general manager of Clark Dining Services, operated by Sodexo, began working on the RFC commitment in 2011 by engaging Food Truth members in discussions on what “real food” means and filling out a baseline survey. Food Truth students analyzed purchasing data for Fall 2011 and Spring 2012, which helped lead Clark to purchase 12 percent real food in the fall semester, and 9 percent in the spring semester. Purchases are determined through the use of a tool called the Real Food Calculator.

“THE FLICK,” a new play by Amherst native Annie Baker, debuted off-Broadway this winter, earning some rapturous reviews (as well as a share of criticism for its length — more than three hours). Set inside a dingy Worcester County movie theater, the story follows three workers whose love for film is equaled only by the messiness of their personal lives. There is, of course, a Clark connection: the character of Avery is a 20-year-old cineaste on hiatus from Clark University, where his father is a professor. One reviewer describes Avery as “a purist who has been drawn to the local theater because it is one of the remaining few houses to use a 35-millimeter projector, as he hates the trend of digital moviemaking.” In between tearing tickets and sweeping up popcorn, the three engage in animated debates about the greatest all-time movies, which sounds like any typical conversation held in countless Clark dorm rooms across the generations.

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

COPACE students from South Ural State University in Chelyabinsk, Russia, express their heartfelt feelings about their time at Clark. The students were on campus this summer to complete their master’s degrees.

THOUGHTFUL DINING
HE MAYOR WAS ON THE LINE, welcoming Jeffrey Lurie ’73 to town as the new owner of the Philadelphia Eagles, when a rat skittered across Lurie’s office floor. ¶ As omens go, it was a doozy. ¶ Things didn’t get better the next morning when The Wall Street Journal ran a front page story taking Lurie to task for overpaying for the franchise — a then-record $185 million — and for making the purchase based on the heat of emotion rather than cold analysis. The numbers just did not add up, the paper insisted. ¶ It was early May 1994. As Lurie sat in that basement office in Veterans Stadium, a dismal facility widely regarded as one of the worst in the National Football League, he pondered the newspaper’s admonition.
enough to think they weren’t right,” he recalls with a laugh.

But Lurie knew something his critics didn’t. He had approached this business deal methodically, studying the figures, poring over the projections, and extracting sentiment from the equation before pulling the trigger — something he would do time and again in the succeeding years.

And there was one more thing, his personal wild card, so to speak. Lurie was entering the NFL as a second career. His first had been in the film industry, which helped him assess his newly chosen profession in a unique light. He saw the NFL games as hit movies playing to eager audiences every weekend, and as the number of avenues to distribute the product was multiplying, the potential for an explosion in football’s popularity loomed on the horizon.

Paid too much? Lurie was figuring the team had been undervalued. That rat in his office was not a premonition of doom. It was a call to action to rebuild a proud franchise that had fallen on hard times and catch the wave he believed was forming.

Jeff Lurie stood at the podium in Tilton Hall on May 17 and told the Reunion Weekend audience who’d come to hear him speak that Clark University represented a reversal of the rigid prep school education he’d received.

“At Clark, it wasn’t just a professor determining what the paradigms of the moment were,” he said. “I didn’t want to hear the paradigms as they existed; a lot of us wanted to hear the paradigms of what could be. That notion infused me with a lot of energy to go after things that others would say were conventionally unrealistic.”

In a recent interview, Lurie remembered that Clark’s emphasis on emotional intelligence and critical thinking ‘liberated what was inside of me and allowed me to flourish.’

“What I really respect and value about my time at Clark was that the school focused on empowering students to explore and not be fixated on any rigid form of analysis, but really be open to the world around them,” he says. “Clark wasn’t what was important — the student was important.”

Days were for class; the nights included trips to El Morocco, the Miss Worcester diner and any of the dozens of rock and folk shows that passed through Worcester and Boston (sometimes with stops at Clark). A Grateful Dead fanatic, Lurie followed the band across New England whenever it swung through the Northeast.

The Boston native was fervent about his hometown sports teams to the point where he would sleep overnight outside of Boston Garden to snag tickets for obstructed-view seats to Bruins games. When the Celtics reached the playoffs, he and his Clark buddies camped outside the Ticketron office in the parking lot of the Auburn Mall to be the first in line for tickets. “I got to know the lady in charge there,” he recalls. “She was very helpful.”

Lurie graduated from Clark with a degree in psychology, earned his master’s at Boston University and his Ph.D. in social policy from Brandeis. Though he enjoyed a stint teaching at B.U., he had no interest in becoming an academic. His two loves were sports and movies, and a career that didn’t involve either of them simply was unthinkable.

Shortly after earning his doctorate, Lurie joined the family business, General Cinema Corp. The company was founded in 1935 by Lurie’s grandfather, Philip Smith, and at its peak could boast of being the largest movie theater chain in the country.

“My grandfather came up with the concept of opening a movie theater in a shopping mall in the suburbs, which was unheard of in those days,” Lurie says. “People would go to the city for entertainment, and suburbs were just places to live. He built the first cinema in a shopping mall in America — at Shoppers’ World in Framingham [Mass.] — and at first nobody showed up because the concept was so new. He brought in stars of the day like Mae West and Marlon Brando to perform live on weekends so people would realize that there could actually be entertainment in the suburbs.”

Lurie dove in. As the company’s liaison to the Hollywood studios, he learned the mechanics of production, distribution and finances. Cable TV channels like HBO and Showtime were appearing on the scene and altering the industry’s dynamics, and movie companies were forced to adjust.

Within a few years, Lurie, tired of the movie exhibitor side of the business, left the company to form Chestnut Hill Productions and produce his own movies in Los Angeles.

“I’d gotten to know a lot of top Hollywood executives through my job at General Cinema and it was a natural move for me,” he says. “I’d become less interested in the movie theater
business and more interested in what kinds of movies you could make.”

As another learning experience, his time in Hollywood was invaluable. He gained an intimate understanding of the movie and TV industry while producing a number of feature films from the late 1980s through the mid-1990s, including “I Love You to Death” with Kevin Kline, “Blind Side” with Rebecca De Mornay, and “Foxfire,” starring a then unknown Angelina Jolie. “Even in those days you couldn’t take your eyes off her,” he says of Jolie. “There was a charisma about her, a sort of live spirit. It was no surprise to me that she gained the success she did.”

Obtaining financing within the Hollywood studio apparatus proved difficult, especially for a newcomer like Lurie, and he was forced to abandon projects about which he was particularly passionate. One of those unmade films, “The Tunnels of Cu Chi,” told the harrowing story of the sophisticated underground strongholds built by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War and the U.S. “tunnel rats” who infiltrated them. Despite the star power of Kevin Costner behind the film, it never got made.

“The movie looked at the Vietnam War not just through the eyes of American G.I.s, but also from the Vietnamese point of view,” Lurie says. “The story would have dealt with the human aspect of what it’s like to fight for your country, and also the complicated nature of being a tunnel rat. At the time it was too controversial for a studio to finance a movie that wasn’t told only from the Western perspective.”

Even during his years on the West Coast, Lurie maintained his fanatical devotion to the Boston sports scene. In the pre-satellite dish days, he would drive hours to find any place that was airing the New England Patriots games — to a small Santa Barbara motel or across the border into Arizona. Once, on a trip to Santiago, Chile, he talked his way into police headquarters and into a stark room with a tiny television to catch the Pats in the playoffs. As it turned out, Lurie wasn’t just watching games. He was planning his next move.

Jeff Lurie’s love of football dates back to the legendary 1958 championship game between the New York Giants and Baltimore Colts, which he watched on television with his father, Morris. Dad was a Giants fan; young Jeff favored the Colts because he liked their
quarterback Johnny Unitas and he preferred their uniforms. The Colts won the overtime thriller in what has been branded “The Greatest Game Ever Played,” and Lurie was hooked.

In the early 1990s he actively pursued his goal to own a sports franchise, putting together the financing for a bid to buy his hometown team, the Patriots. He lost out to Bob Kraft and then turned his attention to another club on the market, the Philadelphia Eagles, a team with a storied history, yet one that had experienced little playoff success for more than a decade.

Lurie's bid of $185 million won him the team, but at what cost? He was inheriting a franchise that appeared to be on a downward trajectory. The fans were alienated, the players clashed with management, the employees had grown disheartened, and the team's relations with the Philadelphia community had frayed. The Eagles also competed in a city-owned stadium so dilapidated that it prevented the team from attracting top-notch players and coaches. The rat in Lurie's office was only one in an army.

Though Lurie knew the reality laid out before him, he also perceived the potential in this drowsing juggernaut. His experience in the movie business had offered him an insider's view of how changing broadcast models could transform an industry. Cable television and satellite were changing the landscape.

“In those days there was really a split between the entertainment industry and sports; people didn't look at it as integrated, but we were just starting to see the explosion in the ways the sport could be distributed,” he says. “We would be making hit programming on a global scale.

“It was scary because it was the first really big acquisition where I was risking a tremendous amount to take this opportunity. I couldn't let my dream to own an NFL team confuse the analysis; the analysis had to come first. Eventually, it all came together.”

Lurie went to work, hiring a management team and coalescing financial and community support for the construction of the state-of-the-art NovaCare Complex and the $500 million Lincoln Financial Stadium, an environmentally friendly facility outfitted with solar panels and wind turbines that produce much of the building's electricity.

Off the field, Lurie and his staff built a culture of community stewardship through the creation of the Eagles Youth Partnership. The nonprofit serves more than 50,000 low-income children in the Greater Philadelphia area every year with a focus on health and education programming. EYP takes its services directly to the schools and neighborhoods with mobile programs — the Eagles Eye Mobile and Eagles Book Mobile — that have led the way for other organizations to emulate. In addition, each year, team members, from Lurie on down, build a playground in a disadvantaged neighborhood and remain connected with charitable organizations throughout the city and beyond. Lurie notes that the Eagles’ training facility features the Hall of Heroes, which is adorned with portraits, not of football players, but of Jonas Salk, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and other scientists, humanitarians and activists whose accomplishments shook the world.

In 2011, the Eagles were named the Team of the Year by Beyond Sport, an organization that promotes, develops and supports the use of sport to create positive social change worldwide. The award recognizes the top sports team in philanthropy across the globe. In addition to his charitable efforts within the organization, Lurie devotes his time to autism research on a global basis.

“I’d always admired what the Red Sox did with the Jimmy Fund regarding cancer research, so when I bought the Eagles I made it a high priority that what we do in the community should be of equal priority to what we do on the football field,” he says. “That’s the way we’ve operated, inculcating in every player who we’ve brought in that they’re not just joining a football team, they’re also having an impact in the community.”

On the field, Lurie and his football operations team built a winner, eventually hiring Andy Reid as coach and drafting Donovan McNabb at quarterback, a pairing that made the Eagles perpetual playoff contenders and led them to the 2005 Super Bowl (which they lost 24-21 to the Patriots).

Today, he notes, despite struggling in the 2012 season, the team boasts a 60,000-person waiting list for season tickets, which is emblematic of Eagles fans’ near-mythic zealotry (memorably depicted in movies like “Invincible” and “Silver Linings Playbook”). In 2013 Forbes valued the franchise at $1.3 billion.

Lurie resurrected the flagging Eagles so resoundingly that it inspired Harvard business professor Rosabeth Moss Kanter to chronicle
the turnaround in her book “Confidence: How Winning and Losing Streaks Begin and End.” In assessing Lurie’s job as owner, Kanter wrote:

“[Every] turnaround starts with the same overriding challenge: the need to make unpopular decisions about a situation whose full ugliness has been denied, and yet, at the same time, restore people's confidence that they can start winning again.”

Lurie has made those tough decisions. In 2010 he traded McNabb, and last year he parted ways with Reid — who has more wins than any coach in franchise history — and hired University of Oregon coach Chip Kelly as his on-field general. The moves were personally wrenching (Lurie remains close with both men and presided over McNabb’s induction into the Eagles’ Hall of Fame), yet emotion was put aside for the overall health of the team.

In 2009 Lurie made the controversial decision to hire quarterback Michael Vick after he had served 21 months in federal prison for his involvement in a dog-fighting ring. Vick’s return to the football field was denounced by many; Lurie says bringing him back to the NFL “boiled down to the notion of second chances.”

“If somebody has performed his jail time and satisfied the entire penalty, then society needs to give him a second chance,” he says. “Michael has been a wonderful teammate and a model citizen since we’ve given him that second chance.”

Any story about a man who once earned a living making movies deserves a Hollywood ending, and Lurie’s is no different.

Five years ago Lurie and his then-wife Christina (they’ve since divorced; Lurie is remarried) launched a documentary-film company, Screen Pass Pictures. He’d never been able to produce the kinds of feature movies he’d wanted during his years in Hollywood, and he saw the surging popularity of documentaries as a new opportunity to address important issues through film.

“There was a time when it wasn’t worth it to make a documentary that might be seen by eleven people. Today, you can see documentaries in movie theaters, on HBO, Showtime, PBS. They’re finally getting distributed, and they’re having an impact.”

The company’s 2010 film, “Inside Job,” detailing the global financial crisis, earned the Academy Award for best documentary film. Last year, the Screen Pass film “Inocente,” which chronicled the plight of a young undocumented immigrant artist, won the Oscar for best documentary short.

“It’s humbling,” Lurie says. “I’m proud of it, but you don’t make a film because you think it’s going to win an Academy Award. You take on an issue, align yourself with talented filmmakers, and go from there.”

The success of the NFL is like a blockbuster movie playing in real time. Contracts with the TV networks rake in billions (with good reason: the games dominate the ratings), Fantasy Football leagues are an obsession for millions of fans, and the Super Bowl has evolved into a de facto national holiday.

And the Clarkie who refused to be rooted in old paradigms when new models were crying out to be invented, the guy who sat in a bleak basement office 19 years ago and was told by The Wall Street Journal that he’d made the biggest mistake of his life, could be forgiven if he simply sat back and said, “I told you so.” But that would require dwelling on the past when the future is so much more intriguing. ☑
Nous prions toutes les autorités Civiles et Militaires Arabes ainsi que celles des Gouvernements amis de faciliter le passage du porteur de ce passeport dont la description se trouve mentionnée ci-dessus :

Nom et Prénom : Varter Nazariay.

Nationalité : Armenienne.

Employé à la Croix Rouge Arménienne.

Photo graphie du porteur.
Dr. H. Martin Deranian ’47 was determined to uncover the tragic truth about his mother’s ordeal in the Armenian genocide. Today, Clark professor Taner Akcam challenges the world to honor her memory and that of the millions killed and driven into exile nearly a century ago.
UGRDITCH NAZARIAN, a merchant in the city of Mezre, was roused in the middle of the night by Turkish gendarmes who said they wanted to make some immediate purchases at his store. Things quickly turned ugly, and Mugrditch was dragged from his house in his pajamas.

It was the last time his family would see him. No one ever learned Mugrditch's fate. Some said he was taken a few miles out of town and shot; others believed he was among those who were imprisoned in Mezre and exposed to inhuman tortures so unbearable that he and the other prisoners poured the kerosene from the jail lamps onto themselves and ended their lives as human pyres.

The year was 1915, and the Ottoman Empire had commenced with the systematic annihilation of Armenians and other Christians who were deemed enemies of the Muslim state. The men were the first victims, beginning with 250 unsuspecting Armenian intellectuals and leaders in Constantinople who were rounded up on April 24, imprisoned, tortured and killed. From there, males over the age of 15 were routinely herded into the streets, marched outside the city limits, and shot to death on lonely roads.

Women, children and the infirm were deported—hundreds of thousands of refugees driven over the mountains and into the desert under the whips of Turkish soldiers.

Among the deportees were Mugrditch Nazarian's pregnant wife, Varter, and their six young children. The family fled Mezre with the hope of reaching safety in Aleppo, Syria.

Only Varter would survive. Her six children died on the journey, some brutally murdered. She gave birth along the trail and the infant perished as well.

Years later Varter found her way out of the storm and to America. Whether she found peace is another story.

Dr. H. Martin Deranian '47 sits in his living room in Shrewsbury, Mass., thumbing through a black binder at least six inches thick that chronicles Varter's life. In faded photographs, some a century old, she looks into the camera lens with a curious half-smile—in one she is clearly pregnant, clasping the hand of the dashing Mugrditch. Carefully placed in the binder's plastic sleeves are her 1920 passport from Aleppo to the United States, still in one piece but as fragile as late-autumn leaves, and heartfelt letters, meticulously penned in Armenian handwriting, to the Worcester man she would eventually marry.

Varter is Martin's mother. She died when he was nearly seven years old, never having spoken to him of her past sorrows. Such a thing was unthinkable.

In 1966, Deranian contacted a minister who had served at one of the way-stops in the Turkish city of Urfa during the Armenian deportation, and he convinced the man to interview an elderly woman in Fresno, Calif. She had been good friends with Varter in Turkey and had experienced her share of hardships during the deportation. Through this first-hand account, the minister compiled an intimate history of Varter's life.

The details of her ordeal were punishing to learn, but necessary. “I had to know the truth,” says her son. Corroborating the friend’s recollections with published accounts of the events in Turkey and the road to Aleppo, Deranian produced an unvarnished biography of his mother titled “The Wailing Well.”
“There is no vocabulary to describe what happened during this genocide; there is no lexicon,” says Dr. Deranian, now 91. “If I captured my mother's story, traumatic as it was, I felt I should do that. I didn't want to end my time on earth without addressing this issue.

“And to imagine my alma mater, Clark University, has become the center for the study of the Armenian Genocide is just too much to hope for. It almost seems meant to be.”

The Robert Aram ’52 and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University was the brainchild of the late John O'Connor '78, a former Clark trustee, and his wife, Carolyn Mugar. Speaking at the 2013 Clark Commencement, Mugar recalled her grandfather’s migration to Worcester in 1890 to work in a wire mill. He returned to Armenia, married, and left for the United States in 1906 with his wife and three children nearly a decade before the carnage began.

“I give my grandfather huge credit not only for having the wisdom as such a young man to see ahead, but also for having the courage to act on that wisdom,” Mugar told the audience. “Had he stayed in Armenia, he and his family might very well have perished along with a million and a half other Armenians in the genocide of 1915. My grandfather took action — took a risk — and came here where his family found safety and a future they could not have imagined in their homeland.”

John O'Connor was very proud of his Irish heritage, Robert Kaloosdian recalls, but “he proudly proclaimed himself an ABC — an Armenian by Choice — who made it his purpose in life to establish a chair for the study of the Armenian Genocide and history at Clark. John was a charismatic leader, very bright, and one who inspired others to act.”

With a lead gift from John and Carolyn, and additional fundraising by Kaloosdian and Tom Dolan '62, M.A.Ed. ’63, who was then vice president of alumni affairs and development, a total of $2 million was raised, and in 2002 the chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark became a reality.

Taner Akçam, Ph.D., is breathing a little easier these days. In early August, the Turkish court sentenced members of a secret cabal of military and political operatives, codenamed Ergenekon, to heavy prison sentences, some of them for life. For years the ultra-nationalist group had conducted a series of assassinations and other terrorist acts as part of a plot to overthrow the Turkish government. Among their targets were scholars, journalists and activists who agitated for democratic ideals and urged Turkey to acknowledge its past human rights abuses, most notably the Armenian Genocide, a savage chapter in its history that Turkey has never officially recognized.

Akçam was on their hit list.
For years he couldn’t travel to his native Turkey for fear of being gunned down in the street, like his good friend Hrant Dink, a journalist who in 2007 was assassinated in Istanbul for his outspoken criticism of Turkey’s institutionalized denial of the genocide and diaspora. Akçam, the holder of Clark’s chair of Armenian Genocide Studies since 2008 (succeeding Simon Payaslian) and the author of 10 books detailing Turkey’s culpability, has never shied from taking hard stands against his home country. By the time he arrived at Clark, the Ergenekon had already left a trail of bodies throughout Turkey, and by 2010 Akçam was seeking protection from the FBI and local police.

His outspokenness always came at a price. At a 2006 lecture and book signing in New York, Akçam was heckled and then attacked by a group of Ergenekon-sponsored nationalists who were apprehended by security. Ergenekon members also waged an online smear campaign against Akçam, vandalizing his Wikipedia page, issuing threats against universities that invited him to lecture, and denouncing him as a terrorist who plotted attacks against American citizens. The latter charge got him stopped and questioned at the Canadian border.

Today, he speaks of two overriding emotions from that time: fear and anger. The fear of death and the anger that began simmering in 1988 when he was a research assistant at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research in Germany and contributed to a report titled “History of Violence in Ottoman Turkish Society.” It was the first time he’d heard of the Armenian massacres, a topic never taught during his school years in Turkey.

“It’s a very bad feeling to learn you were deceived throughout your history,” Akçam says during an interview in his office in the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. “Even more upsetting is how the state reacts to individuals who openly talk about this. As a scholar, as with any individual, you use basic freedom of thought to write on a subject because you know it is important and true. The Turkish state attacks you, tries to strangle your efforts from the very beginning, declares you a traitor. This creates an anger in you. The way the state treated me is what really kept me working in this field.”

Akçam was arrested in the late 1970s in connection with articles he’d written in a student journal urging human rights reforms and an end to the persecution of Kurds in Turkey. He was sentenced to eight years and nine months in prison and served a year in jail in the city of Ankara before he and other political prisoners hatched an escape plan. They were being kept in an old horse stable, and tunneled their way into an adjoining building. Once inside, they tied bed sheets together and dropped down into the street. “Like
in a movie,” Akçam grins. He gained political asylum in Germany, but was exiled from Turkey for 16 years.

Emaciated, nearly naked, and so desperately thirsty she was forced to drink urine, Varter Nazarian staggered through the desert with the two of her young children who still lived. At one point, to escape detection from the soldiers, she and the children descended into a dry well and hid for two days without food or water. As Martin Deranian recounts in “The Wailing Well,” a passing Arab called down to them to come out of the well. Varter insisted that he pull the children out, but the man convinced Varter to climb out first so the two of them could assist the children, who were too small to manage the climb alone.

Instead, once Varter emerged from the well, the man forcibly abducted her. “He was totally deaf to her appeals for her children left in the well,” Deranian writes. “Their echoing voices cried after her, ‘Mother, Mother!’ These infants’ cries haunted and tormented her the remaining days and dark nights of her life. The dry hole became Varter’s wailing well.”

Varter would later escape from the man’s home and make her way to Urfa, where she was overtaken by a Turkish soldier and forced into servitude. With the aid of an Armenian clergyman and a Swiss missionary, she fled with a German convoy and found safe passage to Aleppo. There she remained for several years, working on behalf of Near East Relief, the American Consular Service and the American Red Cross to help fellow deportees through their ordeal. Peering into the face of every child who arrived in the city, Varter maintained faith that some of her children had managed to survive. The mix of hope and uncertainty kept her anchored in Aleppo, ever on vigil.

Over time, the notion that she would ever reunite with her children faded. Her immediate family was wiped out, and only three members of her extended family had survived the brutal death march. In the district where she had been born, where there had been 200,000 residents, only 15,000 remained by early 1917. In July 1920, Varter emigrated to America, alone.

Martin Deranian wrote a paper in 1941 during his freshman year at Clark titled “The History of the Armenians in Worcester.” His professor gave him a mediocre grade and insisted he should have done more research.

He eventually did. In 1998 he wrote “Worcester is America,” a hardbound book that chronicles in exhaustive detail the Armenian experience in Central Massachusetts. He includes the story of his own family, including that of

A WAKING DREAM

The man was soft-spoken, polite and wore a distinguished white beard. He approached playwright Joyce Van Dyke in the lobby of the New Repertory Theatre following a 2003 performance of her drama, “A Girl’s War,” and introduced himself as Dr. Martin Deranian.

He said his mother, Varter Nazarian, and Joyce’s grandmother, Elmas Sarajian, had been very close friends and were deported together during the 1915 genocide of Armenians in Turkey. Deranian suggested that she write a play about them.

Van Dyke had vowed not to address that painful chapter in her family’s history; besides, her grandmother never spoke of it. But Deranian kept an ace up his sleeve. Decades earlier he’d asked a clergyman who’d known both Varter and Elmas to travel to Fresno to interview Elmas about his mother. What emerged was a never-before-revealed saga of their deportation thick with details Joyce hadn’t known.

“Reading this document was the first time I ever got a sense of my grandmother’s story and the friendship she shared with Varter,” Van Dyke recalls. “These were the only glimpses I had of her deportation.”

Deranian was gently insistent that Van Dyke tell the story. He shared his extensive research about his own mother’s experience, which in many ways reflected her grandmother’s tale, and gradually broke down her resistance. “Martin is very, very persistent, and the sweetest man I’ve ever known,” she says. “I’d had no intention of writing the play, but he wouldn’t let go.”

“Deported / a dream play” takes place in Providence, where Varter died, and skips through space, time and consciousness, relying on Elmas’ memories to summon Varter on stage and evoke their mutual ordeal in the Turkish desert and its aftermath.

Boston Playwrights’ Theatre performed the play in March 2012 at Modern Theatre at Suffolk University. A staged reading was held this September at Clark University’s Michelson Theater.
his two grandfathers, who came to the U.S. to work in the wire mills in the late 1800s, returned to Armenia, and were killed in the genocide. He also writes about Varter, who married his father, Mardiros Deranian, a Worcester grocery shop owner, on November 12, 1921, in the Church of Our Saviour, the first Armenian church in America. She gave birth to Martin in August a year later.

He grew up within walking distance of Clark University, earned his degree, attended dental school at the University of Pennsylvania, and served as a military dentist during the Korean War. Dr. Deranian then built a thriving practice in Worcester while raising a family. Despite these responsibilities, keeping Varter’s memory alive in the context of the “forgotten genocide” remained a passion.

“My mother was very strong, very spiritual, and she carried her Christian faith with her,” he says. “I believe she would have wanted me to do the things I’m doing. I felt I should speak for those little children — my half-brothers and sisters. I’m 91, and I could walk away, but I don’t choose to. I’m a Clarkie.”

Clark’s connection to the Armenian community dates back to the turn of the last century, when the immigrant mill workers in Worcester and the surrounding towns began sending their children to the University, says Robert Kalosdian. “These families did not have much, but they always had a love and deep appreciation for education.”

Clark was an accepting place, and the Armenian presence grew strong over the years. Kalosdian easily recites the names of distinguished alumni of Armenian heritage like Dr. Vernon Ahmadjian ’52, M.A. ’56, who would become a beloved Clark professor and renowned authority on lichens; famed journalist Ben Bagdikian ’41, former editor of The Washington Post; and District Court Judge Sarkis Teshoian ’58.

As a student, Kalosdian, a retired Watertown, Mass., attorney, launched an Armenian Club at Clark, served as a fraternity president and earned a varsity letter rowing crew. His involvement in helping create and maintain the chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark is bred from his deep love for the University and his desire that it remain in the forefront of keeping this area of study vital and urgent.

There is a personal motivation as well.

Kalosdian’s own father was orphaned at age 15 during the first year of the genocide, his parents and brother killed along with numerous members of his extended family.

“The genocide was so horrific most parents, including mine, did not disclose the details to their offspring. They were too personal, too horrific for youngsters to know or understand,” he recalls. “Amongst our extended family were survivors: women whose experiences damaged them psychologically for life; women who had children ripped from their arms and killed in front of them. There were others who were taken as concubines or sold to be ‘wives,’ servants or farmhands.

“These were not subjects that could be discussed while dining or in living rooms. Briefly, I knew that horrible things happened, but with virtually little or no specificity until on my own I searched the literature to learn what occurred to the Armenian people and nation from 1914 to 1923. It was not a pleasant journey.”

The first genocide of the 20th century served as a prototype for other mass exterminations, especially the Holocaust of the Jewish people under Hitler, he says. Not only were 1.5 million Armenians killed, but more than 3,000 churches, schools and countless monuments were destroyed. Notes Kalosdian, “It is the extinction not only of a people, but of its culture.”

Taner Akçam does not back down from a fight. He has engaged in heated arguments on Turkish television with Armenian Genocide deniers, published open letters to the Turkish prime minister urging recognition of the massacres, and continues to write books and newspaper articles telling the truth about his own country’s crimes against humanity. One columnist dubbed him “the conscience of Turkey.”

In October 2011, the European Court of Human Rights found that Turkey had violated Akçam’s freedom of expression due to a controversial law known as Article 301, which made it a crime to “insult Turkishness” and was used to prosecute writers and other intellectuals. Akçam argued that Article 301 directly led to the assassination of
Hrant Dink. “Turkey should learn that facing history and coming to terms with past human rights abuses is not a crime but a prerequisite for peace and reconciliation in the region,” Akçam said at the time. Article 301 has since been defanged to the point where it can’t be invoked without special permission from the Justice Ministry, an unlikely occurrence. He says that Turkey can no longer pursue a legal case against someone for raising the issue of the Armenian Genocide.

Other than the prospect of physical retaliation, one of Akçam’s greatest foes has been apathy. He notes that Dink’s killing sparked demonstrations in the streets, and he believes that public sentiment now tilts in favor of Turkey recognizing the genocide. But he marvels at the “conspiracy of silence” the subject engendered among the people in the preceding years, particularly in the 1990s.

“There’s a fatalism in our society, especially toward history. Nobody cared about it. I even have good friends who told me, ‘It was a hundred years ago. Let it go.’ This bothers me more than the threat of physical attack.”

Even Turkey’s hardline stance has become more nuanced, he says. “They don’t take the extreme denialist position as in the past. It’s a new form of denialism, by saying there are ‘diverse opinions’ on the subject and room for ‘reasonable doubt.’ It’s just a different approach of presenting the same argument.”

He is hopeful, but not overly optimistic, that the United States will officially acknowledge the genocide, an action the government has been unwilling to take because it could damage its relationship with Turkey, a strategic ally in the Middle East. To do so would be more than symbolic, he says. If the U.S. government recognizes the 1915 genocide, it will likely launch several court cases against the Turkish state and Turkish companies connected to the century-old crimes.

For now, Akçam is focused on shepherding four Ph.D. candidates in Armenian Genocide studies, and lauds Clark as an exemplar for creating the only endowed chair in the Americas in this field.

“The connection between the University and the Armenian community is very important,” he says. “We use and understand their pain for a broader context. Clark has been an unbelievable support. It’s a very serious thing to have a position in an American university to teach human rights and genocide. That’s something that everybody must respect.”

Steven Migridichian, president of the Friends of the Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark, agrees.

“Awareness is a great tool, and it’s important to promote and foster that knowledge among everyone,” he says. “Darfur. Rwanda. Cambodia. These events need to be brought forward. People say we shouldn’t dwell on the past, but history has a way of repeating itself once we forget.”

On May 4, 1929, while visiting relatives in Providence, Varter Deranian died when a blood vessel in her brain ruptured. She was 44 years old. Her son writes:

“When she briefly regained consciousness, she cried, ‘My children, my children!’ These were her last words. Her thoughts and her being had returned to the waterless well in the barren deserts of Turkey. Mother and children were at last reunited and the wailing forever silenced.”

Penning those words was painful for Martin Deranian, but he never expected anything less. He only wanted the truth to be told for whatever audience it may find.

“The wrath of time is upon us,” he says today. “The survivors of the Armenian Genocide are virtually gone, and my generation, who had direct contact with survivors, is getting old. So there has been the pressure of time to do what I can, and I think I’ve done that.

“Hopefully, I’ve lived a constructive life, but there are moments when I almost feel like I’m walking the route of the deportees through the desert. I’ve learned so much about my mother that she never told me. I suppose she wanted to protect me. That’s what mothers do.”
Ellen Hughes-Cromwick began raising red flags in the fall of 2006. As recounted in the 2012 book “American Icon: Alan Mulally and the Fight to Save Ford Motor Company,” Ford’s chief economic adviser warned about significant shifts in several markets, the proliferation of subprime mortgages, the correction taking place in the housing market, tightening policies in a number of central banks around the globe, and concern that financial institutions were not being adequately policed. In the past, she said, consequences of such developments had included devaluation, corporate implosion, and economic recession.
Today, Hughes-Cromwick is quick to note that while she and her team saw some troubling trends, no one could forecast with any certainty what they would mean in the long run. “We got some things right,” she acknowledges, “but there was much we didn’t know.”

Her cautions caught the attention of Alan Mulally, president and CEO of Ford, and his leadership team. They didn’t just hear her. They heeded her.

Even before the global recession descended in 2008-2009, the Ford Motor Company took action to restructure its operations, and bore the distinction of being the only Big Three automaker that did not declare bankruptcy or take a government bailout during one of the worst economic meltdowns in generations. (Ford did borrow $5.9 billion from the U.S. government in 2009 to fund development of energy-efficient vehicles.)

Recalling the saga, “American Icon” author Bryce Hoffman described the economist whose foresight helped Ford successfully navigate the fiscal crisis: “Serious and analytical, Hughes-Cromwick was a meticulous East Coaster from Upstate New York who always seemed to be crunching numbers in the back of her mind, even in the middle of a conversation. She had a master’s in international development and a Ph.D. in economics from Clark University.”

Ellen Hughes-Cromwick, M.A. 1988, Ph.D. 1986, joined Ford in 1996, the same year the company’s 250 millionth vehicle rolled off the assembly line. Prior to that time, she’d honed her skills in academia (as a professor at Trinity College), government (as staff economist with the President’s Council of Economic Advisors during the Reagan administration) and the corporate world (as senior economist at Mellon Bank). Her promotion to director and global chief economist at Ford in 2004 came during a difficult time for the company. A year later, Ford’s share of the North American market would slip to its lowest level since 1920 and the company posted a $1.6 billion loss. Standard and Poor’s would downgrade the company’s bonds to junk status.

In early 2006, Ford, in a bold and risky move, announced its decision to mortgage all its assets for approximately $25 billion to finance a new business plan dubbed “Way Forward,” described in the company’s 2005 annual report as “a comprehensive plan for restructuring and reinvigorating our automotive business in North America.” The plan was intended to realign product capacity to meet demand, and included drastic cuts in personnel and wages, shuttering of manufacturing facilities, and material-cost reductions.

Hughes-Cromwick says Ford’s actions allowed the company to avoid the path of competitors GM and Chrysler during the worst of the recession.

“No Ford and its leadership took very decisive action to restructure, and, working together, we were able to be successful,” she says. “We made different choices and worked very decisively to ensure that, following the financial downturn, the company was going to be a very strong, lean global enterprise. We aggressively restructured to operate profitably, to develop and accelerate plans for new products for our customers, and to finance our plan and improve our balance sheet.”

In 2013, the 150th anniversary of founder Henry Ford’s birth, the company posted its best July since 2006 and its best retail sales since 2005. CEO Alan Mulally describes Hughes-Cromwick’s role at Ford as “leading the global economic and automobile industry analyses that enable Ford to design and produce the best cars and trucks in the world affordably,” adding, “We treasure her leadership and contributions.”

Remembered fondly by her Clark dissertation adviser Maurice “Maury” Weinrobe as “conspicuous by her unwillingness to self-promote,” Hughes-Cromwick is characteristically modest when asked to comment on her contribution to Ford’s ability to weather the economic storm.

“I would say that we all did it together as a team,” she says. “I think that’s so important. No one person can accomplish all the great things that happened to make this company successful. I have an outstanding team here that many days I’m humbled to work with. They’re very talented, very committed.”

It’s a top-to-bottom effort, Hughes-Cromwick notes. She praises Mulally and William Clay “Bill” Ford Jr., great-grandson of Henry Ford and chairman of the board of directors, both of whom she describes as “very motivating,” and also credits the role Ford’s union employees play in the company’s achievements.

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Dame University, had returned to Paul’s hometown of Worcester after their stint as Peace Corps volunteers in Cote d’Ivoire was cut short by illness. Ellen worked first in Clark’s Department of International Development, translating documents from French to English, before applying to its master’s program and, later, the Ph.D. program in economics. She earned her Ph.D. first, in 1986, followed two years later by her master’s degree in international development. (Paul earned his master’s in economics in 1989, and coached the crew team.)

Maury Weinrobe, professor emeritus of economics, who, in addition to serving as Ellen’s adviser joined her for morning runs, regards his former student as being “in a class of her own.”

Ellen Hughes-Cromwick describes in glowing terms what the opportunity to study under Weinrobe’s tutelage meant to her. “I owe so much to Maury in terms of my understanding of economics,” she says. “His mentoring of me has been very special and really unique. I feel so fortunate I was able to take classes from him, and also to learn from him over many years.”

The Hughes-Cromwicks, through their affiliation with the National Association for Business Economics, have funded several one-semester stipends for Clark University economics graduate students in honor of Weinrobe.

Says Weinrobe, “Ellen is one of those quiet people who affects history.”

Before a Ford motor vehicle can be profitably produced, assumptions must be made about what customers want and can afford, about the accessibility and price of materials needed to build cars, and about the availability, quality and cost of labor. All these assumptions are based on careful assessments of economic and automotive trends, both local and global, provided by Hughes-Cromwick and her team so that Ford can allocate capital and decide
TAking The Pulse of Health Care

Ellen Hughes met Paul Cromwick in the cafeteria at the University of Notre Dame where he was studying mathematics and philosophy while she completed a major in government. They were married on campus in the Sacred Heart Church in 1978, beginning a journey together that would include graduate study in economics at Clark, two demanding careers and three children.

Attiat Ott, Clark research professor in economics, remembers Paul, who worked as her research assistant and earned his master’s in 1989, as knowledgeable, organized, and “nothing short of remarkable.”

“He epitomizes what one would describe as a caring, thoughtful and competent being,” she says.

For Paul, a Worcester native who had never strayed farther west than Auburn, N.Y., or farther south than Connecticut, attending school in South Bend, Indiana, had been an adventure. Today, the scope of his work as a senior health economist at the Altarum Institute’s Center for Sustainable Health Spending encompasses the entire nation.

In 2012, Paul launched Health Sector Economic Indicators, a product designed to track the U.S. health economy on a monthly basis. Each set of indicators, beginning in January 2012 (available online at altarum.org), consists of three briefs—one each on health care prices, spending, and labor. With a consistent, four-page format and an almost equal balance of text and graphs, each report is intentionally designed to make complex health economy trends accessible.

At a time when controversy surrounding the cost of health care in general, and of President Obama’s Affordable Care Act in particular, seems to garner almost daily media attention, it’s surprising that such critical information was not already easily accessible to health-care policymakers. But after 20-plus years’ experience as a health economist with organizations such as the Henry Ford Health System, the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, and the Connecticut Partnership for Long-Term Care Insurance, Paul saw a need and addressed it.

“I think we’re the only group in the country that on a timely basis produces monthly briefs covering health spending, health prices and health employment for the nation,” he says. “Our goal is to continue producing a variant for free for the general public, co-brand it with a national group with some additional funding for special studies, and then have a third component that goes to the investment community.”

In addition to developing and marketing Health Sector Economic Indicators, Paul also serves as the center’s outreach coordinator. He recently organized the third annual Altarum Center for Sustainable Health Spending Symposium, which took place July 30 in Washington, D.C. (Monographs, videos and PowerPoint presentations from the 2011, 2012 and 2013 symposia are available on the center’s website.) The symposium examined the relationship between the growth in health spending and the fiscal crisis, and convened some of the leading experts in national health care spending to discuss and dissect these issues.

Paul notes that one of the biggest policy changes in U.S. history, the Affordable Care Act, is taking place alongside recovery from one of the country’s worst economic recessions. “That combination of events,” he says, “is such that understanding what is going on with the health sector is now the full-time job of many, many people.”

He likes to point out to those looking to contain health care costs that, “Without what we’re doing, you won’t know if you’re succeeding or not.”

Follow Paul on Twitter: @Altarum_CSHS

Anne Gibson
which products to produce for its approximately 85 different markets around the world. The work is precise; the stakes are high.

“We use a lot of models to determine what will be the pace of vehicle ownership rate increases, especially in the emerging markets,” she explains. “In mature markets we’re looking at replacement demand — whether, for example, there’s a boost to vehicle demand because of population growth. We look at demographics databases to understand those dynamics. In some of our mature markets, like the U.S. and Canada, we’re looking at the role of housing recovery and energy-supply growth, and how that might affect demand for commercial vehicle growth.”

If the team isolates economic shifts they think are important, they’ll work with Ford’s decision-makers to determine needed adjustments in areas like production, inventory management, or product pricing. Hughes-Cromwick especially enjoys this opportunity to interact with a wide variety of people throughout the company — from engineers to marketers to factory workers.

NO ONE PERSON CAN ACCOMPLISH ALL THE GREAT THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO MAKE THIS COMPANY SUCCESSFUL.

“They all understand a lot of economics and are very appreciative of the tools and assessments that we bring to them as they try to make the best decisions possible,” she says. “It’s economics coming alive that really excites all of us.”

The factors influencing vehicle production costs and consumer purchasing at any given time and place are in constant flux, and Hughes-Cromwick’s team must be able to identify, in a timely fashion, a wide range of economically relevant events — social, demographic, political, financial or even climatic — to gauge their potential impact on vehicle production and demand in any given market.

It’s the changeability of the economic landscape that fuels the economist’s palpable enthusiasm for her work.

“Every day is different and that’s what’s so exciting,” she says. “We may see a devaluation that has been taking place in a particular country that requires us to assess its impact on inflation and the likely change in economic growth and vehicle demand. We’re constantly monitoring and analyzing situations, such as Europe. How is Europe’s debt crisis evolving? Has there been enough policy adjustment, both monetarily and fiscally, to ensure more stability and improve the unemployment situation?

“In the case of emerging markets, we’re doing a lot of work on the pace of slowdown in growth. In China and India, for example, we’ve seen how high inflation and high interest rates have an adverse impact on economic growth, and we’re working diligently to understand whether this is a persistent phenomenon or just a business cycle.”

Hughes-Cromwick continues to help Ford think proactively, move nimbly, and respond assertively in a crowded global market still roiled by perilous economic waters. The meticulous numbers-cruncher with a Clark pedigree is committed to seeing the big picture, sometimes even before it appears.
Author Leslie Margolis ’96 has earned a loyal following among young readers thanks to a pair of feisty heroines named Annabelle and Maggie.

BY MELISSA A. LYNCH ’95
Leslie (Goldman) Margolis ’96 came to Clark knowing she wanted to be a writer. But her doubts led her down a different path, and into a double major of government and sociology with a minor in women’s studies.

“I couldn’t conceptualize how anyone could survive and support themselves writing fiction, so I tried to find something more practical,” she recalls. “Clark is so amazing for social sciences, and I loved all my classes, but then I graduated and all I truly wanted to be was a novelist.”

So, after graduating, she did what every self-respecting prospective author does: move to New York City to work in publishing, be around books and learn how to be a writer. Seven long months later, toiling in the contracts department at Bantam Doubleday (“It was horrible, but it got me to New York!”), she connected with a fellow Clarkie, Valerie Garfield ’92, who was at that time a senior editor at Golden Books.

Garfield helped Margolis secure an interview, and soon she found herself working as an editorial assistant at Golden Books, where she stayed for two and a half years. She did some ghostwriting (contributing to the Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys canons), but there came a day when Margolis wondered if the job was worth it.

“I had plenty of freelance work — ghostwriting mysteries and novelizing movies while also editing at Golden — but I still had my doubts. I looked for a backup plan and came up with ‘college professor,’” Margolis explains. “I love school and reading and writing so it seemed like a good choice.” She attended the London School of Economics to pursue a master’s degree in social anthropology.

“I studied Latin American revolutions, and it was fascinating. But I quickly realized that being an academic is challenging at every single level. If you want to be an academic, you need to dedicate your whole life to that pursuit, which means you should truly be passionate about it. It’s not a good second choice or ‘backup career.’ In fact, it’s a lot like being a novelist, and since writing fiction was my true passion, I realized I had to stop avoiding the issue, swallow my fear and really go for it.”

She left London with a master’s degree but no Ph.D. and returned to New York, doing more freelance ghostwriting while working on her own fiction. She finished a novel, which helped her get an agent right away, but it wasn’t until she completed her fourth book, four years later, that she caught the eye of a mainstream publisher — Simon and Schuster — and secured a two-book contract. The resulting works were “Fix” (2006) and “Price of Admission” (2007).

“Since then,” she says, “I’ve been able to sell my original stuff.”

That “stuff” includes two book series for Bloomsbury, a boutique publishing house (and also Harry Potter’s publisher in the U.K.), and a contract with Farrar, Straus and Giroux. The Bloomsbury series are Annabelle Unleashed and The Maggie Brooklyn Mysteries, with books geared toward middle-schoolers (ages 8 to 12).

I truly feel that I would not have survived adolescence without fiction. Books saved me.

Margolis did not make a conscious decision to write for the ‘tween set, but she had an idea that took off. She thought of a girl who has a hard time dealing with the boys in her life — until she gets a puppy. Training the puppy lets her find her voice and stand up for herself, and she learns “to tame the troublesome boys,” she says.

The resulting book was “Boys Are Dogs,” the first of her Annabelle Unleashed stories, and she thought it fit the middle school age group. The main character, Annabelle, is facing much change in her life — a new school and a new home — and needs to find a way to deal with it all.

When the book was released in 2008, Publisher’s Weekly gave it a starred review and noted that the novel’s premise “has been seen before ... but rarely has it been so well grounded and developed.” School Library Journal added more praise: “This clever and humorous premise is deftly handled to create a believable and enjoyable tale with a likable and resourceful heroine whose trials, tribulations, and triumphs will have others wanting a training manual of their own.”

Readers agreed. They loved Annabelle, and Margolis is now working on the fifth book in the series — “Monkey Business.”

She’s also thrilled that “Boys Are Dogs” is being made into a TV movie by The Disney Channel. It will star Zendaya Coleman, one of the channel’s top stars (and a finalist on last season’s “Dancing With the Stars” TV show), and is slated to air in 2014. The story has been altered a bit for Hollywood. The main character is named Zoey instead of Annabelle, and the movie is called “Zapped,” but it’s still based on Margolis’ book.
Her other series of novels, the Maggie Brooklyn Mysteries, features a plucky 12-year-old dog walker who solves mysteries around her Brooklyn neighborhood when she’s not dealing with the everyday ups and downs of middle school. Critics lauded the debut of the series, “Girl’s Best Friend,” with Children’s Literature noting that “Maggie is by no means a perfect person, so readers can relate to her and her problems.”

Reader reviews on Barnes & Noble’s website are even more enthusiastic, with several citing “Girl’s Best Friend” as the “best book ever” (punctuated by multiple exclamation points).

“I just love that age group,” Margolis says. Until a year ago, she lived in Brooklyn (in the neighborhood where the Maggie Brooklyn books are set), and she had a focus group of sorts — middle school girls — in her building.

“I would send them drafts of my books, and then I would take them out for pizza and they would critique the stories so I could do a round of rewrites before I sent them to my editor,” she remembers. “These kids always gave me great feedback.”

Sometimes, before writing a story, Margolis will sit with middle-schoolers and ask them questions about their lives. “I guess that’s where my anthropology background comes in,” she laughs.

“I found middle school very traumatic and fascinating,” she says. “I just think there’s so much drama and emotion, and everything is heightened there.”

Margolis acknowledges that her own experiences can seep into her stories. “You’re drawing from real emotions, and that’s what makes your characters authentic and honest.”

The process of writing a book begins with a single concept.

“Usually, I come up with an idea and talk to my agent about it,” Margolis says. “If she thinks it’s a good idea, I write up a proposal — about 50 pages, sample chapters — that

AN EXCERPT FROM ‘BOYS ARE DOGS’

Something weird happened at school on Monday. As soon as Tobias’s foot made contact with my chair, I turned around and said, “Tobias, stop.”

I didn’t think about what I was doing first. The words just came out bossy before I could stop myself.

And Tobias actually looked at me. He seemed surprised and a little alarmed, like he didn’t know me. Like he heard something different in my voice, and maybe realized I was someone he didn’t want to mess with.

His stunned silence didn’t last long, though. Within seconds his features twisted back into a look of annoyance.

“What?” he asked.

“Cut it out,” I snapped.

Tobias waited, but just for a few minutes. Clearly he wasn’t about to give up that easily.

The next time he kicked me I turned around and spoke even more forcefully. “I said, stop kicking my chair!” I didn’t mean to be so loud, but from the way the entire class stared, it was clear that everyone heard me.

“What’s with the ruckus?” asked Mr. Beller.

I quickly faced forward. My first instinct was to stay silent and pretend like nothing was the matter. That was the easiest thing to do. But it wasn’t fair that I should get in trouble, when all I did was sit there and try to pay attention.

It wasn’t me causing the ruckus. And who used a word like ruckus, anyway? It was even dumber than calling something a shenanigan.

Something bubbled up from deep inside me. I don’t know where it came from, or what it was, exactly. Last week I would’ve apologized softly. Last week, I’d have done anything to deflect the class’s attention. But something had changed.

I took a deep breath and said, “I’m sorry, sir. I mean, Mr. Beller. I didn’t mean to cause a ruckus. I was just asking Tobias to please stop kicking my chair, because it’s distracting.”

Behind me, Tobias groaned.

“Mr. Miller,” said our teacher. “Are you kicking Annabelle’s chair?”

Tobias stayed silent. All eyes were on us. I didn’t want to be a snitch, but he’d left me with no choice. Another few weeks of the kicking and I might develop a case of serious whiplash. Okay, perhaps that’s a stretch, but still. The guy was annoying, and I couldn’t let him get away with it anymore.

I heard the sounds of muffled giggles but for once I didn’t care.
she sends out to publishers. From there, I get a book contract — or I don’t get a book contract.”

She’ll take between six months to a year to write a draft before shipping it off to her editors. “They’ll say, ‘This is wonderful, I love it — but here are ten pages of notes on how you can make it better.’”

Multiple rounds of rewrites are followed by copyediting and “typeset passes” when Margolis gets to look at the galley proofs. She might make more changes, and there might be additional rounds of edits. “Hopefully, while I’m editing, the publisher is working on a marketing plan, trying to get bloggers and newspapers to write about the book; and my agent is shopping it around, trying to generate interest from Hollywood,” she says. Margolis adds that her 5-year-old son is her best publicist; he makes a point of handing out her books to every older kid he meets. Her 3-year-old daughter isn’t on the marketing team yet.

Once the book is published, Margolis hits the road. “I’ve been on book tours, which are amazing and fun. And I do school visits all over the country, bookstore appearances, too.”

Connecting with her readers is her favorite part of the process. “Writing is lonely and isolating, but meeting readers is energizing. The kids are always enthusiastic and they come with great questions: Did this really happen to you? Are you Annabelle? Are you Maggie? Are you famous?”

Margolis also gets a lot of fan mail — mostly email, these days, but some actual letters. “For the most part, I try to answer,” she says. “I think it’s important [to respond] if a kid reaches out to you.”

Margolis was a voracious reader in her middle school years. “I truly feel that I would not have survived adolescence without fiction. Books saved me. I loved Paula Danzinger, Judy Blume, Beverly Cleary.

“I had to read; I always had a book. I wasn’t always reading great literature, either. I read the Sweet Valley High books too.”

She’s still a reader, but knows that most adults don’t read as much as children. “Right now, I read a novel every week or two, but I was reading twice as many five years ago. I don’t know if it’s because I have little kids now, or that we live in L.A. and I don’t take the subway anymore. There are more things competing for time.”

That’s one reason Margolis doesn’t write for adults. “Luckily, kids still read, and people still think books are good for kids. Children need books, and they need to see other ways of living and being.”

Children’s literature has faced fewer threats, she says, partly because of periodic blasts of energy from sensations like Harry Potter or the Hunger Games trilogy. “Every year there’s something else that comes along; you can never predict it. Following a trend is never what you want to do.”

When she started in publishing, she says, “Everyone had the fear of the looming audiobook. Now it’s the e-book.”

Margolis comes down on the side of the old-fashioned paper book, but insists she’s no activist with this issue. “I try to write the best work I can write, and not get involved in the e-book debate because it’s distracting. I still feel that a good story will find its audience. I just want to focus on being the best writer I can be, and tell the best story I can, and support independent bookstores in every way that I can. That’s challenging enough.”

Margolis has fond memories of her days as a Clark undergraduate. She recalls “the friendships and the freedom, and the amazing professors.” She cites professors Cynthia Enloe, Patricia Ewick and Richard Peet as three of her favorites.

“There was a sense that you could really do anything, study anything,” she says.

When not in class, she wrote for *The Scarlet*, and was a counselor at the Rape Crisis Center of Central Massachusetts. “I was kind of nerdy and studious, and just really into school, and excited about what I was learning,” she says.

What would she say to Clark students who might harbor a dream to make it as a writer? “It’s hard, but it’s not impossible — a lot of it is about endurance. Don’t give up. It took me four years and at any point I could have said, ‘This isn’t working, I’m going to do something else.’ But I didn’t. And here I am.

“If you have a story to tell you will get there.”

Leslie Margolis ’96 at the keyboard in her her L.A. home. She’s pictured on page 34 with one of her characters, Maggie Brooklyn.
Fluney Hutchinson rallies the Jamaican economy

Every Tuesday, promptly at 7 p.m., Gladstone Fluney Hutchinson, M.A. ’87, Ph.D. ’89, gets on the phone with Attiat Ott, Clark University research professor in economics, to discuss the issues of the day. It’s a ritual that has continued for 24 years, a connection to a valued mentor that exemplifies the foundational influence Clark has played in Hutchinson’s life and career.

“When I was at Clark, Attiat Ott took me under her wings and nurtured me. But she also would argue every point with me and never gave me an easy ride on any point I made. To this day it’s the same, and that is very important,” he says.

That intellectual rigor has been brought to the fore time and again, most notably in Hutchinson’s ardent efforts to revive the flagging economy of Jamaica. On July 31, in a special ceremony in the capital city of Kingston, Hutchinson’s inspired work on behalf of his native country was recognized when Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller presented him with the Prime Minister’s Medal of Appreciation for Service to Jamaica.

Hutchinson took a leave from his post as associate professor of economics at Lafayette College to spend more than two years as director general of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, developing strategies, programs and reforms to achieve sustainable economic development. He did so through the use of public scholarship, which incorporates the citizens’ own knowledge and ideas in the formulation of policy. Such broad-based, inclusive planning is critical, he says, because it fosters full engagement and ownership of policy and outcomes among citizens, while empowering them to transform their community and country.

“We met with close to two hundred different groups to ensure we heard every voice in every corner, and to understand what their aspirational needs for community and country were, and which of those needs could be best achieved and would have the greatest positive impact within the constraints facing the economy,” he says. “The process let them know that they were being treated with dignity and respect, and that their voices mattered in shaping public policy.”

Hutchinson’s work transcends politics. He notes that he was recruited by the more business-oriented Jamaica Labor Party government, but was asked to continue in the position of director general when the democratic-socialist People’s National Party was elected. He believes this is because of his reputation as an apolitical and well-trained applied economist and committed technocrat.

Looking back at his Clark days, Hutchinson says he absorbed all he could from his mentors, particularly Ott and Richard Peet, professor of geography.

“Dick is excellent at explaining post-colonial economic and national development in countries like Jamaica through the lens of Marxist theory of capitalism; Attiat’s framework for similar countries is always about how to make markets efficient, dynamic, inclusive, wealth-creating and truly just and fair,” he says. Hutchinson’s reform plan in Jamaica coalesces where capitalism and socialism meet. “Yes, it is connected to markets and wealth creation, but also to expanding opportunities and empowerment of the talented and ambitious financially poor, and a commitment to broad-based social justice. It’s right in that sweet spot where Dick Peet and Attiat Ott come together in my mind.”

Jamaica is a labor of love for Hutchinson, who over the years has periodically returned to offer his counsel. In 1996 he was asked to serve as adviser to the Ministry of Finance (his wife, Ute Schumacher, Ph.D. ’90, also worked as an adviser on Jamaica’s national industrial policy). He later spent time as a research associate at the International Monetary Fund, investigating ways to untangle Jamaica’s messy public finances.

His collaborative methods challenge the “paternalistic” approach often employed by the IMF, the World Bank and other international organizations that seek top-down change while dismissing or marginalizing the recommendations and needs of the citizens. Hutchinson notes, however, that Jamaica is not faultless, as its demand for government expenditures over the years has been unsustainable, leaving the country with one of the highest debt-to-GDP ratios in the world. He successfully worked with the two politically different parties during his tenure to introduce a host of wide-ranging reforms that incorporate everything from improving business efficiencies to enhancing access to credit for small and midsized businesses, from bettering urban and rural economic life to making changes to heighten the efficiency of the labor market and modernize the skills of workers. Hutchinson describes the approach as a holistic one, fusing social, environmental and cultural concerns into a national development plan while helping to ensure accountability and transparency in public finances and a productive partnership between the public sector, private sector and citizens.

The former Clark University trustee has remained devoted to his alma mater, which he first learned about during his undergrad years as a scholarship soccer player at State University of New York at Oneonta. The head trainer, who had worked at Clark, extolled the University as she taped his ankles or applied an ice pack.

“In my four years, Clark was always part of the conversation in the training room,” he says with a laugh. “It felt like a familiar place even before I got there.”

The Tuesday night phone calls with Attiat Ott are one indication that the familiarity will never wane. ☝

By Jim Keogh
Super Seven
Cougars to keep an eye on in 2013-14

BREANNA TUCKER, JUNIOR, WOMEN’S DIVING, TEMECULA, CALIF.
Topping what she did in 2012-13 will be hard to do. Tucker had a breakout sophomore season, earning several academic and athletic honors. She was named the Worcester City Championships Female Diver of the Meet in January. She then hit the NCAA A-Cut standard on the three-meter board at February's New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Championships, where she finished eighth and qualified for the regional championships.

In early March, Tucker was named NEWMAC Academic All-Conference for the winter season, meaning that she carried at least a 3.50 cumulative grade-point average. In late July the Collegiate Swimming Coaches Association of America selected her as an NCAA Division III Women’s Swimming and Diving Scholar All-American Honorable Mention for the second consecutive year.

TYLER VERETTO, SOPHOMORE, MEN’S BASKETBALL, SOUTH WINDSOR, CONN.
The Cougars lost seven seniors after 2012-13 and will look for new blood to take charge. Veretto (5.2 points per game, 2.4 rebounds per game) saw the most action of any of the newcomers last season and impressed with his athleticism and acrobatic finishes. He is excellent in transition, where he often plays above the rim, and is constantly in attack mode.

MEGAN GRONDIN, SENIOR, WOMEN’S BASKETBALL, CUMBERLAND, MAINE
Grondin doesn’t get all the publicity that her heralded backcourt classmates Ashleigh Condon and Emily Reilly do, but she might be the Cougars’ most important player. Clark is 7-3 when she’s scored 17 points or more; 4-1 when she’s scored 20 or more. Closing in on 1,000 career points, she was the only player (male or female) in the NEWMAC two seasons ago to shoot 50 percent from the field and 80 percent from the free throw line. She enters 2013-14 ranked tenth on the school’s all-time blocked shots list and fourth in all-time free throw percentage.

MICHAEL EGLOW, SOPHOMORE, BASEBALL, DELMAR, N.Y.
During a youth movement in 2013, Eglow shined the brightest of all the Cougar newcomers. He hit a team-best .339 and led the team in hits (37), runs (16), doubles (five) and stolen bases (nine) while playing shortstop, third base, second base and catcher.

TATIANA CHUNIS, SENIOR, SOFTBALL, SUTTON, MASS.
The Cougars’ most feared hitter is just as good with the glove, having split time at third base and at first base. She will enter 2014 well within striking distance of 100 career hits after a stellar junior campaign that saw her set career-highs in batting (.347), doubles (seven), fewest strikeouts (five), slugging percentage (.480), on-base percentage (.367) and fielding percentage (.972).

PETER CHRISTIANSEN, JUNIOR, LACROSSE, SEATTLE, WASH.
Christiansen made a miraculous jump from freshman reserve to one of the league’s most feared offensive threats. He entered his sophomore campaign with two career points and finished the season with 30, good for fourth on the team. His 17 assists led the Cougars and...
were ninth in the league. He recorded a pair of hat tricks — one in a 10-7 loss to Springfield, the other in an incredible 12-11 win at Massachusetts Maritime, where he added three assists and scored the game-winning goal in double overtime.

JANELLE PASTERNACK, SENIOR, SOCCER, AMHERST, MASS.

One of the fastest players in the NEWMAC, Pasternack had a standout junior campaign that earned her all-conference honors. She excelled in the open field, where she used her quickness to finish with 17 points (six goals, five assists), good for second on the team. A willing passer, four of her five assists in 2012 came in Clark victories, including a pair of helpers in a 2-1 win at Mount Holyoke.

Former women’s soccer standout Lorna Lunney ’10 is chasing her dream in law school. After graduating with a degree in business management, Lunney spent two more years getting her M.B.A. with a concentration in social change from Clark. From there, it was on to Stetson University College of Law, earning her J.D. in public interest and government. Now she is working while pursuing her doctor of law degree at American University’s Washington College of Law, where she is in her second year.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CURRENT POSITION.

I work in the contracts department at a defense and aerospace company, helping manage contracts that support U.S. troops and law enforcement with intelligence and analysis services.

WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART ABOUT LAW SCHOOL?

Trusting yourself. Law school is a pretty competitive environment and sometimes it can feel like everyone around you is smarter or more intense than you. It has really pushed me to be braver and more confident in my own work.

WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT BEING A CLARK STUDENT-ATHLETE?

Beside it being socially acceptable to wear a bow in my hair twice a week and the vintage Clark Athletics sweats? Probably the bus ride back from a Saturday afternoon win on the road, or maybe the social schedule filled with Cougar spirit.

WHAT IS YOUR FONDDEST MEMORY ABOUT BEING A STUDENT AT CLARK?

The day Hillary Clinton came was pretty awesome!

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL A FIRST-YEAR CLARK STUDENT-ATHLETE TO EXPECT?

Expect the friendships you build during these next four years to be some of the best you’ve ever had. And if you’ve never experienced a “free hugs day” before, you probably will at some point during the next four years.

WHAT IS THE BEST CAREER ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED?

“Do something that’s an investment in who you might want to be next.” Have an idea where and what you want to be, and as Coach Brady would say, “Get after it.”
NEW TREASURER AT CLARK

Julie L. Dolan is the new executive vice president and treasurer of Clark University. Dolan comes to Clark from Fairfield University, where she was the vice president for finance and treasurer since 2010. Prior to Fairfield, she was associate vice president for fiscal affairs at Vanderbilt University and Harvard University. Dolan completed her bachelor's degree at Stanford University and holds an M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dolan, who began work at Clark on Aug. 19, provides oversight of the University's financial affairs, along with strategic leadership over facilities and capital projects, human resources, and legal affairs.

She assumes the post held previously by James E. Collins, who is retiring after providing exemplary leadership and stewardship of the University's resources for 33 years. Collins will continue to oversee Clark's investment portfolio on a part-time basis through the 2013-14 fiscal year.

HUANG LEADS OFFICE OF DIVERSITY

Professor Betsy Huang has been appointed to the new position of Chief Officer of Diversity and Inclusion at Clark. She will engage broadly with Clark's faculty, staff, students, alumni and various offices such as Human Resources, Student Affairs, and committees within Faculty Governance to coordinate a series of initiatives that will further the University's commitment to diversity and inclusion. A new standing committee with representation from across the University will periodically analyze the campus climate, organize programming and instruction surrounding diversity and inclusion, and support the work done on campus by many groups and organizations.

Huang joined the Clark University faculty in 2003 and is an associate professor in the English Department. She is an American Studies scholar whose areas of research span Asian-American literature and culture, ethnic literature and theory, critical race studies, and science fiction. She has previously been recognized with Clark University's Outstanding Teacher and Advisor Awards and the Hodgkins Junior Faculty Award, and is a highly regarded scholar, teacher, and mentor to students. Professor Huang began this new role in June.

CONFERENCES TARGET GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

Two conferences at Clark University looked at sustainability from a variety of perspectives.

The Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) held its first international conference at Clark in June to improve understanding of the driving forces behind consumerist lifestyles in the wealthiest parts of the world; to generate insights about moving toward individual and societal well-being in a society aware of ecological limits; and to build on recent developments to establish a vibrant, global research community focused on sustainable consumption.

“Beyond a certain level of national wealth, economic growth in itself does not improve life or sustain the earth,” said Halina Brown, professor of environmental science and policy at Clark, and one of the conference organizers. “We are working to figure out how to grow and in what areas — not to continue feeding a frenzied consumer society, but facilitate a transition to sustainable, equitable prosperity and societal well-being.”

A quarter century ago, Clark University hosted a landmark international conference, “The Earth as Transformed by Human Action,” which highlighted international research tracing the effect of human activity on the global environment for the previous 300 years. Humanity continues to face fundamental questions addressed at the conference about the fate of the biosphere and the capacity of both nature and society to sustain life.

In recognition of the 25th anniversary of “Earth Transformed,” Clark hosted a series of events on April 2 that explored the directions and ramifications of global-change research underway at Clark. The conference included William C. Clark, Harvey Brooks Professor of International Science, Public Policy and Human Development at Harvard University, who delivered the Albert, Norma and Howard ’77 Geller Endowed Lecture, “From Earth Transformed to Sustainability Science.”

$718K GRANT FUNDS GOLDBERG STUDY

Abbie E. Goldberg, associate professor in the Department of Psychology, received $718,770 from the National Institute of Mental Health for her three-and-a-half year project, “Mental health in the postpartum period among visible and invisible sexual minority women: A U.S.-Canada study.” Goldberg is serving as principal investigator and will work with Lori E. Ross, associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto, to increase the understanding of factors that contribute to mental health and wellness experiences of mothers during pregnancy.

This study will examine postpartum depression in a diverse group of women: heterosexual women, visible sexual minority women (i.e., lesbian women), and invisible sexual minority women (i.e., who have a history of sexual relationships with women but who are partnered with men at the time that they become parents).
Published and Presented

1. **INNOVATIONS IN SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION: NEW ECONOMICS, SOCIO-TECHNICAL TRANSITIONS AND SOCIAL PRACTICES** // Edited by Halina Szcznwald Brown, Professor of Environmental Science and Policy, and Philip J. Vergragt, Senior Research Scientist, George Perkins Marsh Institute at Clark University; and Maurie J. Cohen

This timely volume recognizes that traditional policy approaches to reduce human impacts on the environment through technological change are insufficient to meet the most pressing sustainability challenges of the 21st century. Instead, the editors and contributors argue that we must fundamentally reconfigure our lifestyles and social institutions if we are to make the transition toward a truly sustainable future.

2. **REFLECTIONS FROM THE FIELD: HOW COACHING MADE US BETTER TEACHERS** // Eric J. DeMeulenaere, Assistant Professor of Education at Clark University, and Colette N. Cann with Chad R. Malone and James E. McDermott, Associate Professor of Practice, Clark University

The coaching metaphor first entered the educational literature more than 25 years ago when Ted Sizer urged classroom teachers to model the pedagogical relationship between coaches and athletes. Yet, since then, educators have rarely drawn direct lessons from the athletic arena for their practice ... until now. DeMeulenaere, Cann, Malone and McDermott, in this ground-breaking analysis, explore the implications of athletic coaching for improved pedagogy.

3. **WHEN WILL MY GROWN-UP KID GROW UP?** // Jeffrey Jensen Arnett, Research Professor of Psychology at Clark University, and Elizabeth Fishel

The parenting guide for parents who thought they no longer needed one, “When Will My Grown-Up Kid Grow Up?” covers every aspect of life for an 18- to 29-year-old, from that first taste of independence at college to that time at the end of their 20s, when most people are settling down. It explains what grown children are going through — intense self-focus, instability, a feeling of being “in-between” mixed with a breathtaking sense of possibilities — and how parents should deal with these changes, including troubleshooting their child’s failure to launch and promoting a successful transition to adulthood.

4. **TEACHER ROUNDS: A GUIDE TO COLLABORATIVE LEARNING IN AND FROM PRACTICE** // Thomas Del Prete, Director of the Adam Institute for Urban Teaching and School Practice at Clark University

The book explains how teachers can lead key facets of their own professional development by applying the Teacher Rounds methodology. Developed by Del Prete, the Teacher Rounds model can help educators learn with and from each other through classroom observations and inquiry. He offers step-by-step guidance and tools for implementing Teacher Rounds; insights on creating a positive environment for honest feedback; and a wealth of examples from a high-performing school and across all grade levels and disciplines.

5. **JEREMIAH’S SCRIBES: CREATING SERMON LITERATURE IN PURITAN NEW ENGLAND** // Meredith Marie Neuman, Associate Professor of English

New England Puritan sermon culture was primarily an oral phenomenon, and yet its literary production has been understood mainly through a print legacy. In “Jeremiah’s Scribes,” Neuman turns to the notes taken by Puritan auditors in the meetinghouse to fill out our sense of the lived experience of the sermon. By reconstructing the aural culture of sermons, Neuman shifts our attention from the pulpit to the pew to demonstrate the many ways in which sermon auditors helped to shape this dominant genre of Puritan New England. Neuman illuminates a mode of textual production that pervaded communities and occurred in the overlapping media of print, manuscript, and speech.
LETTER TO ALUMNI:

It's hard to believe that summer is over and a new crop of students from across the globe has arrived in Worcester to begin their Clark journey. I hope the new Clarkies will enjoy their time at our alma mater as much as I did and will take full advantage of the enhanced academic programs, facilities, and LEEP initiatives.

With the start of a new year, we also have a new Alumni Association Executive Board. First, please allow me a moment to thank the volunteers who ended their terms on the board. Past-presidents Roland Kyei Atupem ’82 and Richard Caswell ’89 both rotated off the Executive Board this summer. While I am sorry to see them go because it has been a pleasure working with them, I am confident they will find ways to stay connected to Clark, as their passion and dedication to the University are deep and unwavering. Kyei and Rich, I will miss your historic knowledge, your unique perspectives and your humor.

We also said goodbye to our undergraduate student representative Julia Schleppi ’13, who did a wonderful job of adding the student voice to the board. I know that the time Julia spent on the board during the 2012-2013 year is only the beginning of her engagement with Clark’s alumni community.

Finally, the summer brought much sadness as we lost one of our Executive Board members to illness, J.D. Weiss ’77, an amazing volunteer who served as liaison to the Alumni and Parents Admissions Program, passed away in July. Those of us who had the privilege to know J.D. were lucky to learn a great deal from him. He will be greatly missed by all. On behalf of everyone at Clark and the Alumni Association, I would like to thank Kyei, Rich, Julia and J.D. for their service to the University.

Now I would like to introduce you to the current Executive Board:

- I am in the second and final year of my two-year term as president. I live in Westborough, Mass., with my son and husband, and work at Harvard Medical School as the senior director of annual giving.
- Leo Velasquez ’86 is the president-elect. He lives in Dedham, Mass., with his daughter and wife, and works at State Street Corporation as the vice president, IT Process Engineering.
- Scott Zoback ’04, M.P.A. ’05, is the immediate past-president and lives in Worcester. He is the district press secretary/new media director for Congressman Jim McGovern.
- Eric Alexander ’89 lives in Oakland, Calif., with his wife, and works at Saint Mary’s College of California as a major gift officer.
- Charles Anderson ’96 lives in Manchester, Mass., with his son and wife, and works at Brigham and Women’s Hospital as the project manager for the Biomedical Research Institute.
- Ingrid Busson-Hall ’96 lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., with her daughter and husband, and works at Morgan Stanley as an executive director/counsel.
- Patricia DeGroat Brissette ’68 lives in Boylston, Mass., with her husband and has three adult children (including a Clark GSOM alumnus) and five grandchildren. She works as an IS consultant at Allmerica Financial Corporation.
- Maria Fernandes ’05 lives in Jamaica Plain, Mass., and works at Boston Children’s Hospital as a government relations specialist.
- Samuel Moody ’12, M.A. ’13, is the board’s graduate student representative and lives in Cambridge, Mass. He works at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy as a research assistant.
- David Roth ’84 lives in Fitchburg, Mass., with his wife and is the proud parent of two Clarkies. He is the founder and chief innovation officer at 4 The Cause Marketing & Consulting.
- Serge Shnayder ’04, M.P.A. ’05, lives in Boston and works at Ironwood Pharmaceuticals as the director of commercial sales systems and operations.
- Erin Thayer ’14, from Washington, N.H., is the board’s undergraduate student representative.
- The board also includes two representatives from the University: Andrea Marth, assistant vice president of University Advancement, and Professor Douglas Little, faculty representative.

According to the bylaws, the board “shall make final recommendations ... on matters of policy, programs, services, and communications as they relate to the Alumni Association.” During my tenure, I have come to admire the passion and dedication that each board member brings to her/his role. Each one of us loves Clark for our own reasons and has chosen to stay connected to the University through various volunteer roles over the years. We do our best to represent the diverse alumni body and ensure that your voices are taken into account at Clark.

Please feel free to reach out to any one of us to learn more about the Executive Board or about ways you can stay connected to our beloved Clark. Make 2013-2014 your year to get more involved with Clark. Attend an event in your area, reach out to an old Clark friend or classmate, get involved with your Reunion Committee, volunteer to host a LEEP project, make a gift to the Clark Fund to support current Clarkies, email me or anyone on the board with your advice/ideas, or just submit a class note to the magazine. Find a way to keep your connection alive.

Sincerely,

SHAKÉ SUΛIKYAN ’01
Alumni Association President
ssulikyan@alumni.clarku.edu
Navigating a river of debate

While an undergrad at Clark, Susan Munroe ’05 dreamed of writing for National Geographic. “I wanted to teach people about the world,” she says.

And that’s what she’s doing. Munroe may not be writing for National Geographic (yet), but as cofounder and operations director of Ríos to Rivers, a nonprofit that advocates for the protection of rivers using outdoor education programs, she shares her knowledge through kayaking-exchange trips for teens in Chile and the United States.

The American teens travel to the Pascua and Baker rivers of Chilean Patagonia, while the Chileans visit the Colorado River and learn about its history of dams — particularly the Hoover and Glen Canyon dams.

“We help them understand what it means to dam a river,” Munroe says. Two dams are proposed on the Baker River and three more on the Pascua River, and the trips “give the kids the information they need to make up their own minds. Our goal is primarily education. We’re not an activist group.”

Munroe says that damming the rivers in Patagonia means an enormous tradeoff for the local community, as the natural ecosystem would be irretrievably disrupted. The five-dam complex, called HidroAysén, is the largest of many proposed hydropower projects in Chilean Patagonia.

“The developer has promised the community jobs, improved roads, scholarships, a new hospital, etc.,” Munroe explains. “The local debate falls along these lines: pro-dam folks cite progress, development and jobs. The anti-dam folks say that the benefits of the dams are all short-term — the jobs will only exist for the 15-year construction phase — and in the long term, they’ll lose the even greater resource of wilderness/tourism potential.”

Opponents point out that Chile has few regions left like Patagonia; there is hope for tourism development of “one of the last great wildernesses.” The region is marked with just one dirt road and it is not developed. The construction of a dam would involve new roads and infrastructure, machinery in the riverbed and lead to deforestation. All energy created would be transmitted 1,400 miles north, meaning an “enormous swath” would need to be cut through native land, reserves and wetlands, Munroe says.

“We want to help the Chileans deepen their understanding” of the issues involved, she says.

In the spring of 2013, eight Colorado high school students went on an exchange to the Baker and Pascua rivers in Patagonia. The students, when they were not kayaking, learned first-hand about the dam debate. They spent four days in Santiago and attended both pro- and anti-dam meetings, and they met people whose homes would be flooded out by the dams (some of these residents favor the project).

“It’s one thing to look at an issue from far away, but it’s completely different to be in the place and meet the person whose home would be gone,” Munroe says. “They got to paddle the river, touch it — they got a good sense that it’s not a black-and-white issue.”

The Chilean teens were exposed to both the positive and detrimental facets of the dams during their visit to the Colorado River this summer. “The history of water in the west is complicated,” Munroe says, noting that the Colorado was recently rated the most endangered and over-allocated river in the country. “We’re using more water than is there.”

The program for the Chilean teens focused on the dams’ ecological impact in the Grand Canyon and was designed to help them apply that knowledge to the situation in Chile. “They’re primed to absorb this information,” Munroe says.

The trip ended with a 12-day kayak adventure from Lee’s Ferry to Pearce Ferry, running the entire 290-mile length of the Grand Canyon, finishing in Lake Mead.

Since her time at Clark, Munroe has done some freelance writing to spread the word about issues dear to her (a recent article about Ríos to Rivers appeared in Canoe and Kayak magazine). At the same time, she has worked various seasonal jobs — ski resorts in the winter and as a river guide in the summer. She spent the last two winters in Chile during their summer season, researching the proposed dams and getting to know the local population.

The New Hampshire native never could fit studying abroad into her Clark years, but since graduation she’s more than made up for it with time spent in New Zealand, Antarctica, South America and Wyoming. She is now settled in Salt Lake City.

Munroe appreciates the value of experiential learning, something she saw put into practice at Clark. Her current role on the rivers is a perfect match with her ideals. “I’m very passionate about people and the world,” she says, “and I’m happier if I’m actively involved in doing something to make it better.”

Learn more at Riostorivers.org. Find out what Munroe is up to at susanmunroe.com.
Dr Barry Herman ’72 describes himself as a “lost kid” during much of his time at Clark University. The psychology major found himself swept up in the counterculture of the late ’60s, nearly flunked out, took semesters off and had no clue what he wanted to do with his life.

But as he entered his fifth year, he got his head together, earned decent grades and decided on his next destination: medical school.

“Even my parents thought I was out of my mind,” Herman recalls. “My father owned a liquor store, and he said if things didn’t work out I could always work at the store.”

Herman approached Clark’s premed adviser, Professor Edward N. Trachtenberg, and told him his story. Trachtenberg listened intently.

“He took me to the student union and bought me a cheeseburger, and he said, ‘This is what you have to do to get into med school.’ Never once did he say I couldn’t do it — he simply outlined the path that I would need to take.

“He didn’t just give me a plan,” says the Philadelphia-based physician executive. “He gave me hope.”

Ed Trachtenberg, who passed away on Sept. 23 at the age of 85, provided many students with direction, advice, and, yes, hope during his nearly 40-year career as a professor of chemistry and prehealth adviser.

“Professor Trachtenberg was the most brilliant and inspiring lecturer and teacher that I have ever encountered,” says Dr. Stephen Provencher ’64, a scientific researcher who has developed a software package for the automatic analysis of MRI data. “Outside the classroom and chemistry lab, his enthusiasm as an adviser and his genuine interest in the students was undiminished. It was clear that he really enjoyed what he was doing.”

Todd Logan ’77 played on the men’s tennis team for three years at Clark, and recalls his former coach as a fighter for causes about which he was passionate, a man unafraid to speak his mind about issues confronting Clark and the wider world. Trachtenberg was also, he said, a great coach.

“They called us Trachtenberg’s Boys,” Logan remembers. “He would drive us all over the place for matches — Williams, Bates, Bowdoin — and watch us play tennis for eight hours. But he loved it. We would spend a lot of time talking on those power rides, and the conversations would go in all kinds of directions — politics, family, Clark. He was an incredibly stimulating person to be around.”

Logan even earned an invitation to Trachtenberg’s regular poker games, which were filled with anecdotes and laughter.

“I never had Ed as a professor, but I know that some students trembled before going into his organic chemistry class,” he says. “His reputation was that he was tough but fair.”

Ira Miller ’77, a former player under Trachtenberg, remembers a coach who, despite a heavy academic and administrative load, never missed a practice and sought out competition for his team from Maine to Pennsylvania.

“He was equally at home on the tennis court as he was in the lab,” Miller says. “During his nine-year tenure as the men’s tennis coach his winning percentage exceeded .800 and he coached some of the best teams and players in the history of Clark Athletics. Almost everyone I played with went on to be a doctor or a dentist, with a few lawyers sprinkled in. He is largely responsible for the great success we had.”

Professor Trachtenberg’s enduring legacy is the many students he shepherded into medical, dental and graduate schools, working tirelessly to edit their admissions essays and explaining to students what they needed to accomplish to be considered viable candidates. Mark Turnbull, professor of chemistry, says that if Trachtenberg believed in someone “you’d get a bulldog to let go first. In many circumstances he’d contact medical schools and say, ‘You didn’t admit this person. You’ve made a mistake.’ Frequently he’d get them looked at again, and certainly there were times when the medical school agreed to give these people another chance.”

Barry Herman knows that well. One day, during his second year at Tufts Medical School, he was in the administration building when in walked Ed Trachtenberg.

“He was lobbying for all the Clark premed students with the admissions officers at Tufts; going to bat for them like he always did. I reminded him of my story and he was so pleased to hear how it turned out for me. I’m eternally grateful to him. He was an amazing person.”

The Edward N. Trachtenberg Endowed Prize provides an award to a health professions applicant based on such factors as academic record, suitability for the profession, and financial need. A memorial service for Ed Trachtenberg will be held at 2 p.m. on Nov. 9 in Tilton Hall.
Want to know what’s happening at Clark University? The NEWS HUB is your source. The NEWS HUB features stories, photos and videos about major Clark events, important developments, and interesting people, with links to the media’s coverage of your alma mater — all archived, all easily accessed and shared.

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1961

WILLIAM I. LIGHTFOOT has written a memoir, or at least part of one. “The First Half” recounts his career working at Raytheon Corp. in Massachusetts and, later, at the Beverly Hills-based Northrop Corp., where he marketed defense systems worldwide and sold fighter planes in Africa, Europe and the Middle East. At Northcorp, Bill and his coworkers socialized with leading Hollywood figures and he met a number of the country’s aviation heroes. Overseas, he got a first-hand look at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, traveled with an ex-CIA agent and mastered the art of driving at breakneck speed on the German autobahn. “I figured if I didn’t write this down it would be lost forever. I did it for the grandkids;” he says of the book, which chronicles his life roughly through the age of 38 (hence the title). Readers of this magazine may recall the story about Bill’s setting a land-speed record in the Utah Salt Flats (Spring 2011). “The First Half” is available at Clark’s Goddard Library.

1963

ROBERT BARTELS served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve; he was the executive officer of the USCGC Cahoone and commanded Squadron 3. He earned his J.D. from St. John’s School of Law in 1990 and entered into corporate and private practices. Robert was married in 1968 and has two sons and four grandchildren. He enjoys tennis, skiing and reading.

1964

ALEX LIAZOS recently published “Twelve Days in Viet Nam: The Life and Death of Nicholas Conaxis” (twelveadaysinvietnam.org). “This story began in 1968, when I read Nick’s letters from Vietnam,” Alex writes. “It took me 43 years before I came to write the story of his life and death.” Alex is the author of three sociology textbooks and taught the subject for 40 years. He lives in the Boston area and enjoys spending time with his five grandchildren.

1966

NANCY (HELMAN) SHNEIDERMAN lives in El Cerrito, Calif., in a home that has a view of the Golden Gate Bridge. “Life in greater Berkeley is a rich brew — my version of Camelot,” she writes. She continues a small psychotherapy practice, mostly over Skype, and sings up a storm with the Berkeley Broadway Singers, a one-woman show of folk, jazz and original songs, and other jazz gigs in San Francisco. She also volunteers at local theaters, including at her daughter Anna’s ensemble, Ragged Wing, as well as working with the local Jewish film and folk festivals. Several times a year she heads east to New Haven to visit her daughter Sara, a Yale professor of anthropology, and her grandchildren Nina, 3, and Sam, 7.

JEFFREY SMITH is still skippering public sails on Come Boating’s 21-foot Drascombe open yawl out of Belfast Harbor on Penobscot Bay, Maine, when not on his Philip Rhodes “BetSea” 12-foot sloop — unless he’s teaching English, writing and languages, including Japanese, at River School Belfast (“Waldo County’s only alternative private high school”). Jeff is no longer hailed as Kappa Phi’s “Little General”; he prefers salutes of “Little Admiral” in these waning days of his long years at sea. All of his long-lost friends may find him on Facebook and email (there are no smart or “dumb” phones in the coastal lands of near Down East Maine, he says). Jeff writes, “I’m older, wiser — and still short.”

1967

JILL WATTS returned from the Peace Corps last April after more than two years on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia, where she developed a visual arts syllabus for grades K-6 and taught those grades. Jill also published "A St. Lucian Inspired Fairy Tale" and "Stories from Playe: The World Through the Eyes of the Children," both available through Amazon.com or Cottey House Press (www.cotteyhousepress.com). Above-cost
proceeds for the latter go to Playe Combined School to further the children’s education.

1971
Clark Trustee LARRY HERSHOF was presented the Joseph W. Res Community Service Award at the second annual meeting of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. Among his contributions, Larry served as the treasurer/secretary of the Jewish Alliance and chair of the Finance and Budget Committee since its inauguration, treasurer of the Jewish Federation from 2008 to 2010, and as a member of the Finance Committee since 2000. He also served as board chair at the San Miguel School of Providence, an independent Lasallian middle school for urban boys from the Greater Providence area. The school is dedicated to the belief that education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty.

1972
SUSAN GOETZ ZWIRN, director of art education and associate professor at Hofstra University, taught a S.T.E.A.M course at Xisu University, Xi’an, China, from February to May 2013. Before leaving for China, she presented at the Learning and the Brain Conference on Creativity in San Francisco on Feb. 16.

1973
JACOB BLOOM retired in 2012 after 30 years as a development programmer. He’s planning to put more time into finding opportunities to get people to dance — square dance, contra dance, klezmer dance, or anything else that is based on people interacting with each other instead of performing.

MARGARET FRUTH is still writing. See her work at contributor.yahoo.com/user/1175807/margaret_fruth.html.

1976
WILLIAM BOGAERT, a partner in the Boston office of the national law firm Wilson Elser, received the firm’s 2012 Max Edelman Lawyer of the Year Award. William has worked as a litigator for 25 years, representing lawyers and other non-medical professionals in litigation throughout New England. He has also represented insurance agents and brokers in litigation, and registered representatives and life insurance agents and broker dealers in arbitrations and in litigation arising from sales practice disputes. William also advises professional malpractice insurers on matters of coverage and disputes under the Massachusetts Consumer Protection Act, and is often asked to serve as mediator in a variety of cases. He earned an AV® Preeminent™ rating by Martindale Hubbell, the highest peer review rating, has been selected for inclusion in Super Lawyer – Massachusetts, and was named to the list of Boston’s Top Rated Lawyers, which was published in a supplement in The Boston Globe. He received his J.D., cum laude, from Boston College in 1985.

GORDON ARNOLD, PH.D., has written a new book, “Projecting the End of the American Dream: Hollywood’s Visions of U.S. Decline,” a combination of Hollywood history and American history since World War II. The book, published by ABC-CLIO/Praeger, reveals how Hollywood films reflect our deepest fears and anxieties as a country, often recording our political beliefs and cultural conditions while underscoring the darker side of...
the American way of life. Gordon is a professor of liberal arts at Montserrat College of Art.

1977

IRA MILLER has had his fifth book of fiction published under his pen name I.J. Miller by Grand Central Publishing, an imprint of Hatchette Books. “Wuthering Nights,” an erotic retelling of the Emily Brontë classic, “Wuthering Heights,” came out in e-book form on Jan. 29, and has been in bookstores since April 23. More about his writing career can be found at www.ijmiller.com. Ira has enjoyed dual careers as a novelist and tennis coach at Drew University and Fairleigh Dickinson University — he is in the Sports Hall of Fame for both. At Clark he played on the varsity tennis team for four years and was captain his senior year. Those teams were during the middle years of Dr. Ed Trachtenberg’s tenure as coach, he notes, and were among the most successful teams in any Clark sport. He holds an M.F.A. in screenwriting from the American Film Institute and has taught screenwriting as an adjunct at Hofstra University. He cites the influence of Clark professor Anthony Hodgkinson in his film endeavors.

1978

DAVID LAKE, PH.D., is the co-editor of “Politics in the New Hard Times: The Great Recession in Comparative Perspective.” The book examines the political causes and consequences of the global economic crisis. Lake is the Jacobs Professor of Social Sciences and Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of California, San Diego. He delivered the Harrington Lecture at Clark in 2011.

1982

ALISON COHEN is media relations director at the global nonprofit Education Development Center, based outside of Boston. Alison directs media and public affairs for EDC, which has education and health programs in 30 countries. She lives in Boston with her husband, Ken Kaplan, daughter Abbie, 16, son Asher, 11, and the family dog, Bailey.

1983

AMY BROMBERG GOLDSTEIN has developed the first full-day kindergarten program for Kol Emet, a synagogue preschool in Yardley, Pa. She also directs the synagogue’s summer camps. She is active as a volunteer at the Pegasus Riding Academy in Philadelphia, working with disabled riders through horse therapy. Both of Amy’s daughters are Clark students and loving it: Sara ’14 spent her junior year studying in Prague and Namibia, and Devra ’16 enjoyed her first year. “It’s simply amazing to have two more happy and involved Clarkies in my family,” Amy writes.

1984

DENISE WALDRON has published her first novel, “Yoga Guy.” She notes that the book is available for immediate sampling and sale in multiple e-book formats, including the Kindle, Nook and iBooks. You can check out Denise’s blog at denisewaldron.com or visit her Facebook page (facebook.com/DeniseWaldronBooks). “Like 99 percent of authors these days, I’m doing my
own marketing,” Denise writes. “If it looks like something you’d enjoy, please give it a try!”

1985

TEJA ARBOLEDA’s latest nationally broadcast PBS documentary, “Model Minority: Do the Math,” reached 56 percent of U.S. households and received a Telly Award in the cultural programming category. Recently, he wrote, illustrated and published “What’s That Pout All About,” which is available on Amazon.com (soon to be available on iBooks). His most recent children’s book, “Jeni So Many,” will be released soon. Teja continues to produce TV and travel the U.S. as a public speaker on race, culture and American identity. He lives with his wife and two daughters in Dedham, Mass.

1988

DANIEL BROOK has published two new e-books: “Social Truths” (smashwords.com/books/view/242645), a sociological primer, and “Daydreaming in Kyoto” (smashwords.com/books/view/301871), an account of Japan’s ancient capital told in haiku and photographs. Dan also edited “Justice in the Kitchen,” a social justice community cookbook (justicecookingbook.wordpress.com) for Or Shalom Jewish Community.

1989

ADAM RUDIKOFF, a strategic financial adviser with Centennial Financial Group in Needham, Mass., has earned membership into the Million Dollar Round Table for the second year in a row. Membership is earned annually by the top 5 percent of advisers worldwide and reflects a true dedication to service excellence. “My clients are my passion, and serving them is my privilege,” he says. Adam can be reached through his website at AdamRudikoffMBA.com.

1990

ILENE MATES was recently promoted to assistant vice president, finance & administration, for the Division of Student Affairs of Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Fla.

1991

JOSEPH OMANSKY co-founded Trusted Insight in 2010. With offices in New York City, the company has become the largest online community of institutional investors (47,000 investment professional members). Trusted Insight members include pension funds, foundations, endowments, sovereign wealth funds and family offices. Trusted Insight (thetrustedinsight.com) was initially funded by Founders Fund, RRE, Gary Lauder, 500 Startups, and other angel investors.

1992

DAVID SOSLAND and his wife, Rachel, are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Juliet Anna, on March 13, 2013. She joins her siblings Ethan, 7, Gabrielle, 5, and Jake, 3.

1993

CORNINA (PHILLIPS) FERGUSON was named the new director of the Williamsburg Area Destination Marketing Committee in Virginia. Comina was formerly vice president of Destination Marketing, New Media and Strategy for VisitNewEngland.com, a privately owned tourism website that markets the six New England states. She managed the sales and marketing activities for the website, as well as the organization’s social media presence, which through her leadership experienced a 90 percent growth in fan base on Facebook, and an average fan engagement rate of four times the current industry standards. She and her husband, Ken, have three daughters.

1994

FREDERICK “FRITZ” MORGAN, chief product officer for Digital Lumens, presented “Designed in the United States, Produced in Asia” at the Clark University Department of Physics Colloquium in March. Fritz shared some experiences around building companies, technologies and systems...
and how Color Kinetics and Digital Lumens disrupted the $100 billion lighting industry.

1996

JESSICA WAPNER’s debut book, “The Philadelphia Chromosome: A Mutant Gene and the Quest to Cure Cancer at the Genetic Level,” explores the link between cancers and their genetic causes to help us understand exactly how targeting cancer at its root came to save so many lives. Wapner chronicles the 31-year saga in which the so-called Philadelphia Chromosome came to be identified as the sole cause of one particularly deadly cancer — chronic myeloid leukemia. A freelance science writer focused on health care and medicine, Wapner has had her work published in a host of outlets including The New York Times, Scientific American, Science, Nature and Psychology Today. She lives in Beacon, N.Y., with her husband and two children.

PREETHI (FERNANDO) BURKHOLDER has published “17 Women Who Shook the World,” which is available on Amazon.com. The book explores the thinking and behavioral patterns of 17 of modern history’s most amazing women, including Shirley Chisholm, Esther Morris, Wilma Rudolph, Aung San Suu Kyi, Valentina Tereshkova, Harriet Tubman, Madam C.J. Walker, Meryl Streep, and Victoria Woodhull.

1997

DON TARALLO spent the last academic year working on a graphic design project called “Designing Social Change.” It is supported by a Presidential Fellowship from Bridgewater State University, where he teaches full time. This highly competitive fellowship provided a year off from teaching and a stipend that allowed Don to conduct a visual inquiry around how one can use graphic design to guide youth to enroll in free after-school arts programs in Providence, R.I. The project was done in service to a group of nonprofit organizations called the Providence Youth Arts Collaborative.

1998


1999

JESSE SOLL married Angelina Luz McCormick on Feb. 23, 2013; the couple lives in Ventura, Calif. Jesse was recently promoted to project editor at SAGE Publications, where he oversees the production of a number of top medical journals. He is also a freelance photographer with clients including Baseball America, Topps Baseball Cards, and ESPN The Magazine.

JAN ZUKOWSKI is now technical lead of development for United Health Care’s Intelligent Electronic Data Interchange Portal product.

2000

ELIZABETH (HANSON) BENNETT ’00, M.S.P.C. ’01, married Danny Bennett on Sept. 9, 2012. Pictured at the wedding are (pg. 51, l. to r.): Janelle Gilchrist, Henry Wilder, Amy (Trahan) Wilder ’00, M.S.P.C. ’01, Elizabeth, Mara (Natanell) Jackson ’00, and Jim Levesque ’98.

2001

CHRISTOPHER GRIFFITH and HENRY WHEELRIGHT, who were roommates at Clark, have been named to UBS Financial’s “Top 35 Financial Advisors Under 35” list. They are the senior members of the Griffith Wheelwright Wealth Management Group in Rockland, Mass. Griffith, senior vice president of wealth management for UBS, previously served as a financial adviser for A.G. Edwards and Sons. He lives in Norwell, Mass. with his wife, Erin, and son, C.J. Wheelwright, previously a financial adviser at A.G. Edwards & Sons and a junior financial associate at Sterling Investments, is vice president of investments for UBS. He and wife, Kimberly, live in North Quincy, Mass.

2002

MICHAEL STATON, M.A. ’06, of San Francisco has been appointed to the Marcademy, Inc. advisory board. Marcademy is a career training school...
Irene Walch turns a new page

Other than a brief stint teaching, Irene Walch ’64, M.A.Ed. ’66, spent her entire career as a reference librarian in the Goddard Library. And she expects to spend a good chunk of her retirement there, too, especially in Jazzman’s Café.

“I’m looking forward to buying a cup of coffee at Jazzman’s and sitting down to read a book while my colleagues are still working — isn’t that awful?” she says with a laugh. “They’re so jealous of me right now.”

They also know she deserves some quiet time. Walch, who retired in June, joined the library staff in September 1969, a few months after astronaut Buzz Aldrin cut the ribbon on the new building with its revolutionary design. For nearly 44 years she mined the stacks and digital databases to help Clark students find the information that would inform their research papers, scholarly essays and exam preparations. In turn, many of those students expressed deep appreciation, with one undergrad writing in a thank-you note: “You are known as the mother of the students.” Her dedication to Clark earned Irene the Sheila Chaman Service Award in 1999.

“Working with students was my first love,” she says, noting the bonds she formed, particularly with international students. Irene devoted much of her time away from campus to caring for her elderly parents and a sister who battled multiple sclerosis for many years before she passed away in 2008. “The Clark community became my family,” she says.

Over the years, printed text gave way to CD-ROMs and then online search engines. Walch and her colleagues kept abreast of new technologies through constant education efforts (“It was never boring,” she acknowledges.)

Despite the shifts in how information is delivered, the staff’s core mission of aiding and instructing students has remained undimmed. Walch notes that a particularly challenging question will inspire a good-natured scramble among library staffers to come up with the answer.

“There’s a service orientation here, a collegial atmosphere that doesn’t exist in every library,” she says. “I’ve loved working in this place, with this team.”

Retirement means the ability to do the things her busy work schedule rarely allowed, including attending events on campus like classical music concerts at the Traina Center, afternoon lectures, and foreign films at Cinema 320. Irene also has joined the Friends of the Robert Goddard Library, where she can offer a unique perspective influenced by her more than 40 years as a library insider.

Irene says a bowl of candy left on the reference desk has done wonders to break the ice with students. “We discovered that if people stop for a piece of candy, they find the librarian less threatening.”

When it’s pointed out that the words “threatening” and “librarian” typically do not appear in the same sentence, she chuckles.

“I don’t know about that. Some of those old-time librarians were very strict!”
2006

JOANNA BARKER recently accepted a position at Jewish Vocational Services, as employment specialist with the Transitions to Work program. This program helps young adults with disabilities in the greater Boston area learn how to succeed in the workplace by providing job trainings, internships and employment opportunities.

LAURA GARWACKI ’06 married Anthony D’Ostilio on April 20, 2013. In attendance were (pictured on pg. 52): Tim Nelson, Sara (Cannon) Nelson ’06, M.P.A. ’07, Nora Lynch ’06, Shawn Goodspeed ’06, M.B.A. ’13, Jessica Weyant ’06, Larissa (Price) Leibowitz ’06, and Alex Leibowitz ’06.

ROBERT KEELEY reports that he now works with three fellow Clarkies — KATE DOBDAY ’08, REBECCA POSNER ’07, and CONOR SULLIVAN ’06 — at the Council for Aid to Education in New York (cae.org), which is responsible for the “Voluntary Support of Education” survey. Bob and Kate work on the Collegiate Learning Assessment program, while Conor and Rebecca work on a program creating essay-based assessments for the Common Core State Standards.

ADAM TOMCZIK ’06, M.A. ’07, married Devin Mowat on June 8, 2013. Clarkies in attendance were (pg. 50, l. to r.): Rebecca Alper ’06, Nora Lynch ’06, Adam, Shawn Goodspeed ’06, M.B.A. ’13, Devin, Larissa (Price) Leibowitz ’06, and Alex Leibowitz ’06, Sean Hurley ’06, M.A. ’07, and Fauna (Shaw) Hurley ’06, M.A. ’08.


ALUMNI ARTISTS IN THE PUBLIC EYE

Charlotte Wharton ’80 has traveled throughout the United States, Europe and the British West Indies to paint and to teach aspiring portraitists. But the real journey for any artist, she notes, is internal, and it involves unleashing one’s true self through the brush.

Wharton’s new book, “The Language of Energy in Art: Finding Your Vision,” is a step-by-step guide to turning an individual’s experiences, memories, imagination and observations into memorable art. The book’s lessons — delivered in text and illustrated by her own works as well as some pieces by Renaissance masters — are informed by her many decades of filling minds and canvases.

In her career she has created more than 600 portraits and landscapes that hang in national and European collections.

Wharton has retained her contact with Clark over the years. She credits Polly Traina, wife of the late Clark President Richard Traina, with hosting a show of Wharton’s works in Harrington House and helping her foster contacts in the Worcester community that later led to commissions. In 2011 Wharton painted the portrait of former Clark President John Bassett and his wife Kay that hangs in the Admissions Center.

The Jason McCoy Gallery in New York will exhibit the new paintings of Philip Smith ’74, Nov. 7 to Dec. 20.

In the exhibit “Sign Language,” the curious and psychologically-charged images in Smith’s new paintings are drawn from 1950s Cold War spy manuals, lingerie ads, books on mysticism and numerology, lost magic manuals and early genetic diagrams. The paintings are characterized by slightly visible, erased imagery that serves as both memory and ghost-like representations, reminiscent of Smith’s childhood that was filled with séances and talking spirits. The result is a disorienting universe characteristic of Smith’s long association with both pop culture and metaphysical practices.

“I think of the paintings really as drawings, as if the canvas were just a large sheet of paper,” Smith says. “This allows me to work freely and automatically as if in some sort of trance state. The result is somewhat similar to the intent of Jain paintings from India or Tibetan thangkas, which serve to open a door to another realm. This often results in a curious sensation of time travel for the viewer.”

Smith’s work has been included in both the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York and Beijing Biennial and is in the permanent collection of the Whitney, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas Museum of Art, Miami Art Museum, and Detroit Institute of Art, among others.

His unusual life story has been captured in his memoir, “Walking Through Walls,” published by Simon and Schuster. It is Smith’s true story of growing up with a father who insists that he has supernatural powers and can talk to the dead and heal the sick. Showtime has acquired the book for a weekly television series, now in development.
2007

ABBY CROWLEY ’07, M.P.A. ’08, and GARRETT TITMAS ’07, M.A. ’08, were married in Simsbury, Conn., on Sept. 2, 2012. They met as part of the first group of Clark Trekkies during their first year in 2003. Clarkies in attendance included Meryl (Missy) Berger, Danielle Petroni and Ben Pannell, all class of 2007. The couple lives in Cumberland, R.I. Abby is a third grade teacher with the Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy and Garrett works at New England Yacht Rigging. He also is an officer candidate in the Massachusetts National Guard, and is treasurer of the Providence Committee on Foreign Relations. The couple is pictured on page 50.

2008

JENNIFER Reeve Davis received her Ph.D. in molecular pharmacology and physiology from Brown University in May 2013. In addition, Jennifer was awarded the prize for the Outstanding Dissertation in Life Sciences at Brown.

2009

CAROLYN Curley and JEREMY Kornwitz were married on May 26, 2013, in Weston, Mass. Clarkies in attendance included (pg. 51, l. to r.): Jessica Baker ’09, Lisa Crislip ’09, Chuck Ha ’09, Carolyn and Jeremy, Kasia Baca ’09, Kimee (Choate) Tashman ’09, MBA ’10, and Allison Shapanka ’09.

2010

SOPHIE CRAFTS has put her degree in psychology on hold since graduating. Implementing her minor in music instead, she now earns her student loan payments as a traveling street musician, seeing the world with the help of her accordion and marionette.

LIZ DEmsky is currently in her second year of the school counseling graduate program at Southern Connecticut State University. After graduating from Clark, she worked as a research assistant in the Department of Psychology at Yale University, where her primary project involved assisting with the development, implementation, and evaluation of a nutrition-based curriculum designed for English as Second or Other Language adult students. “During that time, I interacted with a number of educators and discovered how school counseling was a career that combined my passions and interests for social justice and education,” she writes. While she is completing courses on various counselor competencies, Liz also interns at a local K-8 school in New Haven and works at the Yale Child Study Center.

KATERINE RAMIREZ, M.P.A. ’11, writes, “It has been almost seven years since I left Colombia to go to Clark, and I never would have envisioned the adventures that were waiting for me.” After earning her M.P.A. in the Accelerated B.A./Master’s Degree Program, she moved to Boston and began working for Euromonitor International. In June 2012, Katerine returned to Colombia, where she continued to work for Euromonitor and began doing research with two local organizations in her home city of Barranquilla. She now lives in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, where she works at the Central American Bank of Economic Integration, under the Young Professionals Program. “I was always interested in economic development and international organizations; now I am involved every day with the different projects that can help the region have further growth, development, and integration,” she says. “I feel that Clark had a great impact on my life, since it allowed me to learn not only from academic theories, but also how to be a globally tolerant and respectful person who can adapt to new countries, cultures, and environments.”

2011

JESSE ADELMAN completed a year of Americorps service at an elementary school in the Watts section of Los Angeles in July 2012 and is currently serving as a Community Health Peace Corps Volunteer in Zambia. Living in a remote village, his focus is to assist and support community health groups and the local health clinic in the areas of HIV/AIDS education and prevention, malaria prevention, and in neonatal and child health. He also enjoys teaching English and health education at the local primary school, as well as traveling regionally. Jesse’s Peace Corps service will close in fall 2014.
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>1/18/2013</td>
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<td>NICHOLAS CARO '43</td>
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<td>RICHARD A. XENOS '50</td>
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<td>JULIUS P. MAYNARD '51</td>
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<td>NORMA J. GOLDBERG '52</td>
<td>Providence, R.I.</td>
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<td>JOHN B. HERMAN '56</td>
<td>Millbury, Mass.</td>
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<td>WILLIAM J. WADDLETON '56</td>
<td>Rockport, Mass.</td>
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<td>TSUYOSHI UTSUNOMIYA '57, M.A. '60</td>
<td>Westerville, Ohio</td>
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<td>NICHOLAS J. DEL SOLE '58</td>
<td>Brewster, Mass.</td>
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<td>STUART R. MILLER '58</td>
<td>New York City, N.Y.</td>
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<td>ANTHONY R. SULLIVAN '61</td>
<td>Bloomfield, Conn.</td>
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<td>Oxford, Mass.</td>
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<td>RITA H. SCHEIN '62</td>
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<td>PETER V. MARSDEN '63</td>
<td>Lititz, Pa.</td>
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<td>LEE IRWIN '65</td>
<td>Baltimore, Md.</td>
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<td>RICHARD REPOSA '65</td>
<td>San Antonio, Texas</td>
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<td>EDWARD B. JAFFE '67</td>
<td>Bolton, Mass.</td>
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<td>PAUL F. MURPHY '68</td>
<td>Worcester, Mass.</td>
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<td>WILLIAM M. GLAZER '69, P '86</td>
<td>Menemsha, Mass.</td>
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<td>JACK S. PARKER, L.L.D. '69</td>
<td>Carefree, Ariz.</td>
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<td>FRANCIS L. QUAIL '70</td>
<td>Melbourne, Fla.</td>
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<td>LISA F. MANN '72</td>
<td>Albuquerque, N.M.</td>
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<td>J. NEVILLE HAGGERTY, M.B.A. '73</td>
<td>Bozeman, Mont.</td>
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<td>KENNETH W. CARLSON '75</td>
<td>Worcester, Mass.</td>
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<td>SHARON B. (KOPSTEIN) SPIEGEL '77</td>
<td>Washington, Vt.</td>
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<td>GLORIA C. (BOLIVAR) WILLIAMS '77</td>
<td>Webster, Mass.</td>
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<td>REV. RICHARD BRUNELLE, PH.D. '78</td>
<td>Worcester, Mass.</td>
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<td>RICHARD H. MENSING '86</td>
<td>West Boylston, Mass.</td>
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<td>MARCUS A. MCCORISON, LITT.D. '92</td>
<td>Worcester, Mass.</td>
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<td>ARIJIT GUHA, M.A. '09</td>
<td>Phoenix, Ariz.</td>
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RONALD COMISKA JR. ’03, M.A. ’05, a former employee of the Clark University Admissions Office, died on Monday, July 22, 2013, after a long battle with lymphoma. He was 37.

Before beginning his studies at Clark, Ron served four years in the U.S. Air Force. During his first semester at Clark, he became acquainted with Paul Ropp, professor of Asian Studies, who would serve as his adviser for both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. “He had a seminar with me that first year, and he literally shamed the six or eight juniors and seniors in the class,” Ropp said. “I didn’t know he’d spent four years in the Air Force, and I was utterly mystified that this freshman was so much more mature, more committed, and smarter than all the other kids.”

Passionate about reading and education, Ron returned to Clark and worked for more than four years in the Admissions Office. “During the time he worked with us here at Clark, Ron would serve as a voice of rationality, common sense, humor and calm whenever some kind of challenge faced us,” said Dean of Admissions Donald Honeman. “All of us are better people today for having had him in our midst. The standards he set for courage, grace, good humor and solid character are ones all of us can only hope to approach.”

Ron left Clark in 2011 due to his illness. “He remained incredibly cheerful and upbeat despite his knowledge that he had already outlived the life expectancy for his type of cancer,” Ropp said. “I could see that he was a staff favorite at Dana Farber because he was always just so cheerful, so funny, and so solicitous of the doctors and nurses.”

Ron Comiska leaves his wife, daughter, stepchildren, parents and extended family.

JOHN DAVID WEISS ’77, a longtime member of the Clark University Alumni and Parent Admissions Program and member of the Alumni Association Executive Board, died on July 6, 2013, in Woodland Hills, Calif.

After his graduation from Clark, J.D. attended Pepperdine Law School. An accomplished and passionate lawyer, mediator and arbitrator, he made a difference in many lives. He embraced life with enthusiasm and compassion, living each day with the deepest devotion and joy as a husband and father.

J.D. leaves his wife of 30 years, Janis, as well as his children, Jacob, Sarah and Charlotte. He is also survived by his parents, brothers and extended family.

As a student and teacher of his faith, J.D. actively lived out his spirituality with a strong affinity to Temple Aliyah in Woodland Hills. With great passion, he shared his love of guitar and banjo with everyone, even playing for fellow cancer patients as he went through chemotherapy. He was an avid photographer, bicyclist and challah baker, and found delight in all things nurturing. J.D. was inspirational to everyone he touched in his battle with cancer.


Kathy spent most of her 17 years at Clark as the office manager for the Clark Alumni Affairs office, getting to know a huge number of alumni.

Former Director of Alumni Affairs William Bennett writes, “As the office manager in the Alumni Office while I was the director, Kathy was the person who truly made everything happen, including managing 15 very successful Clark Reunion Weekends.”


Pen earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from Harvard University, though his studies were interrupted by World War II — during which he served in the 102nd Infantry Division. He came to Clark University in 1951 and was professor of art history until his retirement in 1987.

He was a gifted historical marine artist and painted ships of the early steamship era; he exhibited at the Concord Art Association, St. Mark’s School in Southborough, Mass., and other locations. Shortly before his death, he donated his oil painting of the RMS Lusitania to Emmanuel Church in Boston.


Carl was a veteran of World War II, during which he served two years as supply officer at the major Pacific Theater base. The Navy later sent Carl to the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College and to supply corps school at Harvard under the V-12 program. He also received an M.B.A. with distinction from Harvard Business School in 1958. After 27 years he ended his Naval career as Commander, Defense Depot, in Mechanicsburg, Pa. His second career was as vice president for logistics and computer services for a division of Bristol Meyers Squibb in Cincinnati, Ohio. He retired to Norfolk, Va., where he was active in the early years of the Norfolk Downtown Council, served on the board of the Old Dominion Learning in Retirement program, and also served on the board of the World Affairs Council.

In the Spring 2013 issue of CLARK magazine, Carl wrote: “[Virginia and I] were the first in our families to receive college degrees, and the value of education endured for both of us — today our four daughters and our grandchildren have college degrees. Paying for an education during our Clark years, while difficult, was possible with summer work and campus and off-campus jobs during the school year, and the scholarships received by Ginny. Today, this is practically impossible, given present-day tuition costs relative to possible job earnings. Thus, many students leave college owing a lot of money. To reduce this burden on qualified scholars, we established our scholarship fund. It will continue to provide help long after we are gone.”

Seven Clark students have benefitted from the Stringers’ gift.
Reunion 2013 brings ’em back

Old friends and classmates gathered on campus for Reunion Weekend 2013 to share memories and laughs, and to discover how Clark continues to evolve academically — especially through the Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP) model — as well as aesthetically. For many, it was their first chance to see recent campus improvements, like the Downing Street pedestrian plaza and the redesigned Fuller Quad, where the reunion picnic was held. Can you spot any familiar faces?

(Clockwise from left) Dr. Lee Gurel ’48 speaks at the Legacy Luncheon after receiving the Fiat Lux Award. Alan Glick ’63, with wife Iris and President David Angel, was given the Distinguished Alumni Award at the Reunion Dinner. Dimitry Anseline ’93 fuels up at the Spree Day Family Picnic. This young attendee was dog’s best friend.
(Clockwise from left) Robert Mislow, David Martin, Stuart Alexander and Marc Rubman, all Class of ’83, pose for a picture. The Cougar welcomes a future Clarkie with open paws. Georgia Howe ‘58 chats with a fellow alumna at the Legacy Luncheon. Enjoying some free-spirited fun at Dancing Under the Stars. Anthony Colon ‘03, M.P.A. ‘04, and Richard Boucher ‘03, M.B.A. ‘04, deliver remarks after being given the Young Alumni Award.
LEEP Pioneers learn, labor and deliver in the field

There is no requirement for a Clark student to become a LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice) Project Pioneer. Since the launch of the Pioneer program last year, however, the number of students taking advantage of the opportunity to do meaningful work and research beyond the classroom has more than doubled — from 46 to 108.

LEEP Project Pioneers were all over the map this past summer, from India to Siberia to the laboratories in Clark’s Lasry Center for Bioscience, working closely with faculty and staff mentors, alumni and outside companies on projects that spanned the breadth of academic and professional experience. They sought solutions for malarial outbreaks in Mali, did financial planning for oncology operations with Novartis in Boston, and assisted with art restoration in Italy.

What did they learn in the process? How to work collaboratively and creatively; how to seek solutions to problems, and to accept victory and failure with equal grace; and how to apply these and other core tenets of LEEP to authentic world and workplace situations. Here is a sampling of this year’s Pioneers:

**AS THE WORM TURNS**

*Capitella teleta.*

To the uninformed, those words read like a delicious entrée on an Italian menu. But in fact they are the name of a tiny marine worm with which Lauren Koppel ’14 spent some quality time this summer.

Koppel, who is double majoring in psychology and biology, researched the development of neural stem cells in the embryos of *Capitella teleta* (or *C. teleta*). As she notes in her LEEP Pioneer blog:

“As the annelid’s central nervous system is analogous to human brains and spinal cords, insight into *C. teleta*’s neural development can be applied to further understanding human neural development. Research of this nature has relevance in a number of fields, including neurobiology, phylogenetics, medicine, and mental health care. The significance and potential utility of analogous model organisms like *C. teleta* cannot be overstated.

“It is my hope that through this project, I will be able to contribute to the larger community of neurobiological research, thus aiding (in my own small way) in the betterment of human lives.”

Working on campus under the guidance of her LEEP adviser, Néva Meyer, professor of biology, Koppel not only conducted research at the molecular level, she also learned to innovate. When it became evident that she needed to generate a mild electric pulse to draw dye into *C. teleta* cells to “stain” them for observation under a microscope, Koppel built a “buzzbox,” a device developed by Meyer that creates the necessary current. The psych/bio major soon found herself in the unfamiliar role of mechanic-at-large — piecing together circuitry, dials, lights and switches; connecting wires, and soldering the box’s innards. With the help of Charles Agosta, professor of physics, she fashioned a working buzzbox, which facilitated more accurate staining, crisper images and the ability to conduct a wider range of experiments.

Koppel is attracted to the “abstract expressions of the brain” that her psychology studies unlock, as well as the brain’s physical workings that are part of her biology research. Where will this interaction of mind and body eventually lead her?

“I’m not sure what career path I’m taking,” she smiles. “But Dr. Koppel has a nice ring to it.”

**STOKING THE CREATIVE FIRES**

Providence-based horror writer H.P. Lovecraft was the Stephen King of his time, an author whose early-20th-century horror stories took his readers to otherworldly places. He would certainly have approved of WaterFire, the performance-art mainstay staged several times each summer, which features a series of controlled bonfires lit along three downtown rivers in a music-filled ceremony that blends the primal with the New Age.

Andy Doig ’14 helped bring Lovecraft back to life this summer through his LEEP experience with WaterFire Providence, working with a video crew to create “augmented reality” segments that visitors could access via QR codes placed throughout Waterplace Park. The videos, filmed with actors against a green screen and later enhanced with computer effects, coincided with the NecronomiCon convention celebrating the author’s legacy, and offered a narrative of Lovecraft’s life and times.

Doig, an English major, came to WaterFire with experience in audio engineering —
including work at radio station WCUW and recording spoken pieces for Professor Meredith Neuman's "Poetry and Orality" class — and soon found himself immersed in all phases of video production. He first edited and logged previously shot tape, then filmed, edited and synced music to footage he shot.

His work at WaterFire was challenging, the breadth of his responsibilities impressive. On lighting days, Doig and others set up and monitored the audio system, which runs the length of Waterplace Park. If something went wrong, he was expected to remedy the situation. In addition, he shot and edited videos “for posterity, for marketing, for entertainment,” and funneled content onto social media through blogs and tweets.

At every turn, Doig was encouraged to propose new ideas and strategies for improving the venerable show. “I’m a longtime fan of Clark and its sense of disciplined, independent, motivated students,” says Barnaby Evans, executive director of WaterFire. “We’ve been very pleased with the capacity of the Clark students to be excited, self-directed, to raise their hand and say, ‘Hey, I’ve got an idea.’ That’s the kind of partner we love to have.” Doig was joined at WaterFire by fellow Clark LEEP Pioneers Chelsea Kryspin ’14 and Casey Epstein ’14. The Pioneers’ involvement with WaterFire was made possible by alumna Corinne Barber ’07, M.P.A. ’08, development coordinator. Epstein interned directly under Barber.

When it comes to his future plans, Doig is already playing to his strengths. He’s filmed a pilot TV series using the skills he honed at WaterFire, and he’s doing the sound work for two independent films. “This is where my career is headed,” he acknowledges.

Doig recalls the many times he commuted to Clark from his home in Natick, Mass., listening to NPR “horror stories” (presumably ones unimagined by H.P. Lovecraft) about college graduates unable to find work. He took on the LEEP Pioneers Project as a way to find both a creative outlet and avoid becoming an unfortunate statistic. This summer’s opportunity “let me take the skills I picked up in school and put them into a real-world context. It got my feet wet and got my motor running — it helped speed up the transition from straight college student to true professional. That’s a real advantage when you’re competing for a job against 300 other people who have just graduated.”

THE BIG PICTURE

In the Hindu caste system of Nepal, the Dalit are considered the lowest of the low, literally “untouchable.” Life is particularly hard for Dalit women, whose spouses often go abroad to find work, leaving their wives to raise the children and tend the farms.

When Cecelia Rana ’14 and Bhumika Regmi ’14 (l.) and Cecelia Rana ’14 with a Dalit woman.

Regmi ’14, both natives of Kathmandu, began designing their own LEEP Project, the prospect of putting a lens onto the daily existences of the Dalit women, whose spouses often go abroad to find work, leaving their wives to raise the children and tend the farms.

Rana and Regmi traveled to villages in Nepal’s Baglung District, gave 10 women disposable cameras and asked them to take pictures that reflected their lives — often they were simple shots of their farms and families. Sometimes, the women were sent off with specific directions, such as to photograph the things that made them happy, or sad. The students would then discuss the photos with each woman individually.

“Getting women to express themselves when they’re from a society that suppresses them was difficult,” Regmi says. “It’s not a very Nepali thing to think about your lifestyle, to do the kind of self-analysis we do here. They didn’t understand the concept of talking about their problems — they just accepted things as they were. We would ask them specific things about each photo, and start to get more information about what we were seeing. Maybe it was a photo of their kids, and they’d talk about what grade they were in and how important education is for Dalit children. For them, there was a realization that these photos were more than they originally thought.”

Some images were unexpected. For instance, one of the photographers took a picture of a water tap serving the Dalit community and recalled the times when the Dalit had to ask women of a higher caste to fill their pots with water.

Rana noted that the Dalit women have worked to improve their circumstances and, given the absence of men, are running the villages in Baglung District.

“They are aware of their stature,” she says, “and they want to change things.”

Rana and Regmi are writing a report about their observations in the villages and are creating photo books that will be used as fundraising tools for the Dalit women.
Virginia Vaughan’s well-versed career

“I long to hear the story of your life…”

Utter the name “William Shakespeare” to anyone affiliated with Clark University since 1976, and they’re likely to respond, “Virginia Vaughan.” Vaughan, who retired this past spring, has been the face of Shakespeare and Renaissance literature at Clark since she arrived 37 years ago.

“Clark has changed a lot, but it’s still basically the same institution,” she says. Most of the English Department faculty from that time have retired, or “passed on to the great library in the sky,” she notes.

She and Professor Jay Elliot are the only English professors left from her early days at Clark. “It was not a very happy department,” she says of that time. “There was a lot of tension … and it got worse in the ’80s with the culture wars. Attempts to get African American literature taught, and the beginning of women’s studies, created some tension with a couple of the senior members of the department.”

“There was a lot of shouting in department meetings,” she recalls.

In those days, Vaughan explains, female faculty were (in the words of Shakespeare’s Henry V) a “happy few.” Luckily, though, things have changed. She was involved with the creation of the Women’s Studies Department (now Women’s and Gender Studies) and served as its co-chair.

As Vaughan begins her next chapter, she’s pleased with the department. “It’s harmonious. Everybody’s on the same page, everybody has the same values, we work together. I just feel very good that I’m leaving the department in such great shape from where it was when I came in.”

Vaughan has had a hand in creating that collegial environment, with 11 of her 37 years spent as department chair. In addition, she had a stint as the first woman chair of the faculty assembly, and was instrumental in the launch of the Higgins School of Humanities, serving as its first director.

But Shakespeare is Vaughan’s bread and butter. “It’s where I made my mark, in both scholarship and teaching,” she says. “It’s my primary love, passion and focus.”

“I’ve always believed that the only way to make the plays come alive is to get them off the page and to get the students to think about them as performance texts,” Vaughan says. To that end, during her Shakespeare courses students participated in scene work and watched video clips of different ways in which the plays can be interpreted. She also team-taught “Shakespeare from Page to Stage” with Gino DiIorio, where she learned about performance techniques along with the students.

“Sometimes students moan and groan about doing scene work, but they ultimately enjoy it,” she grins.

Another Shakespeare tradition that Vaughan founded and that will continue is the Undergraduate Shakespeare Conference, which she launched in 2002 during her tenure as the first Klein Distinguished Professor. She used the monetary award that comes with that professorship to organize the conference and pay a guest speaker. It’s become a regional conference, with nine schools participating last year.

“…the fact that it’s still going after all these years is partly because of my colleagues who teach Shakespeare at [other universities],” she says, adding that not only English students participate. A “best paper” prize was awarded to a Clark biology major at one conference.

Vaughan credits Clark with supporting non-science faculty who want to do research. In the early 1980s, when there weren’t many opportunities for humanities professors to secure funding, she was offered a six-month research fellowship at the Folger Shakespeare Library. Then-provost Leonard Berry agreed to supplement her salary to make it work.

“In the humanities, what you need most is time to go to the archives,” she says. “You need time away from teaching — you need to read!” After the reading comes the writing. Vaughan’s CV lists five edited collections, six monographs and dozens of articles and essays (many of the books and essays focus on “Othello” and “The Tempest”).

The reading and writing will continue in retirement. Vaughan has three books under contract at the moment: she’s editing two collections of essays (working on one collection with her favorite collaborator, her husband Alden T. Vaughan, an adjunct professor of history at Clark) and authoring a monograph detailing the challenges of writing about Shakespeare (“Antony and Cleopatra” in particular).

In her spare time, she might pick up a detective novel or two. For her retirement, the department presented Vaughan with an Amazon Kindle, and she’s loaded it up — always eager to turn the page.


The ultimate gift

T WAS APPROXIMATELY 3 P.M. on Tuesday, March 19. Somewhere in a hospital at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio, a young woman on a gurney reached for her iPhone. That patient, unable to stifle her need to contact her Clark “family” back in Worcester, sent an email. Moments later, Clark’s Admissions House roared. They’d had a running bet about how soon Terry Malone ’01, M.S.P.C. ’09, would be checking in.

Malone, Clark’s director of admissions, had disobeyed orders to refrain from email. She knew her brother Joe had a list of colleagues to notify about the status of her surgery, but she was determined to make sure nobody went too long without confirmation. She is a fixer, after all.

And fix things she did for her sister-in-law Amy Malone. A year prior, Amy, 36, was diagnosed with Wegener’s disease, an auto-immune disorder that attacks the sinuses, kidneys and lungs. After visiting her doctor for a routine medical appointment, Amy received an urgent call from her physician, informing her that her kidney function was below 10 percent. She urgently needed a kidney transplant.

Learning from her older brother that his high-school sweetheart and mother of her nephew was facing a life-threatening condition, Terry immediately started to investigate what she could do to help. The words printed on her license “ORGAN DONOR” now had a purpose, and a promise.

Terry, 34, raced to fill out forms and undergo rigorous (and seemingly endless) tests to determine if she was a match for her sister-in-law. Even before Amy was approved for the procedure, Terry had conversations with Dean of Admissions Don Honeman, her supervisor, and Human Resources to discuss the idea. Her colleagues were supportive from the start.

In May of 2012, Terry started the paperwork, which included her medical and family histories, and underwent extensive testing of her blood, urine and tissues. She also had MRIs, CT scans, and, basically, “the best medical workup you could ever imagine” to ensure she was healthy enough for the operation. The process also included meetings with psychologists and financial consultants to anticipate any emotional responses to the surgery or financial considerations.

In June, Terry flew out to Ohio to spend a full day meeting with doctors and undergoing further testing. “By the end of that day, we knew I was a match,” she recalls.

While Terry and Amy were pinpointing August dates for the procedure (which also happened to be Terry’s first-ever surgery), they received news that a CT scan revealed spots on Terry’s liver. The two were forced to put the process on hold for another six months (and another CT scan), to ensure Terry was healthy enough to serve as her donor. They received the green light to proceed in mid-January.

The operation was scheduled for March 19. Don’t ask her how long the laparoscopic procedure took — Terry doesn’t know. What she does know is that she bounced right back. She was discharged from the hospital a day early, attended a carnival in Cleveland with a friend (and even rode the Ferris wheel) approximately two weeks later, and was back to work full time less than a month after surgery.

It came as no surprise to family and friends that Terry leaped at the opportunity to donate her kidney to Amy. She spends her days recruiting students to Clark, and, in her free time, volunteers for local organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers Big Sisters and at a local homeless shelter.

“The fact that Terry was willing to be poked, prodded, and tested from one end to the other was nothing short of admirable,” Amy says. “I respect and admire her for her willingness to be so selfless.”

When Amy learned she was in complete kidney failure, she was overwhelmed. Not only had she just lost her mother to cancer, she was pregnant — and would soon lose — a child. According to Amy, Terry was supportive “from day one.”

“It’s not too often that somebody you love is sick and you can actually do something about it,” Terry says. “I never second-guessed that it was the right thing to do.”

Malone is now part of a Facebook group of kidney donors. She also plans to participate in the four-mile National Kidney Foundation Walk in Boston for the second year in a row on Oct. 27.

Terry wonders aloud about whether to include her personal experience as a kidney donor in her fundraising letter. She smiles. “I’ve kind of like, ‘I gave my kidney. Can you give ten bucks?’”

Terry Malone ’01, M.S.P.C. ’09 (l.), and Amy Malone.
Plane sight

This special view of Clark University was captured by George Charles Allen ’08, vice president/CFO of Worcester Regional Flight Academy, during a flyover at about 11 a.m. in mid-May. Allen used tilt-shift technology to sharpen the photo’s colors and lines, boosting the scene’s vibrancy and giving Clark’s campus the appearance of an architectural miniature. The flight academy has become such a valuable community partner for Worcester, especially the public schools, that it was awarded the Key to the City in June. This past summer more than 300 children in middle and high school participated in academy programs, where they learned the basics of aviation and airplane construction. “Who knows? The next Robert Goddard could be in one of these classes,” Allen says. “You just need that one spark.”
MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CLARK LEGACY.

4 WAYS

1. BE INFORMED
Connect with the Clark alumni community through the ClarkConnect website, daily online news feeds, the @Clark e-newsletter, CLARK alumni magazine, and more.

2. GET INVOLVED
Join your class reunion committee. Take part in your regional alumni community. Meet with prospective students in your area. Let us know about LEEP internship opportunities at your workplace, and more.

3. GIVE BACK
Alumni participation rates in giving help Clark earn support for academic programs from corporations and foundations. Donor participation also impacts Clark’s national rankings.

4. STAY PROUD
Show your pride anytime, anywhere. Submit a class note for CLARK alumni magazine. Attend University events, or go to a regional alumni event. Buy Clark gear — t-shirts, hats, stickers, mugs — and showcase them. You never know where you’ll meet a fellow Clarkie.

clarkconnect.clarku.edu
ALUMNI WEEKEND MAY 15-18
REUNION 2014

mark your calendars

The weekend will be here before you know it.