Elena Zhizhimontova '14 has developed 3-D technology for the Amazon Fire Phone.
I can’t imagine my life without the education I received at Clark.

When I first visited Clark’s campus, I had the feeling that it was a place where I would be able to seek knowledge and enjoy the process of gaining more of it. I found the University to be a great learning environment where I could share my intellectual pursuits, as well as be encouraged to find myself.

I have visited Clark often in the last five years and found the professor and student relationships as strong as ever. Each time I came back to campus, I met with students who expressed a desire to have more professors at Clark, particularly in the field of comparative genocide studies. As I learned more about the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, I found their work to be courageous and forward-thinking.

I decided to provide a bequest that would not only meet the need and desire for more professors specializing in genocide studies, but one that would also honor my family’s history and belief in education. Clark was very open and willing to include my wishes in relation to this gift.

My hope is that this bequest provides many opportunities to educate more Clark scholars to address the prominent and important world events of today and the future.

Irene provided a generous bequest to create an endowed professorship for the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. To begin discussing your vision for a bequest, please call 508-793-7593.

“CLARK TAUGHT ME THAT LEARNING CAN AND SHOULD BE A LIFELONG EXPERIENCE.”

— IRENE STEIN ’65
Features

14

COVER STORY:
The future has arrived
From apps to robotics, Clarkies are reshaping the way we encounter our world
By Anne Gibson, Ph.D. ’95

22

Tradition meets transformation
The planned Alumni and Student Engagement Center embodies Clark’s educational ambitions and reaffirms the University’s commitment to Main Street
By Jim Keogh

28

In good Company
A troupe of Clarkies is turning the Boston theater scene on its head
By Melissa Lynch ’95

34

A badge and a bandage
As both trauma surgeon and police officer, Dr. Andrew Dennis ’92 straddles two worlds brimming with violence
By Jim Keogh

STAY CONNECTED TO CLARK THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK  TWITTER  CLARK VOICES  CLARK NEWS  YOUTUBE CHANNEL  LINKEDIN  FLICKR

VISIT CLARKCONNECT.CLARKU.EDU, THE ONLINE COMMUNITY FOR CLARK ALUMNI, FAMILY AND FRIENDS
In This Issue

Executive Editor
Paula David

Editor in Chief
Jim Keogh

Assistant Editor
Melissa Lynch ’95

Design
Kaajal Asher

Editorial Staff
Kevin Anderson, Angela Bazydlo, Anne Gibson, Ph.D. ’95, Jane Salerno, Wendy Linden

Creative Services Manager
Lori Fearebay

Interim Vice President for University Advancement
Edward Ottensmeyer

Director of Alumni and Friends Engagement
Lindsay Allen

Contributing Photographers
Kevin Anderson, Angela Bazydlo, Anne Gibson, Ph.D. ’95, Jane Salerno, Jeff Sciortino, Amy Seligman, Craig Semon, Erika Sidor Photography, Liza Voll Photography, Ron Wurzer

Contributing Illustrators
Architerra, Stephen Webster

CLARK alumni magazine is printed by Universal Printing, which recycles 100% of excess papers generated in the printing and finishing of this product and uses soy-based inks. This issue is printed on Utopia U2, an FSC®-certified paper, with electricity in the form of renewable energy (wind, hydro and biogas), and includes a minimum of 10% post-consumer recovered fiber.

CLARK alumni magazine is printed twice a year, in the fall and spring, and is distributed to members of the Clark community, including alumni, parents and friends.

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

Address correspondence to:
jkeogh@clarku.edu

or mail to:
Jim Keogh
Clark University
Marketing and Communications
950 Main St.
Worcester MA 01610

Letters to the editor are welcome.

Departments

06
Your Turn
Two different takes on the WCUW story

08
Red Square
Matthew McConaughey drops in; A hot idea; Ma vie à Clark; Why did the Thrift Store cross the road?

43
Alumni News
Meet your new Alumni Association president

44
The LEEP Promise
How Clark is leading an education movement

46
Class Notes
From Clark, to the Capitol, to City Hall; Cruiser control; Miles of milestones

57
Advancing Clark
Close encounters of the learned kind; From Klingons to Cronkite; Fern Johnson joins the retirement club

62
LEEP
High fashion and thirsty frogs

64
After Clark
David Prentice’s beef with burgers

Cover: Illustration/design by Stephen Webster, photograph by Ron Wurzer
Dear alumni, family and friends,

How will you connect to Clark University in the years ahead? And how, in turn, will Clark support your highest aspirations for career, life and citizenship? The answers to these questions are at the heart of our vision for advancing Clark as one of this country’s most innovative and impactful liberal arts research universities. We are bringing forward a new paradigm of alumni and student engagement that will both ensure exceptional educational opportunities for our students and significantly elevate the collective capability of the Clark community to make a difference on the consequential issues of our times.

We embrace alumni and student interactions that are deeply entwined with Clark’s national leadership in liberal education. Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP) recognizes that in order to achieve our educational goals, the classroom needs to connect profoundly and systemically with the world beyond our campus. In order to cultivate and demonstrate capabilities of effective practice, students need access to authentic world and workplace experiences, whether in our community here in Worcester or globally. There is no better way to support and mobilize these connections than through a vibrant and involved community of alumni, family and friends of the University. Through LEEP, our alumni have the opportunity to interact directly with students: mentoring them, placing them on project teams in their organizations, exposing them to emerging industries, demonstrating how skills learned on the sports field or in the research laboratory at Clark translate into lifelong lessons for success, and helping them understand the skills and capabilities needed to flourish in high-performing organizations. By making these connections we will ensure that Clark graduates are not just exceptionally well-educated, but fully prepared to put their liberal education to work in career, life and citizenship.

But engagement is not a one-way street. Even as the greater Clark community is an unmatched network of support for our current students, affiliation with Clark also offers opportunities for our alumni to enhance their careers, enrich their lives, and come together in common cause to make a difference in the world. Clark University today is a place of fresh ideas, of cutting-edge research, and of communities of practice that are bringing innovative solutions to seemingly intractable problems in society. We envision opening wide the doors of Clark so all members of our alumni community can join faculty, staff and students to participate in, benefit from, and add to this important work.

As we move forward, you will have the opportunity to partner with Clark researchers and to be full stakeholders in University work that has transformative impact on causes that matter, from K-12 education to health care, innovation and the environment. Recent graduates of Clark will be able to connect with alumni who are leaders and practitioners in their fields. All members of the Clark community, not just those on campus, will hear and experience some of the wonderful performers, leaders, and great thinkers who enliven our University every year.

The venue for this unfolding paradigm is the Alumni and Student Engagement Center that we seek to build on Main Street. The building, and associated work on Main Street, is at the core of three transformational goals for Clark. It will be the locus for this dynamic model of how alumni can engage with Clark’s mission and how Clark can stay engaged with you. It will be home to our LEEP Center, the place where the many opportunities at Clark come together for each student. And it will be the next step in Clark’s pioneering work to strengthen our neighborhood further through partnerships with the community. Jointly, these three goals are the most significant strategy development for Clark in many years. You can read more about this exciting building in the feature article on page 22. We hope you will join us in raising the funds needed to bring this vision into place.

It is no surprise that Forbes magazine recently rated Clark as one of the most entrepreneurial universities in the country. We could not be more excited about the opportunities before us as we demonstrate the creativity and bold thinking that advance a new model for alumni and student engagement through national leadership in liberal education. Please join with us as we open our doors wide. Send comments, questions and suggestions to me at dangel@clarku.edu.

Sincerely,

David P. Angel
President
Fans of “The X-Files” will recall the show’s tagline: The truth is out there. If so, then Clarkies will surely find it. Or perhaps they’re creating it. In our cover story (p. 14) we talk to Clark alumni and professors who use existing technology — and fashion new technologies — to steadily move us into digital realms that would once have defied human understanding yet which now seem not only plausible, but inevitable. If there is a status quo worth disrupting, these folks are finding a way to make it happen — by introducing new modes of communication, reimagining how we entertain ourselves and opening our eyes to the possibilities of virtual reality.

A common thread we found among our interviewees was that few of them could be entirely forthcoming about what they do or the products they develop (and no, nobody is building an army of cyborgs to replace the human race). The technology they employ in their work is proprietary, the ideas so cutting edge, that protecting trade information has become a critical part of the job. Our alumni were apologetic about not being unable to share more — there was quite a bit of, “I’d really love to talk to you about that, but I can’t.” Understood.

The quartet of professors (p. 58) who form Clark’s Science Fiction Research Collaborative often find themselves looking to the stars for answers to the big questions about our collective destiny. They display a scholarly appreciation for the authors and filmmakers whose imaginations give life to strange new worlds, spawn alien species, and invent the mad scientists who invent the monsters who haunt our dreams. Where others see pure fantasy, these professors perceive deeper commentary and contemporary focus, an exploration of everything from social injustice to technology run amok to “pretty much anything else one can think of about which we typically worry,” says philosophy Professor Scott Hendricks.

Then there’s Sandy Fries ’76 (p. 61). When we began planning the magazine there was no intention of including more than one story with a science fiction angle. But when you’ve got an alumnus who was a staff writer for “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” well, beam me up. Fries’ “Star Trek” team was recently honored by the Writers Guild of America for having developed one of the best-written television shows of all time. Fries, for his part, penned a memorable episode that was based on a short story he wrote at Clark, which leads to the question: Is there an alumnus out there who can lay claim as the inspiration for Mordock the Benzite?

Two other features in this issue are more terrestrial in nature. Dr. Andrew Dennis ’92 may know Chicago’s toughest streets as well as anyone, thanks to his unique position as both a trauma surgeon at Cook County Hospital and as a police officer with the Cook County Sheriff’s Department. His city has endured a rough stretch of violence, and Dennis toils in its epicenter. In the profile beginning on page 34 he offers a chilling assessment of his twin careers: “My world is all about living in people’s worst nightmares.”

Finally, on page 22 we provide readers an early look at plans for Clark’s newest building, the Alumni and Student Engagement Center, which will be located across from the front gate on Main Street. The building will house the LEEP Center and give alumni much-needed common space, among other essential functions. Perhaps above all, the building will exemplify the best of what goes on at Clark every day — vigorous intellectual give-and-take, creative problem-solving, connection among varied communities, and, of course, the quest for truth.

Please email me at jkeogh@clarku.edu with your comments, suggestions, letters to the editor and, most importantly, your story ideas. All are welcome.
Matt Goldman ’83, M.B.A. ’84, motivates himself with three words:

MAKE IDEAS REAL.

In 1987 that simple mission statement drove him to co-found Blue Man Group, whose raucous and wry stagecraft turned the troupe’s signature performance art into a cultural touchstone.

Matt has since turned his energies to Blue School, the Manhattan elementary and middle school he co-founded in 2007. The school’s goal is no less than to reimagine education in a changing world by creating communities of learners “who use courageous and innovative thinking to build a harmonious and sustainable world.”

The same spirit of inventive enterprise that drives Matt Goldman recently earned Clark a #13 ranking on Forbes magazine’s list of the nation’s most entrepreneurial research universities.

Clark University students will one day be painting the worlds of business, art, education and science in colors of their own choosing. Your gift to Clark helps make their ideas real.

go to clarkconnect.clarku.edu/WhoSaysYouCant
Radio station story neglected ROCU legacy

Your article “On the Air,” in the Spring 2014 issue, about the ROCU radio station, was of great interest to me. When I graduated in May 2013, I had just completed a very productive year as president of the station. In the previous year, I served as vice president and I also spent a good portion of my time at the station in my previous years at Clark. It was my home away from home for four years and obviously a place of great importance to me — my work at the station was, in fact, a true labor of love.

When I wasn’t actually at the station, and not in class, I was thinking about the station — how it could be improved, how we could have a greater reach and be appreciated by greater numbers of listeners. I was inspired by the tradition of the station serving the campus faithfully for many years, and I worked hard to honor and build on that tradition.

In many ways, the station, like many college radio stations nowadays, was having a hard time surviving. There were many weeks that I went before SGA making my case about the importance of the station, why we needed more funds, and why it was important to spruce up the physical plant. How proud I was that by the time I was about to graduate not only did the station offer 24-hour live streaming, but I and others were instrumental in building a strong case for keeping ROCU alive. Our goal was not only to keep it alive, but to make the station stronger than ever. I was proud to honor the tradition and value of radio in an era when radio is having its struggles.

Therefore, I am sure you can imagine how delighted I was to see a feature in the latest alumni magazine on ROCU. I anticipated reading about its traditions, and our successful fight to keep it alive and make it stronger and about more changes and milestones in the year since I left. Thus, you might also understand how taken aback I was as I read on. You mentioned October 19, 2013, as a milestone yet skirted all the years just prior — years that were key in keeping the station alive and transforming it — years that were key to its survival and key to making it flourish. In fact I was shocked and saddened that you not only glossed over the years just prior to 2013 but an entire generation — the years from 1978 on. Did life at the station not exist during this time? Did all those who came before me and all those who worked with me not matter?

Most disappointing was that no one thought to reach out to those who were at the station day in and day out in its most recent years. Why did it not occur to anyone involved in the writing and editing of the article to reach out to the students who kept the station alive just prior to October 2013? Finally, why did it not occur to anyone to invite us recent ROCU grads to a reunion to celebrate the station that meant so much to us? No one can take away what we were able to achieve through our innovation and hard work for ROCU. We were able to honor the rich tradition of ROCU and build on it. Now, maybe you won’t forget us again.

Andrew Berger ’13
ROCU President 2012-13
Radio Producer/Imager/DJ

Editor’s note: The story in the Spring 2014 magazine dealt specifically with the history of radio station WCUW as it transitioned from a campus station to a licensed FM station serving the Worcester community. The article was keyed to the 40th anniversary of the granting of that license and the October reunion of the WCUW/Clark alumni who worked at the station during those seminal years. ROCU, a separate entity from WCUW, rocks on at clarkradio.com.

Article stirred memories of WCUW

I enjoyed the “On The Air” article and cool illustrations in the Spring 2014 alumni magazine. I was born and raised in Worcester and so WCUW was a part of my early listening experiences — I dare say that as a kid I probably heard the on-air work of many of those 1970s alumni interviewed in the story. As a Clarkie in the late 1980s I produced a show called “The Edge of Music” on WCUW on Fridays from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. for several years. I would play a diverse range of music, from 20th-century classical music to very early computer music recordings that I discovered as a student in the music department with professors Relly Raffman, Wes Fuller, Rob Boyer and Linda Dusman.

I recently listened to old cassette recordings from some of my shows from 1987-89 (I’ve since digitized them) and was happy to hear Stravinsky and Stockhausen followed by Sleep Chamber, Throbbing Gristle and a live reading of original stories by fellow Clarkies Patrick Dunn, John Degon and Chris Hagelstein. It reminded me again of the important role that WCUW played in my life, both as a Clark student and a resident of Worcester. I enjoy the online stream now.

Donna (McCabe) Eyestone ’89
Alameda, Calif.
She met the new ‘Boss’

In an interview for the Spring 2014 CLARK alumni magazine story about radio station WCUW, Harriet Baskas ’77 recalled meeting an up-and-coming musician prior to recording his concert in Atwood Hall. Baskas’ anecdote didn’t make the magazine, but we feel it deserves a second act.

“This was the era when very cool bands were coming to campus. I would take the heavy reel-to-reel tape deck over to Atwood to record a concert, and hang out as it was being set up. I remember vividly Bruce Springsteen and his band all sitting out in front of the library on a nice sunny day. I went over and asked if I could record the concert, and they said, ‘No, we’d rather you not.’ And I said, ‘Nobody knows who you are. We’ll put you on the radio and make you famous.’ At that point the station was running at about 80 watts — less than a light bulb — and I was going to make them famous! Many years later, Clarence Clemons [saxophonist in Springsteen’s E-Street Band] was at a public radio conference that I attended. I went up to him and said, ‘I feel really badly — it was so presumptuous of me.’ And he said, ‘Something’s been bothering The Boss all this time, and that’s probably what it is.’

Bruce Springsteen performs in Atwood Hall in 1977.

Pinar Barlas ’16, Farah Weannara ’16 and other members of Acts of Kindness embraced a novel idea this spring: offering free hugs to passersby in Red Square.

Clark Newsmakers

THE CLARK COMMUNITY continues its worthy — and newsworthy — activities, with members regularly featured or mentioned in media reports around the world. Visit the Clark News Hub (news.clarku.edu) for a complete online archive with summaries and links. Here is a recent sampling:


The Chronicle of Higher Education: President David Angel discusses “Liberal Education 2.0” in a video conversation with a senior reporter. He also comments in U.S. News & World Report on the value of students studying abroad.

Scientist: A paper by David Hibbett (biology), published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, is highlighted in several outlets, including Phys.org.

Yahoo! Finance: James Córdova (psychology) discusses “Why Couples Fight about Money” in an article originating in U.S. News & World Report. “It’s rarely the math that couples are really arguing over,” he says.

USA Today: Jeffrey Jensen Arnett (psychology) continues to be a key source for media covering issues surrounding emerging adulthood. His comments are in several outlets, including Forbes, The New York Times, NPR, Public Radio International, and more.

National Geographic: Bill Lynn (Marsh Institute) weighs in on a “lethal removal” experiment in an article titled “Shooting Owls to Save Other Owls.”

The New York Times: Comments by labor relations expert Gary Chaison (GSOM) on the turmoil at Market Basket and other issues appear in major media, including The Boston Globe and NPR.

Worcester Telegram & Gazette: Archivist Fordyce Williams is interviewed for a front-page feature marking the 45th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, highlighting the tiny book that went to the moon with Buzz Aldrin and now resides in Clark’s archives.

CBC/Radio Canada: Michael Butler (political science) lends his analysis to a debate: “Just War Theory: Is It Intellectual Fraud?”

Charlotte Observer: Janette Thomas Greenwood (history) comments in an article considering the reactions of freed slaves.

Entrepreneur.com: Excerpts from the Clark Commencement address by Panera Bread founder/CEO Ron Shaich ’76 are highlighted.

Yahoo! News: Dominik Kulakowski (geography) talks about how homeowners can protect property from wildfires. This also appears in the The Christian Science Monitor.

ElVocero.com: The outlet reviews “Dream Nation,” by Maria Acosta Cruz (language, literature and culture), who “analyzes and contrasts the nation-building made by the literary canon in Puerto Rico.”

Slate: Nina Kushner (history) posts “The Case of the Closely Watched Courtesans,” about a study on the underground commercial sexual economy.

Campus Technology: Pennie Turgeon (vice president for information technology and chief information officer) discusses how IT is aligned with the business of the institution and how it partners with academic units.

History News Network: One hundred leading Holocaust and genocide scholars from around the world, including Deborah Dwork (Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies), send a letter urging President Obama to release White House emails concerning the genocide in Rwanda.

The New York Times: Wendy S. Grolnick (psychology) publishes a letter to the editor rebutting an opinion piece titled “Parental Involvement Is Overrated.”
Matthew McConaughey is teacher for a day

E HAS PLAYED A STRIPPER, an AIDS patient, a true detective, and countless romantic leads. But Academy Award winner Matthew McConaughey is making his first foray into academia in “The Sea of Trees,” portraying a suicidal physics professor who treks into a forest at the base of Japan’s Mount Fuji where he meets another lost soul, each of them in equal need of rescuing.

McConaughey’s road to redemption included a stop at Clark University.

Director Gus Van Sant (“Good Will Hunting”) shot much of the movie in Central Massachusetts this summer, and after touring Clark he declared it the perfect setting for flashback sequences involving the professor’s interactions with his students.

McConaughey arrived on campus Sept. 5 to shoot scenes inside a physical chemistry lab in the Sackler Sciences Center as well as in the office of Chuck Agosta, chair of the Physics Department. Van Sant loved the office space for its perfect blend of brilliant-mind intellectualism (lots of books, papers and gadgets) with a touch of scholarly clutter (lots and lots of books, papers and gadgets).

Besides surrendering his office for the day, Agosta was recruited to coach the Oscar-winning actor on classroom protocol and the jargon associated with teaching physics at the university level.

“He was a very quick study,” Agosta says. “When it came to working on his lines, he was sharp, animated and engaged.”

On the morning of Sept. 5, trucks, trailers and an army of crew members descended on Clark for the day-long filming, a process that to an observer may have seemed chaotic, but which, in fact, was remarkably controlled. With the production crew waiting to roll, Agosta walked the actor through the proper usage of science terms and also advised him about how a professor might speak to students who are displeasing him. He admired McConaughey’s ability to pick up on key phrases and incorporate some of his own ad-libs to polish the dialogue. “There are some great lines,” Agosta notes with a laugh. “My seed is in there.”

The scenes were set in late fall, and, despite that day’s temperatures exceeding 90 degrees, the student extras inside the lab (played by Agosta’s students and his daughter Elyza) were asked to dress in flannels, boots and jeans. Adding to their discomfort, the air conditioning in the lab was shut off so the boom mics wouldn’t pick up its hum.

The only time that McConaughey ventured outside of Sackler was to circle the building for some exterior shots. By this time, word was out that the actor was on campus and he was quickly trailed by an excited cadre of students, staffers and fans firing off photos on their smartphones.

McConaughey remained locked into his character throughout the day, always looking straight ahead when he walked through a hallway or to a waiting van, keeping his interactions to a minimum. “There was no small talk; I was always dealing with him during the middle of a scene,” Agosta says. “When he left he tapped me on the shoulder and thanked me. That was nice.”

“The Sea of Trees” will be released in 2015. Coincidentally, McConaughey was the second Oscar winner to visit campus in recent years. Melissa Leo, best supporting actress winner for “The Fighter,” was the featured guest at last spring’s Mobile Media Workshop.

For more shots of Matthew McConaughey’s visit to Clark go to pinterest.com/clarkuniversity/holly-woo.
Keeping tracks

Music Professor Matt Malsky’s new CD, “Geographies & Geometries,” is a very Clark affair. The Worcester Chamber Music Society, which counts among its members several Clark faculty, performs two of the pieces; the Radius Ensemble, in residence at Clark in 2012, performs two others; the fifth premiered at a 2006 Clark concert by the flute and cello duo C-Squared (who also play it on the CD). And the recording engineer on all but one of the tracks is Jeremy Sarna ’96.

Sarna, a recording engineer at the New England Conservatory, majored in philosophy at Clark, but taking Malsky’s Music and Multimedia class sparked an interest in music technology. “I don’t know if at the time I realized that this is what I’d be doing professionally,” Sarna says, but the class “planted the seed.” After graduating from Clark, Sarna interned at The Loft Recording Studio in Bronxville, NY. “It gave me a look at what the job was like, and what goes on in a recording studio,” he says. He also earned an associate’s degree in recording to learn the technical aspects of sound engineering.

For Malsky’s CD of chamber works, Sarna made sure that the recording space, Worcester’s Mechanics Hall, was set up appropriately, and monitored the sound levels and balance during each take.

“It was a real luxury to have someone else man the technical aspects,” Malsky said of the recording sessions with Sarna. Without an engineer, he notes, “you’re pulled in two completely different directions.” (Malsky did engineer the CD’s third track, which was recorded in Razzo Hall in 2006.)

Malsky and Sarna reconnected online about five years ago but didn’t get together in person until 2012, when they recorded two of the tracks at Mechanics Hall.

Unlike when Sarna took Malsky’s class during his senior year, Clark offers a curricular sequence in music technology, with a state-of-the-art recording studio in Estabrook Hall.

“Artists are solitary, so it’s hard to think about collaborative research,” Malsky says. “[This project] is a great example of faculty-student collaborations continuing after graduation on a professional level.”

Audio samples from the CD, which is available on Amazon and iTunes, can be heard at youtu.be/gpnx7GDwJw.

Rockin’ the rankings

Clark continued its strong showing in the rankings this year, including in U.S. News & World Report, where the University placed:

- #76 in Best National Universities
- #25 in Best Value Schools
- #91 in High School Counselor Picks
- #114 in Best Part-Time M.B.A. Programs.

Clark came in at #13 on Forbes magazine’s ranking of Most Entrepreneurial Universities, placing just after Yale and before Syracuse. And, finally, Clark was named a “Best Buy” in the 2015 edition of the Fiske Guide to Colleges, which identifies “the best and most interesting schools in the United States.” Learn more about these other rankings at www.clarku.edu/rankings.
Food for thought

Ron Shaich ’76, founder and CEO of Panera Bread, delivered the 2014 Commencement address, and challenged Clark’s newly minted graduates to listen, to learn, and to forge lives that they can respect. “If there’s one lesson that I take from my thirty years as a business builder, it is this: Knowing what matters dramatically increases the probability that you will produce the outcome you desire,” he said. Shaich advised grads not to wait to conduct a post-mortem of life and career years down the road, but to do self-assessments early and often and not be afraid to make changes. Once you’ve figured out what brings you joy, he said, “any path will take you there.”

Weighty issues

The topic of obesity and its terrible health and societal consequences headlined the annual Family Impact Seminar hosted by the Mosakowski Institute at the Massachusetts State House. A panel of experts illustrated for legislators the deadly toll exacted by obesity and diabetes, especially on minority and low-income families here and abroad. Clark University Professor Barbara Goldoftas described the “population perspective,” which factors in social and environmental determinants like the nature of neighborhoods, chronic stress and environmental contaminants, and said easy explanations are elusive in places like rural Nicaragua, where she’s researching the high incidence of type 2 diabetes.

Our dire deferral

“It’s a tough sell, asking people to pay up front for benefits they won’t see.” So noted Scott Schrag, director of the Harvard University Center for the Environment, in the President’s Lecture he gave to a packed house in Tilton Hall. Schrag said that while many perceive climate change as a dramatic threat, they are generally resistant to undertaking the costly measures needed to address it because the results won’t be seen for many years. Ultimately, he said, climate change is a moral issue, just as slavery evolved into a question of morality centuries earlier. “Climate change is the great challenge of my generation, of your generation, and the generations beyond you.”

What is failure?

Capping the Higgins School of Humanities’ Difficult Dialogues series on the nature of failure, Carnegie Mellon historian Scott A. Sandage used the historian’s lens to examine the shift in attitudes toward failure in the United States — a nation that, paradoxically, defines itself in terms of optimism and success. Over time, he said, the vocabulary of economic status became entwined with notions of failure, with terms like “third rate” and “good for nothing” used as shorthand to describe lack of achievement. “We have become the outcome of our careers,” Sandage said. “The language of business has been applied to the soul.”

Why did the Thrift Store cross the road?

AS EVICTIONS GO, it was both amicable and inevitable. The student-run Community Thrift Store, which opened in 2010 in the former Monahan Pharmacy building, needed to find a new home when the structure was razed in anticipation of the Alumni and Student Engagement Center (see story on page 22). Fortunately, it didn’t have to go far. On Sept. 5 the Thrift Store reopened at 930 Main St., next to Acoustic Java and across the street from its former location. The Clark and Main South communities can continue shopping for quality used items at reasonable prices as they support the student venture. Lloyd Schramm ’15 spent the summer as a LEEP Fellow delving into the history of the Thrift Store and created a fresh aesthetic and logo to express its core values and vision. He was supported by the store’s management team of Geory Kurtzhals, GSOM/IDCE M.B.A. ’15, Jeff Stanmyer ’14, and Robert (Gus) Meissner ’14, and the employees.
The sun heats, lights and nourishes the earth. But Clark students demonstrated last semester what may be the sun’s most essential function in the 21st century: It can charge your cell phone.

The Student Sustainability Fund supported a group of students who built a USB-charging station for cell phones, powered by solar energy. During Earth Week in April, the students demonstrated the system in Red Square, and this summer, with the help of Physical Plant, work progressed on installing the system permanently in the Bistro for use this fall.

According to physics Professor Chuck Agosta, the initiative is a piece of a larger project to convert four or five rooms in the Sackler Sciences Center to solar power. “We will start with simple things such as the lights and screens, and work our way up to computers and other items,” he said. “The students have already put a few panels on the roof and built a wind turbine. For now this will all be based in the physics building, but I hope to be able to clone the system for other parts of the University.”

A hot idea

Whether you were arriving or departing, there was no missing the Clark University marketing campaign in Boston’s Logan Airport this past spring and summer, and well into fall. Illuminated displays featuring Clark’s “CHANGE” map of the world, along with the University’s Web address, were prominently placed throughout six terminals and outside at drop-off areas. In addition to announcing the University’s presence to travelers, the displays provided the perfect backdrop for numerous Clarkie group shots and selfies. Pictured here making a pit stop on the way to April’s Association of American Geographers convention in Tampa are (l. to r.) students Sean Cunningham ’15, Joey Hersh ’15, Matthew Manley ’13, M.S. GIS ’14, Michelle Andrews ’14, Shannon Palmer ’13, M.A. CDP ’14, and geography Professor Deborah Martin.
The face of ACE

African immigrants arriving in Worcester enjoy one immediate advantage that their counterparts in other cities do not: Clark University. Clark is an essential ally in the success of African Community Education, a nonprofit that provides educational support to immigrant and refugee youth, engages students’ parents to help maintain family stability, and builds ties with local organizations and institutions.

“We have always had a vibrant and mutually beneficial relationship with the Clark community,” says Lila Milukas ’11, coordinator for ACE’s After School and Mentoring for Empowerment and Exchange programs. “Three of our four full-time staff are Clark alums, and countless Clark student volunteers have dedicated their time to our After School, Saturday, and mentoring programs, providing academic and social support to our students.”

ACE provides instruction in everything from English to financial literacy and test preparation to help its clients learn, assimilate and attain educational, career and life goals.

“This has been the most rewarding internship I’ve ever had,” says Ben Walter ’15, who spent the summer with ACE. “I felt integrated into ACE in a way that I haven’t at other organizations.”

Milukas notes that Jack Foley, Clark’s vice president for government and community affairs, has forged a valuable partnership between the University and ACE, and most recently helped arrange access to Tilton Hall for the organization’s Annual Fall Fundraiser.

“ACE students dream about going to Clark,” Milukas says. “The impact we are making continues past the Worcester community.”

Greening Armenia

TWENTY YEARS AGO, Armenia’s landscape was indelibly scarred by the cutting and burning of thousands of trees by families struggling to survive the severe shortages the country faced in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake and during the conflict with neighboring Azerbaijan. Committed to preventing further deforestation, Carolyn Mugar (pictured) and her husband, the late John O’Connor ’78, benefactors of the Kaloosdian-Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark, launched the Armenia Tree Project in 1994.

Since its inception, the organization has planted more than 4.4 million trees, established three nurseries and two environmental education centers, and has greened villages, churches, parks, and open spaces throughout Armenia. Anniversary events celebrating the organization’s good works were planned in Los Angeles, Boston and the Armenian capital of Yerevan.

“EMMA PIERSON ’14, delivering the Senior Address at Commencement

“We must go toward what is different, explore what is dark, taste how bitter it is, and feel how vast.”
Shan Zhou, M.S.I.T. ’14, got the surprise of her life at Clark’s Commencement when her boyfriend Hao Zhou dropped to one knee and proposed to her inside a heart-shaped ring of flowers (major style points for the groom-to-be). She said yes, of course, and Hao scooped her up in his arms in the presence of a cheering crowd — shades of “An Officer and a Gentleman.” The couple met when they were undergrads at WPI.

Ma vie à Clark

GROWING UP IN Woonsocket, R.I., Georgette Savaria ’45 spoke French before she learned English.

“Have you ever been to France?” she asks a visitor. No, comes the reply. “Then you must go.”

It’s a piece of advice offered from the heart by a Clarkie who in February celebrated her 107th birthday. Georgette recalls a transformative year she spent teaching in France and is proud of both her French and American heritage (her parents named her after George Washington when she was born on the president’s birthday).

“I loved Clark,” she says. “I felt very much at home there.”

Her passion is music. Georgette’s two brothers and two sisters were all musicians, and Georgette played violin professionally, including with an orchestra. To this day she still can move her fingers across piano keys with authority.

The longevity of Clarkies is remarkable. For further proof, consider that on Aug. 8, Goldie Michelson, M.A. ’36, turned 112. In May she celebrated the graduation of her great-granddaughter, Deanna Minsky ’14, from the same University that she and Georgette have called their own.
CLARK COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSOR LI HAN
FROM APPS TO ROBOTICS, CLARKIES ARE RESHAPING THE WAY WE ENCOUNTER OUR WORLD

BY ANNE GIBSON, PH.D. ’95 | PHOTO-ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPHEN WEBSTER
TECHNOLOGY LOVES A VOID.

T HELPS US DO MANY THINGS FASTER and more efficiently than ever imagined by previous generations. It can be deployed for purposes as miraculous as saving lives or as routine as amusing ourselves for hours on end. In a kind of endless loop, technology is both responsible and responsive — driving change while simultaneously adapting to the very world that it has altered; filling spaces of its own creation.

A number of Clarkies are at the nexus of innovations molding our digital landscape. Some, like Elena Zhizhimontova ’14, pictured on our cover, are computer scientists designing software and hardware. But others, with backgrounds in subjects as diverse as psychology, government and business, have found their niche as entrepreneurs and managers piloting the course of digital technology companies. So it seems there is room in this brave new world for people with a wide range of skills and passions – which is fortunate, because the technology grounded in the mysterious world of 0s and 1s, bits and bytes, is transforming our future as radically as the industrial revolution did our forebears’ two centuries ago.

FIRED UP
Only in her early twenties, Elena Zhizhimontova ’14 already is listed as an inventor on a pending patent for a software tool that she and her team developed during her 2013 summer internship at Amazon in Seattle. Her team worked on the Dynamic Perspective interface, a key feature of Amazon’s recently released Fire Phone. In addition to providing a three-dimensional look to maps, lock screens and games, Dynamic Perspective also incorporates interfaces that change in response to user movements, allowing one to control the phone through natural and fluent gestures.

Zhizhimontova’s tool displays polygon-based assets designers can use when developing visual elements for the Fire Phone’s screen. Designers can run animations, attach objects, and move, scale and rotate assets, as well as combine and manipulate 3-D models without having to write any code themselves.

A computer science and mathematics double major at Clark, Zhizhimontova is especially appreciative of the independence she was given in creating this tool. During the development process, she met with Amazon designers to discuss new features and then made her own decisions on the implementation. “Getting positive feedback from artists who were using my tool and telling me that it simplified their work made those moments the happiest of my life,” she says.

For Zhizhimontova, the people she met at Amazon made her summer internship special. “My coworkers were very inspiring. My team’s constructive advice made me a better programmer and their light-hearted jokes created a very pleasant work environment,” she says.

Her internship went far beyond just working on her software tool. Zhizhimontova also interacted with other programmers and her mentor to learn more about game development. “Many people on my team had previously worked in game development, and that’s my interest, too. So I really had much in common with the people I was working with.”

The respect was mutual. The Amazon team wanted her back, and on July 28, a little more than two months after graduating from Clark, she returned to Amazon as a full-time software development engineer.

THE DISRUPTER
As president and chief executive officer of Axispoint, a company that builds digital technology solutions for heavy-hitters in the entertainment world like Warner Music and the Rolling Stones, Daniel DiSano ’90 gets to marry the two things he loves best: technology and business. Axispoint’s clients represent industries like media and entertainment, health care, nonprofits and financial services.

Axispoint creates custom software and applications to help businesses grow, beginning with design and implementation, and continuing with support and the provision of cloud services. “Basically anything that touches software, we do,” DiSano says.

With an M.B.A. from MIT’s Sloan School, and a track record of growing companies, DiSano arrived at Axispoint in 2002, eight years after the company was founded. Over the next few years, Axispoint’s name began surfacing in a range of industry lists, from inclusion in the Everything Channel Fast Growth 100 to winning the Deloitte
Technology Fast 500, and being named Cisco Systems Mobility Partner of the Year and Vertical Partner of the Year.

During his tenure at Axispoint, DiSano has noticed what he calls “a sea change” in the nature of the services their clients are demanding. No longer are businesses satisfied with technology that just makes them more cost-effective in the marketplace.

“Now we get hired by clients who say, ‘Help us take our idea, our creation, and make it a reality to be innovative, to disrupt our industry,’” says DiSano. “That’s what makes it exciting.”

Prior to the 2008 presidential election, DiSano joined then-candidate Barack Obama’s Technology, Media and Telecom Committee and assisted the campaign with writing technology policy. He later served on President Obama’s Transition Team as a member of the Technology, Innovation and Government Reform working group, where he helped with initiatives that included the stimulus package, government innovation, and pervasive broadband.

DiSano loved his undergraduate experience. “Clark really helped shape my life,” he says, noting the opportunities he had to work one-on-one with faculty. He’s now providing internship opportunities to Clark students and alumni who are seeing that the only good status quo is one that can be disrupted.

SOME VIGGLE ROOM

How cool would it be if every time you settled in to watch your favorite TV show, you earned loyalty points redeemable for entertainment rewards? Or, if you’re a business owner, you discovered a new way to target only the consumers most likely to purchase your product?

According to Gregory Consiglio ’88, Viggle is the only company that can provide both these services.

The consumer begins by downloading Viggle’s app and completing a short demographic profile. Then, when he or she watches a TV show, listens to music or — soon — watches video content online, Viggle’s patented technology can identify the content, set the clock ticking, and assign the associated points to the user’s account. Rewards can be redeemed through the app’s rewards catalogue or at ViggleStore.com. On its end, Viggle analyzes the data to see which type of consumer is watching and listening to what, and works with interested business partners (TV networks and brands) to direct their ads only to users who fit their target customer profile.

The president and chief operating officer of Viggle Inc., Consiglio has enjoyed a career trajectory that included previous stints at KPMG, AOL, GoFish and Ticketmaster. He says one challenge to making a loyalty program viable is keeping consumers engaged over the long term: statistics reveal that the average consumer who downloads an app uses it only twice. So unless Viggle’s
platform becomes a habit, consumers don’t accrue points and companies lose prospects. To reinforce engagement, Viggle sends related quizzes and games to the consumer during viewing or listening sessions, as well as ads targeted to his or her demographic profile — all additional opportunities to earn points.

“Our business of identifying entertainment and providing rewards for it — including the underlying technology — is patented,” says Consiglio. “And when we got listed on NASDAQ I actually got to ring the bell — a very cool experience!”

THE ‘WOW! WOW!’ FACTOR

If you’re the parent of small children, names like Strawberry Shortcake, Wubbzy, and Foofa are probably part of your vocabulary. And if your child has embraced any of these characters as a new best friend, you might want to know about the apps by Cupcake Digital, brainchild of chairman and CEO Brad Powers ’96, M.B.A. ’97.

Powers, along with Cupcake’s president, Susan Miller, co-owner of the Emmy Award-winning animated television series “Wow! Wow! Wubbzy!” has assembled a team of professionals to create apps that both engage and educate children from preschool to the early elementary grades.

Powers credits son Lucas, then age five, as playing a significant role in Cupcake Digital’s genesis.

“As the parent of a young child, I wanted to produce apps that would make my kid smile, but also offer educational moments. There just weren’t enough of them out there,” Powers says on his website. “I saw a great opportunity — one that was personal to me — to enter a new marketplace.”

Powers, who majored in psychology, is sensitive to unresolved issues surrounding the appropriateness of digital screen time for young children.

“We preach shared screen time with kids,” he says, “not the use of mobile or tablet devices to babysit. We encourage people to use our apps with their kids.”

Cupcake Digital has created guides for teachers and parents on using the apps with free downloadable worksheets and activities. “Cupcake retains on staff an expert who was in charge of implementing Common Core curriculum standards for her school district in California,” Powers explains. “She makes sure that anything educational is thoroughly vetted and tied to Common Core state standards.”

Cupcake Digital has acquired rights to a variety of children’s entertainment properties, including Strawberry
Shortcake, Dreamworks, and movies. “Our goal is to be the dominant independent force in the children's app world,” Powers says. “Through a combination of organic growth and acquisitions we think we can achieve that position.”

Sweet.

**DRAGON TALE**

For years, getting our words and ideas into a computer meant using a standardized keyboard left over from typewriter days. That method works fairly well for fast, accurate typists, but not so well for the “hunt and peck” folks among us, or for those with visual or mobility-related disabilities. Designers of human-computer interfaces know that computers should adapt to human abilities, rather than the other way around.

Enter Nuance Communications, which describes its mission as “making technology fluent in all things human.” Using its popular Dragon voice recognition software, you can just talk to your computer and let Dragon translate your speech into readable, editable text. Nuance also offers a hands-free tool called Dragon Mobile Assistant (based on Dragon voice recognition) that lets you send and receive text messages and email, post to Facebook and Twitter, and search the Web. It also creates an identifying voiceprint to ensure that your device responds only to you.

Brian Yee ’93, director of product management for Nuance's Mobile Input Solutions Division, oversees apps that make it easier for those who prefer to keep their fingers exercised to get their words into their mobile devices. In 2011 Yee was working at Swype Inc. when it was acquired by Nuance to complement its existing text and voice-recognition products. Swype offers several ways to enter data via an on-screen keyboard, notably by letting the user drag or “swype” a finger from letter to letter to spell out the message. As Swype registers the letters, it makes an educated guess at the word the user wants. (Readers may be familiar with the experience of using a 12-key keypad to spell out text messages. That process, T9, was invented by Swype's co-founder Cliff Kushler.) Swype has quickly grown in popularity. Originally only on Android phones, Swype is now available for Apple iOS devices with the launch of iOS8.

Yee stresses that while Swype has transformed how users communicate using their phones — by allowing them to fully express themselves instead of with just a
two-word response or question — Nuance technology does much more. Its technology powers many of the virtual assistants available, trying to understand what information a user is seeking with as little user input as possible.

“The more you can understand what the user is trying to do,” says Yee, “the simpler you can make the device.”

ALL THESE GESTURES NEED TO ‘PLAY NICE’ TOGETHER SO THAT THE USER FEELS IN CONTROL. THAT’S WHERE THE ENGINEERING COMPLEXITY COMES IN.

-PETER SIBLEY ’03

NOT YOUR DAD’S PENCIL AND PAPER

Great ideas often spring to mind in very inconvenient places — the shower, a cramped airplane seat, a quiet woodland trail. Paper, the 2012 Apple App of the Year, and Pencil, an elegant electronic stylus from FiftyThree Inc., are tools that let artists capture their visions on a tablet when the studio is miles away.

Peter Sibley ’03, a software engineer developing these tools, migrated to FiftyThree from Microsoft, where he’d launched the first version of Photosynth, an application for capturing two-dimensional photos and turning them into three-dimensional views of the world. He also worked on a variety of Bing products, including StreetSide, the equivalent of Google’s Street View. He is characterized on FiftyThree’s website as having “a passion for innovative user interfaces and novel applications of computer graphics.”

Sibley explains that creating an effective user interface is an iterative process dependent on extensive prototyping and testing to ensure that the final hardware and software products “feel right.”

Pencil and Paper are good examples. Designing the artist/hardware/software interface requires a deep understanding of the artist’s tools and how they are manipulated. For example, when the artist wants to “undo” a mark, the Pencil stylus can be flipped upside down and employed as an eraser, a natural gesture when using a traditional pencil. Pencil also allows the artist to rest the drawing hand directly on the tablet’s screen without leaving a mark, much as one would rest a hand on paper or canvas to achieve stability and control. FiftyThree is working on a new feature, Surface Pressure, for use with Apple’s iOS8, which will allow Pencil to be used for shading broad areas.

“All these gestures need to ‘play nice’ together so that the user feels in control,” says Sibley. “That’s where the engineering complexity comes in.”

VIRTUAL WORLDS AND WILDCAT ROBOTS

One of the most exciting uses of computer software is to create virtual worlds that we can explore and interact with in real time. But participation in a virtual world can do more than provide a few hours of fun. It might also save your life.

In 2009, as a newly minted computer science Ph.D., Stephen Berard ’03 joined Lockheed Martin, where he worked on a government-funded project called the Future Immersive Training Environment. This virtual environment is designed to give soldiers an opportunity to experience what it’s like to take part in urban street fighting — the sights, sounds, smells (yes) and chaos — before they face real bullets from real adversaries.

To participate in the simulation, the soldier wears a system of coordinated hardware that allows him, and his similarly outfitted companions, not just to see and hear, for example, an urban street in Afghanistan, but also to communicate and interact as they move through it. Berard’s role was to help integrate and test the complex hardware and software, a task that required him to visit various military bases and get feedback from soldiers testing the system.

Berard’s real passion, however, is robotics, which he discovered at Clark while taking a course with computer science Professor Li Han. After working at Lockheed Martin for a little more than a year, he joined Boston Dynamics, a company that was creating, in his words, “cool, awesome robots.”

Boston Dynamics builds, among other devices, two- and four-legged robots with names like Big Dog, Cheetah and Atlas, designed to traverse varying types of terrain conditions. Berard got involved with the development of Wildcat, the next version of Cheetah, which was used to see how quickly a quadruped robot could be made to go. (Cheetah reached 30 mph traveling on a treadmill; Wildcat, an outdoor second-generation robot, hit 16 mph.)

Then, at the end of 2013, Boston Dynamics became one of several robotics companies acquired that year by Google.
Now a roboticist with Google, Berard’s lips are sealed. He can neither talk about his job, nor engage in any general commentary or speculation about the robotics industry, lest it be misconstrued as coming officially from Google.

Sometimes silence is what the cutting edge requires.

PATENT-PROTECTED

Protecting hardware and software innovations is where intellectual property lawyers like Brett Alten ’85 find their niche in the digital world.

Alten, who earned a Ph.D. in physics at Johns Hopkins University before attending law school at Fordham University, served as director of patent development at Apple Inc. during a particularly exciting period (2006-2010) when several of its signature products, including the iPhone, iPad and MacBook Air, were under development. Among other things, Alten and his team were tasked with harvesting and patenting the software and hardware ideas bubbling up from within the company.

During Alten’s last couple of years at Apple he created and led an intellectual property enforcement team, but it became too focused on trademarks for his liking — he missed practicing patent law. Eventually, Alten decided he wanted to broaden his practice and moved to Dropbox in 2012 as the head of intellectual property.

Dropbox, a privately owned company valued at about $10 billion at the beginning of this year, offers a popular service that lets users securely store and sync their electronic documents, images and videos in the Cloud and access them any time, any place, using any device they can log into.

At Dropbox, Alten focused on software, which has been the subject of many patent-related court cases over the past 50 years because its abstract nature doesn’t cleanly fit the definition of what, in the past, has been considered patentable.

“The U.S. Supreme Court recently confirmed that abstract ideas are not patentable,” Alten says. And where software is concerned, it gets really complicated. “It’s not easy to articulate a rule that distinguishes abstract ideas from patentable ones — [the latter] are more closely tied to physical processes,” he notes.

Such are the subtle issues Alten thrives on. He’s since taken his expertise to a new position at SolarCity, the leading provider of residential solar power in California.

“For patent law is a great option that I didn’t know even existed when I attended Clark,” he says. “There’s room for so many skill sets. I wish undergrads knew more about the wonderful career path patent law can present to those who not only like science and/or engineering, but who also enjoy writing and working with people. And, if you read patents written by people who really know how to write, they’re an entirely different animal. They come to life and tell a great story, and they’re often elegant. They convince you that the invention is special and worthy of protection.”
TRADITION MEETS TRANSFORMATION

THE PLANNED ALUMNI AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT CENTER EMBODIES CLARK’S EDUCATIONAL AMBITIONS AND REAFFIRMS THE UNIVERSITY’S COMMITMENT TO MAIN STREET

BY JIM KEOGH

RENDERINGS COURTESY OF ARCHITERRA
In terms of distance, the width of Main Street is nothing special. A person can cross the road in about ten steps; the journey is accomplished in seconds.

But the trip from the front gate of Clark University to the planned Alumni and Student Engagement Center on the opposite side of Main Street carries with it a significance that extends well beyond physical measurement.

This signature structure will house the core of the University’s pioneering LEEP [Liberal Education and Effective Practice] learning model, heralding Clark’s leadership in the higher education arena. It will provide necessary physical spaces for alumni to connect with one another, and to re-engage with their alma mater in ways that will incorporate their passions, deploy their expertise, and drive change.

The building also will anchor revitalization efforts in the Main South neighborhood, strengthening the partnership between Clark and the city and helping fashion a gateway that will have visitors regarding Worcester with fresh eyes. With its intrepid design, the Alumni and Student Engagement Center declares itself a 21st-century space that will inspire creativity, nourish forward-thinking and spur collective action — all within view of venerable Jonas Clark Hall.

Work is expected to begin next year on the four-story, 35,000-square-foot facility, which is the cornerstone of an ambitious project encompassing University-owned land from Grand Street to Gates Street. The University has already received generous support from local foundations, alumni and friends who recognize the transformative potential of the project.

The building is the culmination of a vision that is traced to the earliest discussions about LEEP, Clark’s model for liberal undergraduate education that integrates academic excellence with authentic world and workplace experiences. Clark’s role in advancing liberal education means the building will be a locus for mission-driven work that attracts the participation of a diverse population — faculty, alumni, students, business, community and government leaders, and experts in a wide range of fields.

Raising the structure that will host this collaborative movement — where ideas will fly and solutions will be proposed — has resulted in something of a fortunate paradox: Clark is building walls to tear down walls.

The Alumni and Student Engagement Center is bred from the University’s ongoing desire to produce bold thinkers, inventive leaders and confident risk-takers.

Critical to the mission is the LEEP Center, which will migrate from its current home in Dana Commons into the first and second floors of the new building. The move will dramatically increase programming and administrative space and give LEEP a concentrated, centralized presence on campus. Within this building, generations of students will shape an integrated learning trajectory that transforms them from engaged, thoughtful learners to connected, effective professionals and committed citizens.

At the heart of LEEP are communities of effective practice that bring together people of various backgrounds and capabilities to forge solutions to some of society’s most pressing problems — a process
that demands an array of perspectives. Clark students particularly flourish from their partnership with alumni and other stakeholders, who provide mentorship and help them understand the skills and capacities needed to devise strategies that align with their own emerging life and career goals.

“The extent to which the space can foster relationships and connections makes it important,” says Mary-Ellen Boyle, associate provost and dean of the college. “There will be an opportunity for alumni to mix with students, reinforcing the idea that the entire campus is committed to this approach to liberal education. LEEP is not just about the classes, it’s about the entire Clark experience, and a lot of people are going to influence student learning.

“We redesigned our cocurricular programming to be much more intentional, so students can grow into these effective-practice experiences that will help them launch post-Clark. The fact that we have an academic building that’s not dedicated to a specific department is symbolic of how our campus is changing and connecting us to the broader world.”

Today’s Clark students walk in the footsteps of some of most influential and original thinkers in modern times. Since its founding in 1887, the University has produced alumni who boast notable individual achievements, yet who also changed the game for everyone by fashioning new approaches in science, business, literature and the arts. As Philadelphia Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie ’73 told a 2013 reunion audience, “At Clark, it wasn’t just a professor determining what the paradigms of the moment were. 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 energy to go after things that others would say were conventionally unrealistic.”

ALUMNI-STUDENT CONNECTIONS

AE BEERMAN ’14 spent most of her summer at Workbar in Cambridge, Mass., a company that supplies communal space to start-up businesses, entrepreneurs, independent professionals and enterprise teams. It’s an interactive atmosphere, crackling with innovative ideas and forward momentum.

That includes for Beerman herself. As a LEEP Fellow, she spent the summer at Workbar reshaping the perks program for its members. Beerman designed an information sheet, created internal guidelines and language for the program, sought out external partners to provide services to Workbar members, and then publicized the offerings in the company newsletter.

Overseeing her was E. Alexa Lightner ’11, M.S.PC. ’12, director of community development. Besides a shared love for communications-related work, the two also brought to the table an entrepreneurial spirit honed at Clark. As a student, Lightner was the co-founder of the Clark Community Thrift Store and won top prize in the U-reka Big Idea Contest. Beerman was an entrepreneurship minor and worked in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program; among her duties was helping to administer the U-reka contest.

“At Workbar I worked closely with Alexa, who had such a good balance of being present and communicative, but she also understood that I’m good at working individually and did not need much assistance,” Beerman says.

Beerman had arrived at Workbar convinced that graphic design, videography and social media were the only three creative outlets she wanted to pursue. But Lightner and the team expanded her view of marketing and communications, exposing her to the value of other critical areas — like creating effective member-oriented programs — as a way to enhance the company experience and production.

“Working with a Clark alum is particularly valuable because you have that instant connection with someone who’s further along in their career yet who understands where you’re at as well,” she says. “And they can connect you with people who could be pivotal with your future career.”

Beerman will finish up her master’s in professional communication degree at Clark in June and then plans to reach out to Workbar for full-time employment. The company, she says, wants her back. “When I left, they said they were sure there would be a place for me when I graduate. I hope to make that a reality.”
PARTNERSHIPS THAT FUEL CHANGE

When renowned playwright Todd Logan ’75 decided that he wanted to create a theater program for at-risk teens, he consulted several schools in and around his home in the Chicago area. His goal was to expose students to theater in a way that would build self-confidence and resiliency, give them a skill set that would serve them in the wider world, and engage them in education so that it became a transformative experience in their lives.

That vision is paying dividends — but not in Chicago.

After staging his play “Defamation” at Clark, and learning about the University’s LEEP initiative, Logan grew convinced that partnering with his alma mater would be the best route for seeing his idea bear fruit. Collaborating with what he describes as his Clark “dream team” — Dean of Research Nancy Budwig, Professor Gino Dilorio from Visual and Performing Arts, and Thomas Del Prete, director of the Adam Institute for Urban Teaching and School Practice — Logan last year founded the Main South Theater Project, which he supports through a generous donation.

Under the leadership of coordinator Danny Balel ’08, the program is centered at Claremont Academy, just down the road from Clark, a grade 7-12 school composed of largely low-income students, many of whom are at below-grade-level development in language and literacy. Clark University students play critical roles in the project, progressing from teachers to curriculum planners and implementers over the course of the year, working to energize the Claremont students to perform improvisation and write and produce their original monologues, scenes and plays.

With the Main South Theater Project now in its second year (officially, it’s the 2.0 version), Logan has observed tremendous progress in the Claremont students as they embrace the concept, especially their growing confidence and ease in speaking in front of their fellow students. The program has expanded from two to four classes a week, student enrollment in it has increased, and the project has been officially integrated into the school curriculum.

Logan touts the “synergy” with Clark to create this impact. “As an alumnus, there are so many opportunities to pursue different passions — it doesn’t have to be theater, it could be in economics or psychology. I feel I have something to contribute, and in collaboration with the Clark faculty we’ve been able to say: We have an opportunity with these kids. We’re setting the bar high, now let’s go after it.”

He is now looking at the Main South Theater Project as a model that can be replicated nationwide — an alumni-university pairing with considerable upside for local communities.

“To be a partner with my alma mater is the best of all worlds,” he says. “The bang for the buck at a place like Clark compared to a larger university is huge, especially when you’ve got great minds working together.”

The Alumni and Student Engagement Center recognizes Clark’s lifelong partnership with its graduates by mobilizing alumni to claim their Clark legacy.

Former trustee and Alumni Association president Larry Hershoff ’71 says he’s been advocating for a dedicated alumni space for well over a decade. Alumni will be crucial contributors to the long-term success of LEEP, he says, reinforcing the importance of uniting students and alumni in common areas.

“The alumni conference room and office space is a signal from the administration that it recognizes the critical importance of alumni to LEEP and to Clark as a whole,” Hershoff says. “An alumni center gives us a place to meet, to celebrate alumni achievements, and to deliver the message that Clark is very proud of its alumni and wants them to come back whenever they can.”

Through the center, Clark alumni will be encouraged to participate in the transformation of liberal education as it becomes more attuned to the profound changes that are underway in our economy and society. Alumni will share their expertise and experience, and provide internships, mentorship and job opportunities to help enable students’ transitions from college to career. Clark alumni also will have the opportunity to come together with faculty and students, alumni colleagues and others, around causes that matter to them — channeling their passions into action. They will conduct research that is consequential and personally meaningful, launch initiatives that address a social ill, or perhaps introduce a new business model. They will forge their own dynamic partnerships with Clark.

The center will host panel discussions, lectures and other events that foster vigorous intellectual give-and-take and reframe questions critical to interpreting and reimagining our world. The aim is no less than to ignite change from the grassroots level to a global scale in areas ranging from K-12 education to the environment and beyond.
This vision for an empowered Clark network is tied to the very practical consideration of including an alumni conference room and a lounge in the new building that offers Clarkies long-desired communal space. Trustee Elyse Darefsky ’79 notes, “We’re all looking forward to the day when we can say, ‘I’ll meet you in the alumni center.’”

As Clark University positions itself for the future, it does so as an ally with the City of Worcester. Clark’s investment in the Main South neighborhood through the University Park Partnership has paid dividends on numerous fronts, from the ongoing improvements in the Kilby-Gardner neighborhood to the nationally acclaimed success of the University Park Campus School. Clark faculty and students have long worked in tandem with the community to address the issues prevalent in densely populated, low-income urban areas. The latest example of this compact is the University’s formation of an Academic Health Department to battle health problems besetting the city’s most vulnerable populations.

Jack Foley, vice president for government and community affairs, sees the Alumni and Student Engagement Center as the next step in this valued partnership with Worcester, with clear benefits on the horizon. The building will be situated on property Clark is purchasing from the Diocese of Worcester. Its glass wall on the west side will look out onto a landscaped greenway that was formerly occupied by Monahan Medical Supply and Iglesia de Dios, and beyond to University Park, where Foley envisions a natural amphitheater that will play host to student-performed concerts and other events.

The construction coincides with $1.5 million in improvements to University Park, partly funded by Clark’s payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreement with the city. The park project has been ongoing, and will be complemented by $2 million in federally funded streetscaping along Main Street, from about Hawthorne to Beaver Street, which will feature enhanced lighting, widened sidewalks, bike racks, plantings, benches, and reconfigured crosswalks. Foley likens the reimagined swath of Main Street to the recently revitalized Canal District off Kelley Square.

He describes the attractive, well-lit building as a “beacon” along an unremarkable stretch of Main Street that too many regard as a runway between destinations, rather than as a gateway into Worcester that deserves appreciation and attention. With Worcester’s downtown in the process of being renewed and reconstructed, it’s essential that Main Street’s profile also be elevated, he says.

“For many years now the Board of Trustees has been talking about the importance of a gateway that would highlight the University’s presence and our neighborhood,” Foley says. “This is a wonderful opportunity to enhance the area and highlight Clark at the same time.”

Aesthetically, the Alumni and Student Engagement Center’s appearance will be a prominent departure from the former mills and the triple-deckers that populate the neighborhood, and it speaks to Clark’s aspirations as a change-maker. The building features an open design bookended by glass walls and a multistory atrium that promises to be a hive of activity both for Clarkies and the wider community. In keeping with best green practices, solar panels will line the roof to bring the center as close as possible to net zero energy use.

Clark Trustee Richard Freeland, commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education and former president of Northeastern University, and other board members asked the architect, Architerra Inc., of Boston, to produce a design that reflects the boldness of the University’s LEEP initiative and tells the story of Clark’s bracing approach to education in the 21st century. As an offshoot, he says, a modern building will contribute to a more positive perception of the neighborhood.

“I was a strong proponent of the value of crossing Main Street and putting a footprint there,” Freeland says. “If Clark wants to tell the world that this is a new era, and we stand for something new and exciting, then we need to make an iconic statement on Main Street.

“I learned from my experience at Northeastern how important physical construction is, but also visible construction that the world can see. You don’t want to bury a building deep on campus where it won’t have much of an impact.

“This will have impact.”

President David Angel discusses his vision for Clark’s building on page 3. To learn more about the project visit clarku.edu/newbuilding.
A troupe of Clarkies is turning the Boston theater scene on its head.
TODAY'S STUDENTS IN CHARGE of the Clark University Players Society want to put on the play "Picasso at the Lapin Agile." The plot twist: rights to produce the play are not available.

The Clarkies ask the powers-that-be in the Visual and Performing Arts Department for permission to stage the show, but their request is denied.

They do it anyway.

Flash ahead through many acts and countless scenes to the Boston Center for the Arts, 2014.

These same students, now alumni, are putting on "Astro Boy and the God of Comics." The play is the closing production in the fifteenth season of Company One Theatre, founded by the group of Clark friends to expose audiences to works that are raw and risky, sometimes approaching dangerous.

They are making an impression. The American Theatre Wing, the body that gives out the Tony Awards every year, has named Company One as one of the ten "most inspiring and innovative theatre companies on our national landscape."

Company One is leading the theater community to the creative precipice, and daring it to jump.

Company One Theatre evolved from the partnership, and friendship, of the Clarkies who defied the rules to produce "Picasso at the Lapin Agile": Shawn LaCount, M.A.Ed. ’98; Summer L. Williams ’01, M.A.Ed. ’02; Mark Abby VanDerzee ’97; Sasha Abby VanDerzee ’00; Sarah Shampnois ’98; Mason Sand ’00, M.S.P.C. ’01; Karen (Janiseski) Ossen ’98; and Nicole Imbracsio ’98.

During their time at Clark, they bonded over their desire to produce memorable theater. In 1998, several members of the group convened on Great Diamond Island off the coast of Portland, Maine, and worked together to create "The Island Project," which involved a tour of David Ives’ "All in the Timing" in Portland, New Haven, and Boston.

"The idea of forming an actual theater company was always brewing," says Williams. "Once 'The Island Project' was a successful venture, it became more of a reality."

The Island Project, formed by LaCount, Mark Abby VanDerzee, Shampnois, Sand, Ossen, and Imbrascio, became Company One Theatre a year later, at which time Ossen and Imbrascio moved on to other opportunities and Williams and Sasha Abby VanDerzee (now Mark’s wife) joined the venture.

They decided to settle in Boston, where LaCount, a native, was determined to shake up the city's theater scene. More than fifty plays later, all six founders remain heavily involved in the company — directing, working in administrative roles or sitting on the board of directors.

LaCount now serves as Company One's artistic director. "When we started out, all of us did everything," he says. "Everybody was part of every decision. Basically, we chose a different leader for each discussion, and we called those things ‘departments.’ If you looked at us on paper, we had all these departments, but it was the same five or six people in different formations doing everything."

This all-hands-on-deck attitude fits with the company's name and mission. The singularity of purpose “came from putting our heads together,” says Mark Abby VanDerzee, Company One’s educational and technical director. “Our collective motivation drove it, and continues to drive it.”

LaCount’s job is to plan each season, though a programming committee discusses the possibilities. “At the end of the day it’s my responsibility to put the thing together and decide what we’re doing every season, but we have pretty open dialogue about it,” he explains.

And though it’s been a while, each of the founders, with the exception of Sasha Abby VanDerzee, former director of development and a current board member, has trod the boards in a Company One production (Sand has earned Boston theater award nods for his acting work). LaCount, Mark Abby VanDerzee
and Williams are frequent directors. Even Clark faculty have joined the effort: theater arts Professor Ray Munro directed and had other involvement with the first Company One productions, and Professor Neil Schroeder acted in two plays in early seasons.

Munro, LaCount says, was a huge influence. “He taught me the difference between being an artist and a performer,” he says. “We were out on the steps of Atwood Hall, and I was asking him for advice on my career. He said, ‘So you’re an artist ... what’s your point of view?’ That’s when I realized the difference. Creating a point of view is paramount to creating a mission, and creating a mission is the thing that separates us from most performing arts organizations in town.”

To that end, beyond producing thought-provoking work, Company One operates programs in six Boston public schools. Its “Stage One: In School” program teaches theater as a process, working on writing and performance skills. Company One also holds professional workshops for Boston-area actors, and employs teen production apprentices placed with them by the Boston Department of Youth Employment and Engagement. (The city pays the apprentices’ wages.)

“That’s a jobs-training program,” Williams says. The apprentices don’t just have a theater camp experience; they learn about financial planning and collaborating with others, including board members. “The emphasis is on what it takes to run a production company, not just what is on stage.”

Educating the next generation of theater-makers started at Clark. LaCount and Williams completed their student-teaching practicums at the University Park Campus School, and LaCount launched a theater program for UPCS’s newly established high school.

Gino DiIorio, playwright and Clark professor of theater arts, says that’s exactly what he would have expected. Company One artists “just build it — they don’t wait for it to happen.”

DiIorio taught and worked closely with LaCount, Williams, Mark Abby VanDerzee and Sand. “You could tell they didn’t just want to do theater; they wanted to make something. I’m not surprised that they managed to stick it out and build the company.”

“I’m not surprised they’ve lasted,” adds Munro. “Even at Clark they were more than willing to work as hard as they could, as hard as was needed; they were passionate about what they were doing. They were also innocent in the best sense — they knew they didn’t know everything. They were willing to work from their mistakes, and were willing to learn.”

Each season, DiIorio brings his theater students on a field trip to see a professional
production, and that sometimes involves attending Company One shows.

“The production values are great, the acting is always very, very good; I always enjoy going there. And that’s not always the case — theater is not always good,” he says.

“They’re a true success story, and I’m really proud of them.”

Success comes at a price — if not a paycheck. Of the company’s administrators, only Shampnois, as managing director, earns a (very modest) salary. LaCount will begin to be paid as artistic director with the 2014-2015 season.

When the company was founded, “Being idealistic 22-year-olds, we were more excited about the work and getting that done than we were about paying the administrators,” Shampnois says. “Priority-wise, paying ourselves never really came to the top.”

Anyone who works on a play or on one of the education programs is paid, she notes.

Fifteen years later, “Everyone understands that we can’t sustain ourselves forever like that. Small steps have been made.” To that end, Company One is slowly transitioning to a different business model with paid administrative staff. “It will take a few years,” Shampnois acknowledges.

Lack of pay means that the Clarkie founders aren’t living by theater alone. In their other lives, Shampnois is a nanny; Williams, Sand, and both VanDerzees are teachers; and LaCount runs a bed and breakfast with his wife.

What the Company One Theatre team lacks in salary it has earned in critical acclaim. WGBH Arts Editor Jared Bowen described “Astro Boy” as “something I have never seen done before so engagingly and so well.” Company One, he added, is “pushing theater in different ways. … They really have a sense of where to take theater in this moment: to stretch it, to make it new, to reach different audiences.”

The Improper Bostonian named Company One Boston’s Best Theater Company in its 2013 “Boston’s Best” issue, and the group has received recognition from the Elliot Norton Awards, which honor the best that Boston theater has to offer. Since its inception, Company One has taken home 15 Norton awards in varying categories. LaCount and Williams each have outstanding director awards to their credit.

Most recently, the group won three Norton Awards, including outstanding production by a small theater, for “The Flick,” which won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 2014.

The Company One Theatre production was only the third time “The Flick” was staged, and was its regional premiere. “Almost everything we do falls under the ‘new work’ category,” LaCount says. “I would say that 95 percent of our work is somewhere within the first three productions of the play.”

“They’re not necessarily world premieres, but still new productions,” Mark Abby VanDerzee says. “We like to work with playwrights to try and continue to develop their work, even after they’ve been premiered. Playwrights are often learning things about their own plays over the course of the first one or two productions.”

“The Flick” had its world premiere at Playwrights Horizons in New York, but the Company One production boasted a special connection. Set in an empty Worcester movie house, the play features three characters, one of them a Clark University student.

Some New York critics maligned the play for its three-hour length and long stretches of silence, but local reviews were positive. The Boston Globe said that LaCount, who directed, “demonstrates a sure touch with the rhythms of Baker’s dialogue, which is remarkably expressive beneath its disjointed surface. … LaCount captures the other dimensions of Baker’s dialogue, which is remarkably expressive beneath its disjointed surface. … LaCount captures the other dimensions of this beguiling play, too: the emotional arc hidden within Baker’s seeming shapelessness; the loneliness that is always there, crowding in on Baker’s characters from the edges; the way ‘The Flick’ slides from funny to wrenching and back again.”

In a testimonial on the company’s website, Baker — whose “The Aliens” was on the Company One stage in the 2010-11 season
— said, “Company One is one of the most intellectually and theatrically adventurous theater companies with whom I’ve worked. They treat artists with great respect and care deeply about reaching diverse audiences. They’re in the business of making theater for all the right reasons.”


“Challenge convention, change our world,” Mark Abby Vanderzee says. “We were like, ‘They took our tagline!’ We were talking about rebranding at the same time, and looking at our tagline and mission. We are definitely a product of that system.”

Shampnois, the company’s managing director, praises the way Clark gave student organizations the freedom to operate creatively and independently. “It was, ‘Figure out what you want to do, then do it.’”

Which brings us back to 1998 and the forbidden play.

Instead of performing “Picasso at the Lapin Agile” on campus, the group renovated an old barn behind LaCount’s Clifton Street apartment and staged it there.

“We weren’t making any money from twenty people sitting in a freezing cold barn,” Mark Abby Vanderzee explains. In fact, they didn’t charge admission. It was truly theater for theater’s sake.

At the same time, VanDerzee was directing the official Clark University Players Society production — two short plays, by Steve Martin and David Mamet — while rehearsing “Picasso” with the same CUPS cast on alternating nights. The group that would become Company One Theatre had its first taste of challenging theatrical convention.

“Looking back, I probably should have taken a harder line,” DiIorio says of the unauthorized production. “But at the time I thought it was so cool and hip. The funny thing was the way they did it — they set up a bunch of space heaters in the middle of the winter. I thought, ‘These kids have got guts.’ It tells you a great deal about their perseverance, and their willingness to bust through a couple of walls to get it done.”

And it doesn’t look like their perseverance is waning.

“We’re constantly wanting to push, and explore, and challenge ourselves,” says Mark Abby Vanderzee. “And we are very critical of our own work.”

LaCount concurs. “We’ve never been satisfied. In many ways, we feel very lucky to be doing the work, but we still have a lot to do.”

Scenes from recent Company One productions, clockwise from left: “The Flick,” “Astro Boy and the God of Comics,” and “We Are Proud to Present a Presentation.”
AS BOTH TRAUMA SURGEON AND POLICE OFFICER, DR. ANDREW DENNIS ’92 STRADDLES TWO WORLDS BRIMMING WITH VIOLENCE

BY JIM KEOGH

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF SCIORTINO
OMENTS EARLIER, Jerimiah had been gunned down while sitting on his front porch and was rushed to this trauma center, one of the busiest in the United States.

Dennis and his team have mastered the art of moving calmly, rhythmically, yet with controlled urgency. Young bodies pierced by bullets are frequent visitors to their operating room, and the doctors, nurses and techs have become expert practitioners in the bloody ritual of saving lives.

Their efforts allow Jerimiah to hang on for a time, but his wounds prove too severe. His condition declines and he dies shortly afterward, becoming Chicago’s 205th homicide victim of 2013.

The “Chicagoland” producers revisit Dennis a couple of days later as the doctor does some online research into his patient’s life, learning that Jerimiah was a Navy veteran and a new father whose daughter took her first steps only hours after his murder. He speaks frankly about the steady parade of human tragedy that’s wheeled through his doors and his need to compartmentalize as a way to cope. “My world,” he says, “is all about living in people’s worst nightmares.”

Making sense of those cruel realities has propelled Dennis on a rare professional journey beyond the hospital and into the same streets walked by the people who become his patients. In addition to his demanding position as Division Chair of Emergency and Pre-Hospital Trauma Services, Dennis works a second full-time job: police officer and medical director/team surgeon for the Cook County Sheriff’s Department.

Doctor and cop.

“Living in both worlds is very personal for me in a lot of ways,” he says. “If you only see what happens on one side of the hospital doors, and you don’t understand what’s happening to these people before you fix them up and send them back out, then you’re missing half of the story. You don’t know what you’re sending them back to.”

As a sworn police officer, Dennis accompanies the SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team on raids or hostage-barricade situations so he can be on-site to provide immediate care to anyone injured, whether an officer or a suspect. He also participates in search-and-rescue missions and air operations, and practices what he describes as a “fledgling subspecialty” in police investigations: forensic medicine. His 2012 Chevy Tahoe is an unmarked law enforcement vehicle whose vault is equipped with both police gear and medical supplies (“Half armory and half drugs,” he quips).

The range of injuries in the field is vast, and quick action is crucial. About a year and a half ago, a man who shot himself lost all vital signs while in the ambulance to the hospital. Dennis, dressed in full body armor, opened the victim’s chest and managed to revive him. The man lived.

The uncommon duality of his career has made Dr. Dennis the subject of media fascination. He is the literary inspiration for the character of Dr. Dennis Stern in Brad Thor’s bestselling thriller “Foreign Influence.” He has been tailed by cameras from MSNBC, as well as A&E and National Geographic (for a pilot called “Chicago Trauma” that aired but was not picked up). Magazine and newspaper reporters find him an irresistible source for stories about Chicago’s hard times. A production company has worked on a film script based on his experiences.

When the producers of “Chicagoland” came calling, Dennis agreed to participate, though with some apprehension. In unstinting detail the series would lay bare the challenges facing the city, not least the epidemic of gun violence plaguing Chicago’s neighborhoods. This would be an often unflattering portrait of an urban center struggling to right the ship.
“It’s a double-edged sword,” Dennis says, acknowledging that the depiction of Cook County Hospital’s excellence in treating trauma victims also served to reiterate the city’s violent reputation. “It did make the trauma center look good and made a lot of other people doing interactional and interventional things look good. At the same time it made the city appear pretty negative as a whole, and I think that was a slap in the face, but a very timely and important slap for the city.

“‘Chicagoland’ was an important wake-up call that these problems need to be fixed. An important national discussion has to be had, not only about violence but also about access to guns and safety in the streets — all of it.”

Some kids hang out in gyms, others prowl the mall. Andrew Dennis spent a healthy chunk of his childhood in the emergency room, and loved it.

His father, an orthopedic surgeon, brought his son with him to the ER from the time the boy was 5 years old. By the age of 12, Andrew was already trained to apply casts, splint limbs and drain abscesses. About this time, on a family ski trip to Vail, his father’s knee swelled up, causing him significant pain. They headed into the ski patrol shack and, rather than accept a ride down the mountain, dad grabbed a syringe from the first aid kit, showed his son where to insert the needle, and said, “OK, tap my knee.” Andrew extracted 300 milliliters of fluid, immediately relieving his father's discomfort, and they returned to the slopes.

Dennis was “bitten by the public safety bug” at the age of 17 when he began working as a police dispatcher and as an EMT with the volunteer fire department in his hometown of Fair Haven, N.J. As an undergraduate at Clark University he directed the student EMS unit and furthered his training through night classes at Quinsigamond Community College. “It was one of those defining things for me,” he says. “The EMS was a big piece of my life at that time — a huge piece.”

Though he was actively recruited by the Navy and the FBI while at Clark, Dennis, a biology major, opted to do postgraduate studies in neurophysiology at the University of Pennsylvania. He went on to study medicine at the University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kansas City, where he also managed to work as a full-time paramedic.

During his residency at Midwestern University, outside of Chicago, Dennis was treating a police officer who had been shot. While chatting with the patient’s fellow officers, he recounted some of his own public safety experiences.

“They asked if I’d be interested in being the doctor for their SWAT team. I told them I’d love to, but as a resident I was already putting in a hundred hours a week. It just wasn’t possible.”

In 2002 Dennis began a fellowship in trauma and burn surgery at Cook County Hospital and was approached by Chicago-area police officers about joining their team. Dennis pitched the idea to the department chair, who gave him the go-ahead. That year, Dennis completed the Illinois police academy as well as SWAT training and emerged with a new professional identity that married medicine and law enforcement.

Whether he’s wearing doctor’s scrubs or a bulletproof vest, Andrew Dennis is driven by a singular motivation: the preservation of life. To that end, he is an innovator, clinical researcher, author and business owner. Consider these items from a CV that extends for 19 pages:

• Dennis invented Trans-Abdominal Wall Traction, a surgical method and device that allows surgeons to close what once were believed to be non-closeable open abdomens and fix giant abdominal hernias.

• When Tasers became prevalent, Dennis conducted and published research that refuted the manufacturer’s claim that the popular stun gun was risk-free. His findings, and
subsequent research by others, forced the company to rethink its marketing claims and acknowledge there is a potential for harm to the heart.

- He wrote “Officer Down: A practical tactical guide to surviving injury in the street,” and in 2007 founded Medical Tactics, now called Leomedicus (medicaltactics.com), a company that offers medical survival education and equipment for law enforcement and others.

One of Dennis’ greatest challenges is counteracting popular notions crystallized by TV and movies about what occurs when someone is shot. The truth — that one’s chances of surviving a gunshot wound are actually quite good — simply doesn’t make compelling drama, he says.

“The perception is that when Mark Harmon on ‘NCIS’ shoots a guy in the chest, he dies right there. That’s inaccurate,” Dennis says. Even police officers can buy into the pseudo-veracity of TV images, which prompted Dennis to start in-service classes to dispel the myths and teach reasonable strategies for improving one’s chances of surviving penetrating injury.

“I came up with this concept of perception leading to overreaction,” he says. “If I get shot in the chest and think I’m going to die, that’s an inaccurate frame of reference leading to an improbable answer.

“If that’s the case, your perception is off, your fear is disproportional, your mindset is compromised; heart rate, blood pressure and respiratory rate are going to be inappropriate for the level of response, and your overall decisions and reactions will be flawed. If your perception is accurate, your decisions and actions will be more appropriate. Perception can greatly influence your decisions and actions when faced with extreme circumstance.”

Dennis professes a “soft spot in my heart” for public safety personnel – “Those individuals who face a problem head-on even when basic instinct tells you to run away.” He quotes a favorite adage used as the motto for the Air Force Pararescue team: “These things we do that others may live.”

“I think that embodies everything I strive for, and it’s what embodies the public safety sector of this country,” he says. “It’s very tragic when I have to pronounce a police officer, or take care of an injured cop, or a fireman, or a paramedic.”

His in-service sessions on surviving in the field gained such notoriety in the law enforcement community that Dennis was swamped with speaking offers from all over the country. To reach as great an audience as possible, he created Leomedicus and wrote “Officer Down.”

He’s now expanding those critical lessons to an even wider circle. Dennis is launching a new company, Citizen M.D., to teach everyone how to be self-sufficient in times of disaster or tragedy — such as a gunman opening fire in a school or in a commercial area. A key element of his Medical Tactics regimen is the Trauma Rapid Intervention Kit (TRIK), a compact kit carrying basic implements for treating traumatic injuries, to be used in conjunction with the knowledge gained from Dennis’ online courses detailing the fundamentals of survival.

The goal, he says, is to prepare people for an unthinkable situation, get them into the proper mindset to take necessary action and equip them with the tools to emerge alive.

In his “Chicagoland” interview following the death of Jerimiah Millsap, Dr. Dennis talked about the patients who haunt doctors, the ones who couldn’t be saved. “I have my ghosts,” he said. “There are patients I can flash back to — [to] that moment of seeing someone’s life snap away. Every surgeon has his or her own cemetery and visits it regularly.”

But then there are the victories. On a good day they can dull the losses, provide some reparation for the battles Andrew Dennis wages against other people’s nightmares from inside the operating room and out on the streets of Chicago — a scalpel in hand and a badge on his chest. It’s the kind of satisfaction shared by the small fraternity of men and women who mend bodies that have been broken in the most terrible ways.

One afternoon while Dennis stood outside the Trauma Unit talking to colleagues, a woman approached the group. He didn’t recognize her at first. Then it hit him.

“She was the one patient I’ve always said should not have lived,” he says. “She had multiple gunshot wounds. She was thirty-two degrees [Celsius] on the table; she had an open abdomen and a fistula. No one should have been able to survive what she did. Yet here she was, having beaten every odd. And she walked up to me and gave me a hug.”

It was a very good day.
ON PURPOSE

Clark was awarded a $1.45 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation to study how universities around the world can help students find a strong sense of purpose. Seana Moran, research assistant professor of psychology, is the principal investigator of the three-year grant. She will work with collaborators at two other U.S. universities and at universities in five other countries.

The research will survey hundreds of students to learn how college courses can be made meaningful and relevant in a way that also helps students make an intentional, positive difference in their communities. The work will start an international conversation on devising educational experiences that support purpose development by engaging scholars in the U.S. and abroad in research and field-building activities over a three-year period.

“Education — especially college — should be both a support and an opportunity for young people to explore and commit to a life purpose,” said Moran. “Yet, little research on this education-purpose connection has been done, and studies that do exist suggest improvement is needed. A life purpose provides direction and momentum for a person’s life and serves as a beacon for how the person can contribute positively to his or her community.”

PRESTIGIOUS MEMBERSHIP

Some of the world’s most accomplished leaders from academia, business, public affairs, the humanities, and the arts have been elected members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the nation’s most prestigious honor societies and a leading center for independent policy research. Among those elected this year was Anthony Bebbington, director of the Graduate School of Geography and Milton P. and Alice C. Higgins Professor of Environment.

Bebbington also was awarded a 2014 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in support of his forthcoming book, “Natural resource extraction in Latin America: transforming the human-environment, challenging social science.”

GUEST OF THE WHITE HOUSE

In June, associate professor of psychology Abbie Goldberg participated in a Working Fathers panel, organized by the White House, on the topic of the father’s role in parenting and the shifting nature of parenthood. The Obama administration hosted the forum in advance of the July 23 White House Summit on Working Families. “That I was asked to share my research on gay fathers — that these voices were included in a summit on working fathers — speaks volumes of our progress as a country and the current administration in particular,” said Goldberg.

FULBRIGHTS IN FINLAND, POLAND

Fulbright recipients from the Political Science Department are teaching overseas this fall. Professor Mark Miller holds the Bicentennial Fulbright Distinguished Chair in the North American Studies Department at the University of Helsinki in Finland. He is teaching courses such as Introduction to American and Canadian Legal Systems, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in the U.S., A Comparison of the U.S. and Canadian Supreme Courts, and Introduction to American Government and Politics. His research project will examine how the Finnish courts and judges have adapted to Finland’s membership in the European Union.

Associate Professor Michael Butler’s Fulbright Scholar grant is supporting a combined teaching and research appointment at the Institute for International Studies, University of Wroclaw in Breslau, Poland, through February 2015. He is teaching undergraduate and graduate seminars on International Security and U.S. Foreign Policy, while continuing work on his forthcoming book examining the problems of, and prospects for, military intervention in humanitarian crises. Professor Butler also will help the Institute develop a security studies program and curriculum.

CULTIVATING SUCCESS

Phil Robakiewicz has been appointed Clark’s first-ever associate dean of student success and retention. Robakiewicz will develop and enhance services that help ensure the academic success of undergraduate students. He will take the lead on the analysis, coordination and implementation of interventions aimed at improving student persistence, and also will develop support structures that guide students to prestigious fellowships and scholarships. Robakiewicz was most recently associate director of the Office of Academic and Student Support Services at Northeastern University. He worked for the Massachusetts Department of Education in the area of student assessment and served as a professor in the Department of Biology and Biotechnology at WPI. He holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Connecticut and a bachelor’s from Brown University.

REELIN’ IN THE YEARS

A number of longtime professors retired in 2014, taking with them a combined 161 years of Clark experience. They are Gary Overhold, Philosophy (1969-2014); Paul Burke, Foreign Languages and Literatures (1976-2014); Fern Johnson, English (1988-2014) and provost (1988-1995); Margarete Arndt, Graduate School of Management (1990-2014); and Ed Ottensmeyer, Graduate School of Management, dean emeritus (1986-2014). Ottensmeyer is staying on as interim vice president for University Advancement.
Michael Eglow ’16 spent his summer doing what he loves — playing baseball. The jack-of-all-trades has played at shortstop, third base and catcher in his first two years on the Cougars’ diamond.

This summer, Eglow was busy helping lead the Albany Senators, of the Albany Twilight League (N.Y.), to its first championship since 2005.

Now with his career path crystallized and his athletic career on the rise, Eglow can bask in the sun of one championship achieved while in the pursuit of another.

**WHAT WAS THE MOST EXCITING THING ABOUT YOUR SUMMER EXPERIENCE?**
By far it was winning the league championship. Playing alongside some of the best guys I have ever played with was a blast.

**WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS?**
My dream job is to become a head scout or coach at the college level. But my first goal is to get into the fifth-year program and receive an M.B.A.

**HOW DID YOU DEVELOP THIS CAREER AMBITION?**
I have always had a passion for baseball. My father brought me to many different ballparks, since he is involved with a major league organization. For many years I have watched how professionals carry themselves on and off the field and I have always had a desire to learn more about how these players came about.

**DID YOUR SUMMER EXPERIENCE HELP WITH YOUR FUTURE PLANS?**
All the talent around me this summer made me wonder how these guys have made it to where they are today. Many of them have played baseball just as long as I have, if not longer. The experience also left me wondering how far I can push myself and what I can do to get better — not only as a player but as a person.

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE FEELING OF WINNING THE CHAMPIONSHIP?**
It was certainly a feeling I will never forget. Being the last seed in the playoffs and beating the number-one seed in the first round, we had the momentum in our favor. All we had to do was keep playing our game and the championship was ours. When it finally happened, it was a sign of how hard we worked to earn it.

**WHAT’S THE PLAN MOVING FORWARD?**
The one thing I took away from this summer was don’t ever give up — we clawed our way into the playoffs after a long regular season. At Clark we need to have the desire and determination to become better, and once we do that, I believe we can make a run this spring into the NEWMAC playoffs.

---

His summer vacation was a hit

---

Seven different U.S. presidents called 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue home during Pam Moore’s 40-year career at Clark University. She spent almost all of those years in Athletics.

On a sunny Friday afternoon in early October, Moore gracefully, quietly left her desk in the Kneller Athletic Center for the final time.

Anyone and everyone who had any contact with Clark Athletics knew Moore, whose ever-present smile greeted student-athletes after wins and losses, parents during visits to campus, and her countless friends around campus.

“Pam’s undeniable connection with a legion of student-athletes, coaches and Athletics associates made her one of the most recognizable and loved members of our community,” says Director of Athletics and Recreation Trish Cronin. “Her presence, personality and knowledge of all things Clark Athletics will be sorely missed.”

In May, Moore was given the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Appreciation Award, which each year goes to a member of Clark Athletics whose dedication cannot go unnoticed.
Homecoming for Brienne Smith ’01

On Aug. 31, more than 20 alums returned to campus to celebrate one of their own — newly named women's soccer coach Brienne Smith ’01.

Smith spent the last four years as the head women's coach at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pa., where she guided the Greyhounds to four straight Landmark Conference tournament appearances, and earned Landmark Coach of the Year honors in 2012.

Smith was a four-year letter winner with the Cougars appearing in 68 of 76 games from 1997 to 2000. She was part of the 1998 team that won a school-record 17 games and garnered the University's lone NCAA Tournament bid under then head coach Andy Schechter ’90.

“It is an honor to come home to Clark and have the opportunity to lead a program that I am already deeply committed to,” Smith says. “My four years as a student-athlete at Clark were some of the best years of my life. I want nothing more than to move this program forward and to provide these young women with a similar experience to the one that I had while I was at Clark.”

Trish Cronin leads Clark Athletics

On April 8, Trish Cronin was named director of athletics and recreation after serving as interim director for the eight months prior to her appointment. The University conducted a highly competitive national search to fill the position.

“Trish’s commitment to the Clark community, and her impressive interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively with campus and outside groups stood out above the rest,” said President David Angel. “We have made much progress as a community under her guidance and I am confident that through her leadership, we will embrace this opportunity to take athletics at Clark University to heightened levels of excellence.”

Cronin came to Clark in 2010 as an assistant athletic trainer and quickly emerged as a leader in the department. She was elevated to senior women’s administrator in 2011 and to assistant athletics director in 2013. She has played key roles in several department-wide initiatives, including the expansion of the Bickman Fitness Center in the summer of 2013.

“I am thrilled that the University has entrusted me to lead this department,” Cronin said. “The opportunity to help shape the culture surrounding athletics and recreation at Clark is something that I am committed to.”

Cronin is focusing on enhancing athletic excellence, integrating the Athletics Department with LEEP, engaging faculty, cultivating relationships with alumni, and fundraising. She will continue to oversee an NCAA Division III program that has 17 varsity sports, more than 30 staff members and more than 300 student-athletes.
In books published this year, Clark University faculty explored subjects spanning the ancient to the immediate, from the origins of the Hebrew Bible to the mechanics of U.S. politics. A sampling of recent works:

**THE EARLY PROPHETS: JOSHUA, JUDGES, SAMUEL, AND KINGS: THE SCHOCKEN BIBLE, VOLUME II** // Everett Fox, Allen M. Glick Professor of Judaic and Biblical Studies, translator

The personalities who appear in the pages of the Hebrew Bible, and the political and moral dilemmas their stories illuminate, are part of the living consciousness of the Western world. The book is a powerful and distinctive narrative history that seeks meaning in the midst of national catastrophe. Accompanied by elucidating commentary, notes, and maps, this translation recreates the echoes, allusions, alliterations, and wordplays of the Hebrew original that rhetorically underscore its meaning and are intrinsic to a timeless text meant to be both studied and read aloud.

**URBAN POLITICS: CRITICAL APPROACHES** // Mark Davidson, Assistant Professor of Geography, and Deborah Martin, Associate Professor of Geography

This text provides a thorough, theoretical grounding with an extensive thematic overview, linking classical, institutional urban politics with a broader set of urban politics and practices. With case study material integrated throughout, and consideration given to the discussion of different urban politics from multiple theoretical perspectives, this is an up-to-date overview for students of urban geography, urban studies, urban sociology, and of course, urban politics.

**THE GOVERNMENT OF MISTRUST: ILLEGIBILITY AND BUREAUCRATIC POWER IN SOCIALIST VIETNAM** // Ken MacLean, Assistant Professor of International Development and Social Change

Focusing on the creation and misuse of government documents in Vietnam since the 1920s, this book reveals how profoundly the dynamics of bureaucracy have affected Vietnamese efforts to build a socialist society. In examining the flurries of paperwork and directives between high- and low-level officials, MacLean underscores a paradox: In trying to gather accurate information about the realities of life in rural areas, and thus better govern from Hanoi, the Vietnamese central government actually made the state increasingly illegible to itself.

**JUDICIAL POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES** // Mark Miller, Professor of Political Science

Covering the nuts and bolts of the functions, structures, and processes of our courts and legal system, this book also explores how the courts interact with executives, legislatures, and state and federal bureaucracies. It includes a chapter devoted to the courts’ interactions with interest groups, the media, and general public opinion, and a chapter that looks at how American courts and judges interact with other judiciaries around the world.

**ROUGH CILICIA: NEW HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPROACHES** // Rhys Townsend, Professor of Art History, editor; with Michael C. Hoff

The region of Rough Cilicia (the southwestern coastal area of Turkey), known in antiquity as Cilicia Tracheia, constitutes the western part of the larger area of Cilicia. The protection afforded by the high mountains combined with the rugged seacoast fostered the prolific piracy that developed in the late Hellenistic period, bringing much notoriety to the area. The 22 papers presented here give a useful overview on current research on Rough Cilicia, from the Bronze Age to the Byzantine period, with a variety of methods, from surveys to excavations.
LETTER TO ALUMNI:

My name is Leo Velasquez and this year I take over the Alumni Association president position from Shaké Sulikyan ’01.

For those of you who do not know me, I graduated from Clark University as part of the class of 1986 (to the younger alumni: yes, some of us got through college without the Internet or smart phones). I received my bachelor’s in geography and made my way into the world. I am currently a vice president with State Street Corporation, working within their Information Technology division. I would like to mention that my daughter is starting at Clark this year, and watching her go through the admissions process and become an official member of the class of 2018 has given me the parent’s perspective of Clark.

I thank Shaké for all her hard work as president these past two years. She certainly set a high bar, and I hope to continue her standards. Shaké will continue to serve as past president on the Alumni Executive Council, so she will be able to keep me from straying too far afield.

I would also like to welcome Ingrid Busson-Hall ’96 as president-elect of the Alumni Executive Council. She brings a refreshing point of view on alumni issues that help steer the council.

On behalf of the alumni, I want to welcome Lindsay Allen to Clark, where she will serve as director of alumni and friends engagement in University Advancement. I look forward to working with her during my presidency.

And finally, I want to acknowledge Ed Ottensmeyer as interim vice president for University Advancement. I have been fortunate to get to know Ed over the past few years and cannot think of a better person to hold the position. The University will benefit with Ed at the helm.

People ask why I volunteer my time to Clark. When I was a younger alumnus, I did not fully realize the impact Clark University had on my life. It was through Clark that I came to understand one should take advantage of opportunities, always challenge oneself, and always learn. Doing this has helped me achieve personal and professional success, and motivates me to give back — to the alumni and to the students.

I would be remiss in my duties if I did not mention the Clark Fund. Donating to the Clark Fund is not just “sending money to the University” — it is an investment in the future of our community and world. There are many students at Clark who would not be able to attend without your assistance. If you have not visited Clark recently, I highly encourage you to do so, especially when students are on campus. I believe you would agree with me how passionate and incredible the students are these days, and that supporting them is a very worthwhile cause. I like to think of my donation as “paying it forward” and assuring that our University can continue to be a high-quality institution.

I consider the presidency an honor because I get to represent all of you. I look forward to it. To that end, if you have any topics you would like to discuss with me, please feel free to reach out to me at LVelasquez@alumni.clarku.edu.

Sincerely,

LEO VELASQUEZ ’86
Alumni Association President
Clark is leading an education movement

The following are excerpted remarks delivered by Clark University Trustee Richard M. Freeland at the Jonas Clark Fellows Dinner on April 26, 2014, in Washington, D.C.

For some years Clark has represented itself to the world through a phrase: “Challenge Convention. Change Our World.” In my discussions with Clark faculty and students I am consistently impressed with the way this tagline resonates with the campus community. “Challenge Convention” speaks to the intellectual side of Clark: It is a call to original thinking; to a refusal to accept received wisdom; to insist on thinking things through for oneself. “Change Our World” is about effective engagement in society beyond the classroom: It links original thought with effective action; it is a call to put ideas to use; it is a charge, as the old cliché puts it, to make the world a better place.

I want to affirm the revolutionary importance of Clark’s commitment to fostering both original thinking and effective action because that short phrase — Challenge Convention. Change Our World. — itself challenges longstanding academic convention. In the process, as Clark systematically implements President Angel’s Liberal Education and Effective Practice [LEEP] initiative, it places Clark in the forefront of a movement that is changing higher education, and especially enriching the great tradition of liberal learning that has represented the pinnacle of college-level education in the United States since the founding of Harvard in 1636.

I know, as a member of Clark’s Board of Trustees, that the University aspires to reclaim its historic position as a distinctive university of national significance. I believe, as a professional educator, that LEEP has the potential to make this vision a reality.

LEEP represents Clark’s effort to reimagine liberal learning at the undergraduate level. Liberal Education and Effective Practice captures the two-sided aspiration of Clark’s tagline and implies the steps Clark is taking to give its rhetorical ambitions programmatic form. Through LEEP, Clark is affirming its longstanding commitment to liberal learning as the most powerful form of education ever devised to nurture the capacity to “challenge convention” — and therefore to excel in a wide range of fields requiring careful and original thought, including law, business, medicine, public service and academia. But through LEEP, Clark is also announcing its intention to take liberal education to a new place, linking a tradition historically associated with qualities of mind and the world of cognition to the world of practice, to the place where social change, in fact, happens. In this sense LEEP seeks not so much to change Clark as to make it more intentional and systematic in pursuing its long-held goals.

You should have no doubt about the national significance of what Clark is attempting to do — or the challenge that Clark’s efforts face in overcoming deeply entrenched ways of thinking within academia. [...] As our country confronts the challenges of a new century, colleges and universities find themselves pushed to think anew about time-honored ways of doing business. Experiments are underway on every hand. Some see massive open online courses (MOOCs) as the new educational model that will change everything. A few institutions are experimenting with three-year degrees or with stripped-down programs that lack some costly elements of a traditional collegiate experience. For-profit colleges and online institutions are challenging traditional campuses. Competency-based programs are beginning to compete with course-based curricula. Within this ferment one of the most prominent movements seeks to improve the effectiveness of undergraduate education in preparing young people to engage the economic and civic life of the country. This is the arena in which Clark aspires to national leadership.

The “effectiveness movement” — as I will call this dimension of contemporary educational reform — is rooted in doubts about whether traditional forms of education, especially liberal education, are giving young people the tools they need to flourish and contribute after they graduate. At its most basic level this is about employability. Too many graduates of expensive liberal arts colleges struggle to find high-quality jobs after graduation or are too uncertain about their goals even to know where to look. Too many employers complain that college graduates do not possess the skills and attributes to add value to their organizations. Such worries are leading many students to enroll in occupationally oriented programs — business, engineering, the health sciences — so that today, practical fields represent a significantly higher percentage of undergraduate degrees than has historically been the case. In the face of this trend, liberal arts colleges have added career-oriented programs alongside traditional academic majors. Many have also added summer or even school-year internships to their portfolios of learning opportunities. A few have even adopted the Northeastern University model of cooperative education.

A second dimension of the effectiveness movement involves civic engagement. This trend reflects the interest of young people in combining classroom studies with experiences beyond the campus that involve some form of community service. Many institutions have established offices specifically charged to find placements for students to work in community settings, typically as volunteers; some have incorporated service-oriented internships into credit-bearing courses — so-called “service learning” courses.

All of these manifestations of the effectiveness movement represent a version of what Clark is trying to do with LEEP: to enrich the
experience of college, and especially of liberal education, with attention to the applications of knowledge to problem-solving in nonacademic settings through practically oriented classroom activity, or through direct experience in the outside world, or both. […] Many other campuses are positioning themselves as champions of this movement in one way or another. In the Ivy League, the University of Pennsylvania provides one example. Among our New England liberal arts colleges, Amherst has entered this arena. Is there reason then to think that Clark’s approach can differentiate our University from all the other colleges and universities in this movement? I think the answer to this question is “yes.” The first point to emphasize is that Clark is squarely focused on building LEEP on the basis of liberal learning. This is very different from what we sought to do at Northeastern, which, with its roots in engineering and business and its longstanding commitment to cooperative education, has always embraced the applications of collegiate studies to real-world problems. For an institution like Northeastern to link liberal learning to practical education and to nonacademic experience represented only a short step from established traditions and built on a deep well of faculty belief in the value of experiential education. Clark, by contrast, is building on its historic commitment to the liberal arts and sciences, which is the part of academia where cultural resistance to practical and occupational education runs deepest. But the fact that Clark is centrally about liberal education creates the potential for it to be even more influential than a place like Northeastern, especially among the nation’s leading colleges, because these institutions — Penn and Amherst are examples — are more like Clark than they are like Northeastern. And it is these more traditional institutions where programmatic ideas like service learning or internships are most likely to be add-ons around the edges — opportunities for interested students that are not well-integrated into the overall educational program. This reality points to the second place where Clark’s approach is especially noteworthy. Clark is embedding the spirit of LEEP into every aspect of the undergraduate experience. The initiative includes a thoughtful introduction of the LEEP idea into freshman-level work, a plan to build on that foundation during the middle years of college, and a capstone experience as students near graduation, involving a major project focused on a real problem in an authentic setting. Every academic department has been charged to think systematically about adapting its program to this new educational approach — and this includes, of course, taking advantage of Clark’s unusual character as a liberal arts research university to stress the importance of inquiry, of rigorous and personal analysis of the available facts in approaching any question or problem. For several years faculty recruitment has included an explicit emphasis on bringing in talented young scholars who are attracted to the new academic culture Clark is seeking to build. Beyond all this, Clark’s program planning is informed by a sophisticated understanding of student development drawn from recent work in the learning sciences. Clark has moved far beyond John Dewey’s idea of “learning by doing” to a rich understanding of how to create learning communities involving faculty, graduate students, undergraduates and community members in a shared enterprise of problem-solving. Where most institutions participating in the effectiveness movement are doing so in comparatively superficial ways, Clark is truly creating a new academic model that systematically links liberal learning to the world of practice at every stage and in every dimension of the student experience. […] The Board of Trustees has placed LEEP at the heart of its efforts to reposition the University as a nationally significant center of learning. The most important new building currently being planned will be devoted to the LEEP initiative and will be placed prominently on Main Street directly facing Jonas Clark Hall. Clark’s promotional materials now headline LEEP. The current capital campaign emphasizes opportunities to support LEEP. Already a major new program of LEEP scholarships is attracting top students and is being showcased by the admissions office as a defining representation of how the University wants to be viewed. In short, Clark has placed a “big bet” on LEEP. It has decided to position itself at the forefront of a movement that is gaining widespread, if circumscribed, acceptance all across higher education, including among top-tier institutions. Clark aspires to be the prototype of where this movement can take collegiate education in the arts and sciences. The University is doing this because its leaders believe that the enriched form of undergraduate learning that LEEP provides is what our country needs, and what our young people need, as we face the challenges of the 21st century. I could not agree more. I could not be more admiring of what Clark is attempting to do. The community of Clark alumni should be proud of what their alma mater has undertaken. Just as Jonas Clark put “his” University on the national map of higher education during the final years of the 19th century through bold innovation, so the institution’s leaders today seek to restore your University to that historic position at the beginning of the 21st. It is a brave, thoughtful and deeply significant undertaking, I am proud to be associated with it. 

Richard M. Freeland is the Commissioner of Higher Education for Massachusetts and the former president of Northeastern University. To read the entire text of his remarks, visit clarku.edu/freeland.
1943
WILBERT (BILL) HUMPHLETT ’43, M.A. ’44, writes to let us know that he is living in a Virginia retirement home. A member of “the greatest generation,” he was an executive officer of an amphibious craft in World War II. After earning his Clark degrees in organic chemistry and serving his country, he went on to receive his Ph.D. from Duke University. He holds patents and has published both in the U.S. and abroad. While at Clark, he received a Jonas Clark Scholarship and a Bersworth Fellowship, and played varsity soccer. Bill was widowed after 67 years of marriage.

1946
VIRGINIA HAMEL STRINGER ’46, widow of CARL J. STRINGER ’43, recently celebrated her 90th birthday in Tiburon, Calif., surrounded by her four daughters and their husbands. Ginny, who lives in Virginia, was a member of Clark’s first class of women and first president of Pleiedes. She recently traveled to Cuba with an art museum group. The Stringers established the Carl J. and Virginia Hamel Stringer Endowed Scholarship Fund in 2000 to help students pay for their Clark education.

1952
ELLIOT BAKER’s one-act play, “A Bland Date,” was recently published by Off The Wall Plays, an Internet publishing company. Elliot is a retired clinical psychologist who has developed a second career in playwriting. He and his wife Sara, an environmental artist, moved a year ago from Boston to Miami Beach.

1968
BILL RUTLEDGE ’70 relays the sad news that his brother, PAUL V. RUTLEDGE ’68, of London, passed away unexpectedly on Sept. 4, 2014, following a short illness. He leaves his wife, Hazel (Dumayne) Rutledge, of London, and two sons, David Dumayne Rutledge of London, and Andrew Paul Rutledge of Nyack, N.Y. At Clark, Paul enjoyed theatre and appeared in many productions of the Clark University Players. He continued that avocation in New York, where he attended the Dramatic Workshop, and in London, appearing in numerous productions of the Tower Theatre Company. He particularly enjoyed playing “flawed characters.”

Most people who retire after 40 years at the job get a pat on the back and maybe a farewell dinner. When HARVEY KAPLAN ’68 and JEREMIAH FRIEDMAN ’76 called it a career on Dec. 31, 2013, they earned a headline in Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly declaring “End of an Era.” The partners in Boston’s Kaplan, Friedman & Associates were renowned immigration attorneys, who “represented thousands of individuals, families and employers over the course of four decades” in defense of immigrants’ rights, according to the firm’s press release. “The closing of Kaplan, Friedman and Associates is a tremendous blow to the immigration community not only in Boston, but nationally,” Nancy J. Kelly of Greater Boston Legal Services told Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly. “Harvey Kaplan is one of the giants of asylum law in the United States.” Among their many cases, the firm advocated for Haitian boat people in the ’80s and ’90s, insured the rights of immigrants in the face of post-September 11 backlash, and rushed in when 300 workers were arrested in a 2007 New Bedford, Mass., factory raid and sent to detention centers on the Texas border. Kaplan, whose daughter Lily is a 2014 Clark graduate, has won numerous awards in his career, including

Jesse Mattleman ’11, assistant director of Seven Hills Global Outreach in Worcester, shares that he recently participated in a Seven Hills volunteer trip to the Dominican Republic. He was joined on the trip by Leah Guliasi ’14 and fellow alumni Ashley Emerson Gilbert ’08, M.A.’10, Chris Adams ’10, M.B.A.’12, Lindsay Greene ’10, Zack McArthur ’13, and Keisha Grant, M.P.A.’07. Ashley is the director of Seven Hills, and the trip was organized in coordination with Service for Peace, whose director of international programs is Janna Gullery ’10, M.A.’11.
Best Lawyers “Immigration Lawyer of the Year in 2011.” He’ll continue to work part time at Macias, Greenstein & Kaplan in East Boston.

1969
NATHANIEL SEALE was named 2013 Educator of the Year by the Massachusetts School Psychologists Association. He is on the faculty of Clark University and coordinates the School Psychology Sequence and the Human Services Sequence. He has been nominated for Clark’s outstanding teacher award numerous times and has received the award as well. As a Clark graduate, he has seen first-hand how much influence Clark exerts in the lives of its students and the contribution that they, in turn, make to the Worcester community. Nathaniel is licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a school social worker and as a K-12 school psychologist.

1970
LEE KASSAN has released his new book/DVD set, “Finding the Fear: A Couple Therapy Training Workshop,” which includes two DVDs and a 150-page study guide. It has been endorsed by Scott Rutan, Philip Flores, and Daniel Wile, among others. More information is available at leekassan.com.

1972
STEVEN LESK is proud to share that his daughter, Phoebe Harris Hadara Lesk, received her bat mitzvah on Nov. 16, 2013, at Temple Israel in Minneapolis. “It was a joyous and uplifting ceremony,” he writes.


1973
MICHAEL J. GELB has published “Creativity on Demand: How to Ignite and Sustain the Fire of Genius” (Sounds True, 2014). The book playfully articulates how to access and train the body’s inherent wisdom to unleash the inner genius. Based in Santa Fe, N.M., Michael leads seminars on creative thinking, accelerated learning, and innovative leadership for organizations such as DuPont, Merck, Microsoft, Nike, Raytheon and YPO. He has more than 30 years of experience as a professional speaker, seminar leader and organizational consultant to his diverse, international clientele.

1975
ARTHUR LOCKE writes, “It’s been almost 40 years (!) since I graduated from Clark, and I am finally in business for myself. I feel like my whole career has prepared me for this new mission, being a business performance coach.” Arthur lives in the Dallas/
**CRUISER CONTROL**

If you were told that someone is traveling aboard a Global Cruiser, you might imagine the journey involves a luxury yacht skimming across the ocean or a transcontinental jet hurtling through the clouds. You almost certainly would not conjure up the sight of a man or woman negotiating the teeming streets of a Bangladesh city astride a near-silent scooter.

But given time, perhaps you will.

David Dichter, M.A. ’60, Ph.D., is president and chief executive officer of the Global Cruiser Association (GCA), a nonprofit entity that is designing, producing and promoting the two-wheeled electric vehicles, called Global Cruisers, which will be sold in heavily populated urban centers across Asia, Africa and Latin America. The cruiser is designed to serve the day-to-day transportation needs of city dwellers, and it is assembled with as many locally sourced parts and components as possible.

Based in New Jersey and Geneva, the Global Cruiser Association is partnering with nongovernmental organizations and individuals to make the cruiser the urban vehicle of choice. As of this writing the cruiser has been tested in India and Bangladesh; information gathered from those tests has been sent to GCA’s design team in China, which will use the data to incorporate design changes and modify the cruiser’s battery supply and charger unit.

The association’s goal is twofold: reduce carbon emissions in polluted, congested cities, and create employment opportunities for many small metal-working firms in the developing countries where the cruisers are built and used.

“My colleagues and I realize that quite a lot of information is being circulated, telling everyone about all the bad and worrisome things happening to our environment,” Dichter says. “Whereas such warnings are certainly useful and necessary, I feel that the activities we are engaged in are eminently practical, immediately useful, and well-focused.”

Dichter says the Global Cruiser is not only a “people mover,” but is sturdy enough to be used by tradesmen, laborers and delivery services to transport tools and goods. It can also be adapted as a public transport service along the lines of an inner-city taxi or rickshaw.

As the name indicates, the organization’s reach is global.

“We believe that our efforts will go far in encouraging city dwellers in low-income countries to adopt our environment-friendly vehicle as a principal means of urban transport, and by example help convince others throughout the world to do likewise.”

For more information, visit globalcruiser.weebly.com.

---

**Gayle Gifford** is excited to announce the release of “The Essential Fundraising Handbook for Small Nonprofits” (www.essentialfundraising-handbook), a primer by Gayle and seven experts in the field. Gayle’s chapter is on engaging your board members. Also, Gayle and a circle of class of ’75 friends gathered last November to celebrate 40 years of friendship and to remember the lives of dear Clarkies who have passed away.

---

**Steve Greenbaum** has been named a Jefferson Science Fellow for 2014-2015 by the National Academy of Sciences. He is professor of physics at Hunter College (City University of New York), executive officer of the Ph.D. program in physics at the CUNY Graduate Center, and a fellow of the American Physical Society. He was an NRC postdoctoral researcher at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., and spent sabbatical years as a Fulbright Scholar at the Weizmann Institute of Science and Senior Research Fellow at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He has held visiting professorships at Stony Brook University, Rutgers University, Tel Aviv University, University of Paris, University of Padova, and University of Rome. Dr. Greenbaum’s research involves spectroscopic studies of disordered solids by magnetic resonance and synchrotron x-ray absorption, most recently on materials for electrochemical energy storage and conversion (i.e. batteries and fuel cells). He received the NSF-sponsored 2002 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring.

---

**Ira Miller** is the men’s tennis coach at Yeshiva University in New York City. He previously coached at Fairleigh Dickinson University for 15 years, and Drew University for seven years. At Yeshiva, the team won the Skyline Conference Championship and qualified for the NCAA national team tournament. It was the first time a Yeshiva team from any sport qualified for the NCAA tourney. He writes, “It made quite a stir, primarily because, as an orthodox Jewish school, we absolutely do not play on the Jewish Sabbath.” The NCAA accommodated the team, and if the team had advanced past the second round, it would have been allowed to play its final match on a Sunday, not the scheduled Saturday. The situation was covered by a number of news outlets, including nationally on CBS News.

---

**James Dempsey, M.A. ’78,** has published “The Tortured Life of Scofield Thayer,” a biography of the Worcester native who was a leading influence in the modernist movement, and who, over his
lifetime, amassed millions of dollars’ worth of avant-garde art, much of it now on display at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. Previously an instructor at Clark and a former columnist for the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, Jim now teaches at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. His other books include “Zakary’s Zombies: A Fairy Tale,” “The Court Poetry of Geoffrey Chaucer: A Facing Page Translation in Modern English,” and “Murphy’s American Dream.”

1982

MICHELLE GREENBERG HUTCHINSON has edited more than 20 books. Her most recent is “Tides of War” by LeBron Matthews, a work of historical fiction set during the Civil War.

1983

CONSTANCE GAGER is a sociologist at Montclair State University in Montclair, N.J. She researches the division of household labor, gender inequality, and the effect of divorce and conflict on emerging adults. Currently she is completing research funded by an R03 grant from The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (part of NIH), which examines the effect of parental conflict (during childhood) on young adults’ relationship satisfaction and success. She writes, “We find that children who grew up with high parental conflict, but who had parents who later divorced, fare better in their own romantic relationships than...
their peers whose high conflict parents remained together.” In previous research, she found a link between housework and sexual frequency, showing that husbands and wives who spent more time on housework had sex more often. This research has been profiled in The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times’ Freakonomics blog, and most recently in The Washington Post and TIME. Gager’s latest research will focus on the “purposely single,” whom she describes as “those who choose to remain single.”

1984
ERIC ALEXANDER VOS has been selected to serve as the Federal Public Defender for the District of Puerto Rico. He has worked with the Federal Defenders’ Offices since 1996, first as a trial attorney with the Federal Defender for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for ten years and subsequently as an Assistant Federal Defender in the District of Maine for three years. Since October 2009, Vos has been an Attorney Advisor at the Defender Services Office, Legal Policy & Training Division, where he traveled to dozens of Federal Defenders’ offices, including Puerto Rico, to provide training tailored to local needs of both Federal Defenders and Criminal Justice Act panel members.

1985
MIKE ROSENZWEIG, advanced instructor in the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Science at Virginia Tech, has received the university’s 2014 Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence. In addition to teaching core undergraduate courses for the department, including teaching Principles of Biology to approximately 300 life science majors each semester, since 2001 he has directed the Biological Sciences Outreach Program, which supports K-12 outreach education and encourages the growth of K-12 participation in research. He also co-founded Seek Education, Explore, DiScover (SEEDS), a community education nonprofit organization located in Blacksburg, Va. Mike earned his master’s and doctoral degrees from Virginia Tech.

1993
KYLE T. BRUNEL spent some years in Boston after graduating from Clark, putting himself through architecture school, and then departed for the West Coast to continue his design career. He has worked for large and small firms on a wide variety of buildings and is now designing a Student Health and Research Clinic building for Touro University. He writes, “I pursue my passion for art as the artist-in-residence for a local community center and love the challenge and delight that comes from raising two young children in the heart of San Francisco. Every once in a while I will pick up a residential side job, just to keep my finger on the pulse of what drives American domestic culture. I am enjoying seeing Clark flourish under the leadership of President Angel.”

1994
TIMOTHY REIDY writes a monthly column for metroland.net, based in Albany, N.Y. He was voted third top “Local Arts Hero” in the site’s 2014 Readers’ Best contest.

1997
WILLIAM S. BENNETT, M.P.A. ’97, is senior development officer for Wellesley College and was just recertified as a Certified Fund Raising Executive by Certified Fund Raising Executive International. He joins more than 5,300 professionals around the world who hold this designation, having met a series of standards set by CFRE International, which include tenure in the profession, education, demonstrated fundraising achievement and a commitment to service to not-for-profit organizations. He also passed a rigorous written examination testing his knowledge, skills, and abilities, and has agreed to uphold Accountability Standards and the Donor Bill of Rights.

Fallon Health appointed KRISTINE BOSTEK, M.H.A. ’97, as vice president and executive director of Summit ElderCare, a Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). Kristine is responsible for strategic planning, policy advocacy, clinical operations and program growth. Prior to joining Fallon, she was senior director of communications and business development at UHealthSolutions and held key positions at UnitedHealthcare as director of operations of the Customer Care Center and strategic account execu-
FROM CLARK, TO THE CAPITOL, TO CITY HALL

Rebecca Kirszner Katz ’97, Special Advisor to New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, might not be where she is today if she had attended another university.

“Here’s the thing about Clark,” she says. “All my life I’ve struggled with learning disabilities. I went to a big public high school in Philadelphia; I’m a pretty assertive person, and I always knew that I could make my voice heard — but at Clark I didn’t have to shout.”

“Categorizing people isn’t something we do here” — the Clark motto that was ubiquitous in the ’80s and ’90s — first attracted Katz to the University. “I wanted to start somewhere where everybody was welcomed to the table and everybody was being challenged. Creativity comes from all different directions, and all different corners. I think Clark is a place that realized that.” Her professors, she added, recognized that even if students have disabilities in one area, they might thrive in another.

Katz began her studies intending to be a teacher. But a comment from government Professor Bradley Klein set her on a different path.

“You realize you’re a political junkie and need to go into politics, right?” Klein said to her.

With encouragement from government Professor Mark Miller, Katz spent a semester in Washington, D.C. interning for Congressman Chaka Fattah, who represented her district in Philadelphia. The internship went so well that Katz lined up a job in Fattah’s office even before she graduated from Clark with a degree in government and a minor in sociology. She worked both in D.C. and in Philadelphia while earning her master’s in government administration from the University of Pennsylvania.

By 2005, after years working on campaigns across the country, Katz returned to D.C. to be communications director for Sen. Harry Reid, the Senate’s Democratic leader. One day, Reid was doing radio interviews and dialing the phone numbers that Katz read to him. “I kept reading the numbers wrong because I’m dyslexic,” she recalls. Reid asked if she had a learning disability.

“I was mortified,” Katz says. “I tried to figure out which was worse, to admit it or not.” She told him that she did.

“He looked at me and said, without missing a beat, ‘You must have worked twice as hard as everyone else to get where you are today.’ It was one of those moments where you realize that you don’t have to be ashamed. And from then on, I’ve tried to destigmatize some of these special needs.”

Katz spent several years as a consultant for Hilltop Public Solutions in New York, working on a number of political races, most notably de Blasio’s successful mayoral run. She returned to government as his special adviser, dealing with communications strategy, special projects, and long-term planning.

The political communications job has changed significantly since that internship with Rep. Fattah, when Katz would spend an entire day faxing press releases to community newspapers. Those press releases now do their job only if they’re on a website linked to and from other sources, like Twitter. “If you can’t say in 140 characters what you would say in a press release, your message might not be getting through,” she says.

“It’s very rewarding to work for someone you really believe in,” Katz says of de Blasio. “I work for a mayor whose big initiative is universal pre-kindergarten. That’s a very important issue to me, personally. You can find problems kids are having early, and treat them before they get sidetracked. Early intervention is key.”

Katz insists her own learning issues don’t create any barriers these days because of the confidence she gained at Clark.

“Clark professors believed in me, and I had an amazing group of friends,” she says. “It was a wonderful place, and it put me on track to be the person I am today.”

You can follow Rebecca Kirszner Katz on Twitter at @RebeccaKKatz
thrilled that she is happy and healthy! N.J. Ina and Bruce Schachne (a.k.a. “Dad”) are Lisa Willers was born on April 5, 2014, in Summit, INA WILLERS Mass., with her family. and serves on the board of directors for Children’s tive. Kristine is a certified health insurance executive and serves on the board of directors for Children’s Friend in Worcester, Mass., with her family.

1998 KIM DOUGHERTY has been recognized among the nation’s top lawyers under age 40 by the National Trial Lawyers and was invited to join NTL’s “Top 40 Under 40” professional organization, which represents outstanding young lawyers in a state or region. A personal injury lawyer at Janet, Jenner & Suggs, LLC in Boston, Dougherty is president-elect of the Women’s Bar Association of Massachusetts. She manages the firm’s Boston office and focuses her practice on pharmaceutical and medical device mass torts. Dougherty also serves on the executive board for the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys and chairs its Women’s Caucus, and is on the Board of Governors for the American Association for Justice. She has been named among Top Women of Law for 2013 by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, and a New England Rising Star by Super Lawyers.

INA WILLERS is excited to announce that Isabella Lisa Willers was born on April 5, 2014, in Summit, N.J. Ina and Bruce Schachne (a.k.a. “Dad”) are thrilled that she is happy and healthy!

1999 OMAR POM has been accepted by both the University of Amsterdam and the Utrecht University to pursue a master’s degree in literary studies. He will begin Utrecht University’s M.A. in Literary and Cultural Criticism program in September 2015. He will also complete ongoing projects at a middle and high school on Dutch St. Maarten, where he has been employed since 2007.

ERICA ROUNSEFELL ’99, M.A. ’01, is posted to the U. S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan. She is a foreign service officer for USAID and recently completed a two-year tour in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia.

2004 THOMAS WHITE and Michelle White welcomed a daughter, Sariyah, on Jan. 12, 2014.

MARGARET BETHRAY SWINSON presented a paper on gothic symbolism, gender crises and 1950s medicine in Sylvia Plath’s poem “The Hanging Man” at an academic conference held at Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, England. The paper was published as a chapter in “Twenty-first-century Gothic,” (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010), which is available in most bookshops and on Amazon. Clark English Professor Lou Bastien assisted with redrafting the piece for publication.

2005 TREVOR G. JONES, ’05, M.A. ’06, is a geospatial analyst with Blue Ventures, a science-led social enterprise that works with coastal communities to develop transformative approaches for nurturing and sustaining locally led marine conservation. Based in Vancouver, he is the lead author of “Ecological Variability and Carbon Stock Estimates of Mangrove Ecosystems in Northwestern Madagascar,” published in the January 2014 issue of the journal Forests. Trevor earned his Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia.

2006 CAROLYN FINNEY, PH.D. ’06, has published “Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors.” As a professor in environmental science, policy and management at the College of Natural Resources at the University of California, Berkeley, she explores how issues of difference affect participation in decision-making processes regarding environmental matters. She also serves as chair of the Relevancy Committee on the U.S. National Parks Advisory Board that works to assist the National Park Service engage in relations of reciprocity with diverse communities.

2009 KATHLEEN MAZZA-CURLL was published in the May 2014 issue of Current Biology. She works with postdoctoral fellow Mansi Srivastava, studying regeneration in invertebrates in the Reddien Lab at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Mass.

NAOMI CHER ’09, M.A.T. ’10, a teacher in Florida, has launched Squidget Inc., a technology startup that is producing a device to help people “transform wasted fidgeting energy into creative productivity.” The Squidget is a palm-sized, handheld device with seven options that are virtually noiseless, each that replicates the most common fidgeting habits like pen-clicking, hair-twirling and pencil rolling, in a way that calms and creates mental focus. Naomi created the first Squidget as a high school sophomore to east pre-test anxiety. She and business partner Jerry Snee Jr. are marketing the device as an effective tool for people with ADHD, autism and Down’s syndrome. Learn more about Squidgets at squidgetinc.com.

2010 ELISSA SJOVALL is in recovery after receiving a heart transplant in November 2013 due to viral myocarditis. Her surgery was performed at the Shapiro Center at Brigham & Women’s Hospital in Boston. She planned to return to her job search mid-2014.

2011 ELIZABETH DECASSE graduated from Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass., on May 17, 2014, with a master’s degree in expressive arts therapies, specializing in mental health counseling.
PASSINGS

RUSSELL W. HIGGINBOTTOM '33
Lawrenceville, N.J., 5/18/2014

JOSEPH N. GOFF '38, M.A. '39

LEROY N. HASTINGS '43
Derby, Vt., 1/27/2014

ELLIO T J. STONE '43
Palm Beach, Fla., 1/27/2014

DOROTHY C. (COTZIN) ETINGOFF '46
West Palm Beach, Fla., 7/3/2014

FRANK A. PAPALE '47
Hampton, N.H., 2/14/2014

JOSEPH G. SULLO '47
Waterbury, Conn., 1/6/2014

THELMA (ROSENLOF) HANSEN '48
La Grande, Ore., 4/5/2014

JULIUS PRAGLIN '48
Waterloo, Iowa, 5/9/2014

DR. STEPHEN H. BAKER '49, ED. D. '73
Auburn, Mass., 12/8/2013

DAVID B. DAVIDIAN '49
West Yarmouth, Mass., 3/12/2014

GEORGE R. KAPLAN, M.A. '49
Rockville, Md., 2/14/2014

EDWARD MONDORE '50
Loudonville, N.Y., 4/17/2014

JOHN E. NORTON '50
Worcester, Mass., 7/7/2014

ALLAN S. DAVIS '51
Strasburg, Va., 1/17/2014

RICHARD E. DWYER '51
Dalton, Mass., 5/18/2014

HILDRETH C. BAILEY '52
Naples, Fla., 2/9/2014

DAVID E. SAU YER '53
Portsmouth, N.H., 7/9/2014

M ARILYN (NYLIN) BROOKS '53
Worcester, Mass., 7/20/2014

BEVERLY (HASLAM) MORRISON '53
Essex Junction, Vt., 4/25/2014

JOHN B. STANICK '54
Webster, Mass., 6/5/2014

JOAN W. (GANNON) DEAN '55
Cromwell, Conn., 2/20/2014

ARA P. HEROIAN '55

NATHANIEL A. SHAPIRA '55
Surrey, B.C., 3/11/2014

MARJORIE A. ROBERTSON '56
Estes Park, Colo., 4/28/2014

ROY F. GRANDONE '58
Barre, Mass., 1/29/2014

FREDERIC L. STEELE '58
Fort Myers, Fla., 2/6/2014

WILLIAM A. HUTCHINSON '58, M.A. '59
Amherst, Mass., 2/19/2014

WILLIAM L. SHAROS '60
Fitchburg, Mass., 1/23/2014

ANN F. (MARTIN) SHEARER '61
Durham, N.C., 4/27/2014

PAUL V. RUTLEDGE '68

STEPH EN H. GOLDBERG '69
Plymouth, Mass., 1/15/2014

MARY GIOBELLINA GORETTI '50
of Paxton passed away on May 14, 2014. Mary was featured in the Fall 2010 issue of the CLARK alumni magazine in a story about the early days of women’s basketball on campus.

DONALD C. HOKANSON '69
Fredericksburg, Va., 3/20/2014

STEPH EN H. HOWE, M.B.A. '73
North Brookfield, Mass., 2/22/2014

ISABELLA (“BELLE”) V. CHA TE '74
Littleton, Mass., 6/29/2014

LEON D. PUPPI '75
Narragansett, R.I., 3/15/2014

ELISE JACQUES GROMBACH '80
Zurich, Switzerland, 3/23/2014

VALENCIA ROBINSON-COLEMAN '84
Saginaw, Mich., 5/7/2013

REBECCA M. MOLHOLT VANEL '92
Paris, France, 7/12/2014

KRYSTIN (BEDARD) KITCHEL '03
Cheshire, Conn., 1/12/2014

SONA DOLAN, PH.D. '03
Belchertown, Mass., 2/16/2014
A weekend to remember

1. Clark grads are all smiles as they proceed to the commencement ceremony.  
2. Emma Pierson ’14, who delivered the Senior Address, earns a congratulatory hug.  
3. A Clarkie spots family in the audience at the graduate school ceremonies inside the Kneller Athletic Center.  
4. A diploma, a bouquet, and a free ride — all in all, a good day.  
5. Commencement speaker Ron Shaich ’76, founder and CEO of Panera Bread, offers words of advice and encouragement for the newest generation of Clark alumni.  
6. Cynthia Enloe (r.), research professor in the International Development, Community, and Environment Department and an honorary degree recipient, receives congratulations from Margarete Arndt, professor of management.
7. Peter Klein ’64 receives a surprise birthday present at the Reunion Dinner. He and his wife, Andrea, were honored with the Distinguished Service Award. Scott Zoback ’04, M.P.A. ’05, received the Young Alumni Award.  
8. Jayne Bliss received the Fiat Lux Award for exemplary service to Clark by a Legacy Society member. She is pictured with President David Angel and her cousins, Leah and Allan Rabinowitz.  
9. Scott Rechler ’89, chairman and CEO of RXR Realty, delivers the Reunion Dinner speech.  
10. The Clark Bars celebrated 25 years of a cappella entertainment.  
11. Photo time with friends.  
12. Reed Powell ’10, M.B.A.’13, and his mother, Lynnel Reed-Powell ’80, at the Legacy Society Luncheon, where Reed spoke.  
13. There’s nothing quite like a selfie with Sigmund.
DONALD KRUEGER, professor emeritus of studio art, died on Aug. 3, 2014, in Cazenovia, N.Y.

Krueger and his black Labrador, Spartacus, were a popular sight on the Clark campus during his tenure. Along with teaching, he served as chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department at different times during the 1980s and ’90s.

“In many ways the current Studio Art Program at Clark University owes its existence to Professor Donald Krueger,” says Professor Elli Crocker, the program’s director. “Prior to 1980, he essentially was the Studio Art Program at Clark, but he had a vision of building a true major and worked diligently to put together a faculty and a course of study that could rival art departments at much larger institutions that had benefited from long-standing support for the arts. … His emphasis was always on the artist as ‘thinker’; therefore he felt that the study of art within the context of a classical liberal arts curriculum was ideal. In so many ways his legacy is still actively felt at Clark, and for this we are profoundly grateful.”

His large stature, bald head, booming voice, and propensity to wear black made him an imposing presence, Crocker recalls. “In the classroom, he was both feared and revered, and he cultivated a reputation among students for brutal honesty in critique, tempered with large doses of encouragement and intellectual challenge.”

In a Facebook post, Pam Spielberg ’83 recalled taking Krueger’s Illustration 101 course: “His reputation preceded him, and my fellow students shook in their seats when our first illustration assignment critique began. It was exactly what we were braced for — brutally honest and highly spirited. He tore stuff off the walls and asked questions like ‘What, exactly, were you thinking?’ I loved every minute of his classes. He taught us that life — and a career in art — isn’t sugar-coated.”

Born in Tulsa, Okla., Donald Krueger attended the University of Kansas City, Kansas City Art Institute and Rhode Island School of Design, earning a bachelor of fine arts and a master of fine arts in painting at Kansas and a master of science in professional art education at RISD. After art school, he worked from 1946 through 1948 with an Army engineering unit during the occupation of Japan.

Krueger worked as a self-employed painter, sculptor and designer before landing his first professional teaching position in 1955 at Southwestern College. He spent the remainder of his life teaching — 46 years at colleges and universities across the country before his retirement from Clark in 1994. He later wrote a column for the Madison County Courier, “The Cazenovia Curmudgeon,” in which he shined a spotlight on any number of controversial issues — from fracking to football concussions.

ELISE JACQUES GROMBACH ’80 died of cancer in Switzerland on March 23, 2014. Her friend Thea Paneth ’80 writes:

“I met Elise in 1976 when we lived in Bullcock Hall. Elise recruited me to my first political meeting. A group was forming called Native American Solidarity Committee (convened by the late John O’Connor ’78). Four of us organized a teach-in at Clark on American Indians in the spring of 1976.

As we live our lives we don’t know who will travel with us except as it happens. I would not have expected that Elise and I would stay in touch all these years, as we did. It just happened she always kept in touch and let me know where to reach her and we saw each other every few years.

I knew the major milestones of her life. She decided to become a lawyer, and graduated from Stanford Law School.

She met Stefan Grombach from Switzerland and found true love and was happy. She moved to Switzerland in her early forties. While at Clark, Elise got involved with MassPIRG, which spurred a life-long concern about our environment. She ran a summer program for kids in the city of Worcester (Summersworld), and worked with the Clark Tutoring Project.

She told me about her new project in Zurich, figuring out how to teach Swiss children to read and write English. Kids learn to speak English in school, but reading and writing not so much. She said that they were teaching reading and writing using just play and fantasy and that the project had taken off like gangbusters. I asked her if she had figured it out all herself — how to do it — and she said she had.

I love that! It shows who she was so clearly. She saw something fun and positive she could make happen and she made it happen.

Elise taught me a great deal with her head-on approach to life. She had beauty, brains and courage.”
Fern Johnson joins the retirement club

When she joined the Clark University faculty as provost and vice president for academic affairs in 1988, Fern Johnson knew she was the first woman to be appointed to the University’s top academic office. She didn’t realize she’d be breaking down other doors as well.

“All of Clark’s vice presidents were provided a membership in either The Worcester Club or the Tatnuck Country Club, and ordinarily a new vice president would simply choose. But membership in these private organizations was restricted to men,” Johnson recalls. “This was 1988, not 1958.”

Johnson, who retired in May, ultimately became the first woman member of The Worcester Club after its then-president Tony Tilton, who was chair of Clark’s Board of Trustees, brought the question of women membership to a vote.

“I vividly recall walking into my first general membership meeting as the only woman. Every head turned my way as I took a seat. Much to my relief, a number of women soon became members,” Johnson says.

Her Clark welcome wasn’t nearly as tenuous, but she noticed a similarity in that the institution at that time was also “very old style.”

“I remember one of my first realizations was that there had been absolutely zero planning for the change in demographics that would affect admissions. I’d come from an institution [UMass Amherst] where that had been on a radar screen in the long-range plans for at least five years; the change in cultural diversity would come down like a ton of bricks on institutions that primarily had white students, whether they were male or female.” One of her first initiatives as a Clark administrator was to transform Admissions into a more modern, outward-looking, data-sensitive department.

Despite the challenge, Johnson says she was “enthralled by the intellectual caliber of Clark — the student-faculty relations at the undergraduate level, and the whole culture of academic, intellectual discourse, and interdisciplinary connections.” She also enjoyed being involved in Clark’s first major development campaign, which was “a great start to building a sophisticated and greatly needed fundraising program for the University.”

During her six years as provost, Clark experienced a high turnover in faculty; professors who had been hired to teach the baby boomers were retiring. “Reinvigorating the faculty, and doing it through a process of academic priorities, was something that I felt was both a key challenge and a key accomplishment,” Johnson says.

In about five years, she notes, the faculty changed by close to 50 percent.

“It was a very dynamic time in terms of comings and goings,” she says. “The departments do the hard work of recruiting people, but the provost sets the priorities, along with the faculty governance process.”

Clark faculty are much more involved in fundamental processes beyond their academic work than are faculty at other institutions, Johnson says. “Clark really is an institution that models the ideals of shared governance between faculty and the administration. It means faculty members have more work, and they sometimes grumble about that. But that comes with the territory — and in the long run I think you would find very few faculty members who would want it any other way.”

A sociolinguist, Johnson was tenured in the English Department. “In some ways, I was an odd duck,” she says. “I didn’t fit exactly into a groove. Clark had an interdisciplinary concentration in communication studies and the head of that concentration happened to be in the English Department.”

Professor Virginia Vaughan, then chair of the English Department, led the search committee that brought Johnson to Clark, and thought that the new provost belonged in her department. “That was fine with me,” Johnson says. “As an undergraduate I was in English, although I didn’t study literature as a grad student. I was more of a social scientist. I was certainly very mixed in the kinds of work I did. Sociolinguists are interdisciplinary by nature.”

During her tenure, Johnson taught courses in language and culture, gender and discourse, culture and advertising, and language policy, as well as the introductory course for the communication and culture concentration (which became a major in the mid-1990s). She also helped create the doctoral program in women’s studies — the first such program in the United States. Though it is no longer in existence, Johnson notes the program “had an amazing interdisciplinary faculty, and graduated stellar Ph.D.s.”

In retirement, Johnson hopes to focus on more “nonacademic” writing projects for the general public. She and her partner, Marlene Fine, published “The Interracial Adoption Option” in 2013, partly based on their own experience as adoptive parents of two African-American boys. “We got more publicity from that book than all of the academic books combined,” she laughs.

“I also want to do some things that are very different; I’ll sort out what those might be,” she says. “Retirement gives you the flexibility to think way outside the box.”
(From left) Professors Stéphanie Larrieux, Scott Hendricks, Betsy Huang and Esther Jones.
Close encounters of the learned kind

For more than a century, if a science fiction book was read in a college classroom, it likely was hidden behind a textbook or secretly propped open under a desktop. These days, however, the popular genre is no longer an alien subject in academia.

Four professors have created a vibrant new learning community at Clark to explore the expanding world of science fiction literature and cinema and how the genre relates to real human themes. The Science Fiction Research Collaborative is led by Betsy Huang, professor of English; Scott Hendricks, associate professor of philosophy; Esther Jones, assistant professor of English; and Stéphanie Larrieux, assistant professor of screen studies.

“Up until recent decades, science fiction was rarely taught in colleges. It was considered formulaic, derivative,” says Huang, who also is Chief Officer of Diversity and Inclusion at Clark. She says science fiction began to attract serious consideration by a few well-known scholars about 20 years ago. Coupled with the cyberpunk movement of the early ‘80s (think of the noir film “Blade Runner” or the novel “Neuromancer”) and a devoted fan base, the genre gathered broad appeal and attracted serious study.

“The cross-disciplinary collaborations within the SFRC are key to the uniqueness of this collective,” Jones says. “We have two literary scholars, one philosopher, and one film and TV scholar. All of these fields approach science fiction with different methodologies; it has been extremely enriching to see how our respective disciplines open up the field of discussion on social and political issues in ways that, like the genre, are highly flexible and innovative.”

Jones’ work focuses on medical ethics in science fiction. “The ‘mad scientist’ figure, for example, is a longstanding image utilized in science fiction to investigate the ethical, social, and sometimes legal implications of the advancement of medical technology,” she says.

Hendricks points out that science fiction is often thought to center on fantasy and themes far removed from everyday, contemporary or “real world” concerns. “On the contrary,” he says, “the very best science fiction brings into sharp focus very real issues — issues concerning political injustice, war, genocide, the nature of consciousness and the mind, what it means to be a person, the role of technology in our lives, and pretty much anything else one can think of about which we typically worry.”

All of the collaborative’s faculty members are interested in illuminating the international and social-political elements of the genre, Huang notes. “It’s a great teaching tool, addressing the implications of cultural and biological difference, colonization, empire, slavery — big topics.”

Out of this world
We asked our four professors to select some of their favorite science fiction novels, movies and TV shows. These are some of the titles that were repeated on those lists.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOVIES</th>
<th>TV</th>
<th>BOOKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blade Runner</td>
<td>The Twilight Zone</td>
<td>Frankenstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alien</td>
<td>Battlestar Galactica</td>
<td>1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>The X-Files</td>
<td>Dune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children of Men</td>
<td>Star Trek (in several iterations)</td>
<td>Neuromancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolis</td>
<td>Firefly</td>
<td>Childhood’s End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Monkeys</td>
<td>Game of Thrones</td>
<td>The works of Octavia Butler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Matrix</td>
<td>Lost</td>
<td>The works of Philip K. Dick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The program includes such courses as Science Fiction and the Mind of the Other, Aliens and Others in Science Fiction, and Studies in Contemporary Fiction: Literary Speculations.

“My students and I read monster and alien encounter narratives to examine complex constructions of the human, the subhuman, and the superhuman — classifications that have been used to rationalize social inequalities,” Huang says. “The genre’s favored tropes and icons — the monster, the extraterrestrial, the robot and the cyborg, for instance — are powerful metaphors for the different, the feared, and the oppressed.”

The Science Fiction Research Collaborative began as an effort to understand the humanities from all disciplines, funded as part of a $600,000 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant to support Humanities Present, an initiative of the Higgins School of Humanities.

A daylong symposium is planned for spring 2015, with three sessions outlined so far: Medical Ethics & Science Fiction (led by Jones); Theory of Mind (Hendricks); and Race, Science Fiction and Film (Huang and Larrieux).

“Philip K. Dick says that science fiction ‘has always been a protest medium,’ and I quite agree,” Huang says. “I’ve always been interested in how science fiction and ethnic studies share similar critical idioms. Both deal with the construction of otherness, the conflicts that arise as multiple cultural groups attempt to co-exist, the challenges of colonization and migration, and the implications of the resulting cultural and biological hybridizations.”

Larrieux adds, “The interdisciplinary training and interests of the members of the collective, in combination with the range of methodological approaches we each take in examining the genre, create a rich landscape of intellectual engagement that is ripe with opportunities for the cross-pollination of new ideas.

“Ideas, after all, are what the genre is all about.”

By Jane Salerno
Five new members join Board of Trustees

The Clark University Board of Trustees appointed four new members on July 1, and welcomed a familiar face back for another term.

New members are Jason M. Barnett ’90 of Irvington, N.Y., Vickie H. Riccardo, P ’17, of Darien, Conn., and Wendi G. Trilling ’86 of Los Angeles, who were appointed to six-year terms, and Mona Domosh ’79, M.A. ’83, Ph.D. ’85, of Lebanon, N.H., who was elected by her fellow alumni for a six-year term. Former board member Robert J. Stevenish, P ’86, of Norwalk, Conn., was appointed to a term of six years.

The board also reappointed Robert J. Stevenish II ’86 and Peter D. Klein ’64, both of whom will serve for four more years.

Jason Barnett is a founding managing partner of RXR Realty LLC, where he serves as vice chairman, general counsel, and secretary of the company. In addition to being responsible for all legal and compliance matters, Barnett oversees transactional activities and corporate initiatives. He is also the senior executive vice president, general counsel and member of the board of directors of RNY Property Trust, a public real estate company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange. Barnett is a member of the American Bar Association, National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, and Real Estate Board of New York, and is admitted to the Bar of the State of New York. He attended the London School of Economics and earned his Juris Doctor from Emory University School of Law.

Mona Domosh is The Joan P. and Edward J. Foley, Jr. Professor in the Department of Geography at Dartmouth College, where she has been on the faculty since 2000. From 2010 to 2013, she served as chair of the department. Dr. Domosh is a cultural-historical geographer, with research interests in early (pre-1920) United States-based globalization; examining in what ways ideas of femininity, masculinity, consumption, and “whiteness” played into American empire-building during the late 19th and early 20th centuries; understanding the connections between gender, class and the cultural formation of large American cities in the 19th century; and exploring feminist perspectives in relationship to matters of space and place. She has authored, co-authored or co-edited six books and more than 50 chapters and articles in academic journals. In April 2014, Dr. Domosh was elected president of the American Association of Geographers, a national organization that serves more than 10,000 members. Dr. Domosh and her husband reside in Lebanon, N.H.

Vickie Riccardo has degrees from William & Mary (B.A. ’76), Rutgers University (M.L.S. ’80) and Rutgers Law School (J.D. ’86). She is a retired attorney who has a lengthy history of public service in Darien, Conn. Riccardo was a member of Darien’s elected Representative Town Meeting from 1999-2006, where she served on several committees. She served as chairman of the town’s Charter Revision Commission (2006-2008), and was elected to the Planning and Zoning Commission in 2009. In 2012, she joined Darien’s Environmental Protection Commission, and has served as its chairman since 2013. Riccardo is interested in education and advocacy for children with special needs. Riccardo previously worked as a securities lawyer for The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, and was an associate in the New Jersey law firm of Manger, Kalison, Murphy & McBride. She also worked as the corporate law librarian for The Prudential Insurance Company of America, while completing her M.L.S. and J.D. degrees. She and her husband have two daughters. The younger is a Clark University student.

Robert Stevenish is the retired president and COO of Modell’s Sporting Goods in New York City. Prior to this appointment, he served as CEO of Trilegiant Corporation and as a senior executive at other major retailers such as Montgomery Ward and JC Penney, where he spent 27 years in senior management positions. Stevenish is the chairman of the Audit Committee of Myron Corporation. He also serves on the board of directors for TZP Group, The Edelweiss Fund - Zurich, and Stew Leonard’s. Previously, he served on the boards of Modell’s Sporting Goods, One Price Clothing Stores, Fedco Retail Stores, Vitesse Limousine and Air Charter Corporation, and the Retail Industry Leaders Association. He has served as a consultant of Vantage Group LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Goldman Sachs Inc., and currently is a consultant to DeMatteo Monness LLC. He and his wife Isabella have two grown children and live in Norwalk, Conn.

Wendi Trilling graduated with a B.A. in screen studies from Clark University in 1986. She has served as the Executive Vice President, Comedy Development at CBS Entertainment in Los Angeles since 2004. She is the programming executive responsible for developing the network’s most successful comedies, including “Everybody Loves Raymond,” “The King of Queens,” “Two and a Half Men,” “The Big Bang Theory,” and “How I Met Your Mother,” among others. Trilling serves as event committee chair for The Alliance for Children’s Rights “Right to Laugh” annual comedy event. She is also involved with Food Allergy Research and Education and the PS1 Pluralistic School. She and her husband Stephen have twin sons and reside in Los Angeles.
WHEN HE WAS ABOUT ten years old, Sandy Fries ’76 was asked what he wanted to be when he grew up. A fireman? Doctor? Lawyer?
No, he told his inquisitor, “I want to be Walter Cronkite.”
Fries didn’t become the renowned news anchor, but he did learn what went into creating a Cronkite newscast. As an NBC Fellow at the Columbia University School of Journalism, Fries (rhymes with freeze”) wrote a master’s thesis documenting the work involved in producing the CBS Evening News. His master’s adviser was Fred Friendly, former president of the network.
“Mr. Friendly got me access that has never happened, before or after,” Fries says. He met directors and producers, and had reporters in other countries recording what they were doing in one 24-hour period to create a Cronkite newscast. “There were all sorts of heavy-duty stories going on that day, and based on me being there and doing interviews, and CBS reporters from all over the world giving me notes, I put together a day in the life of the Cronkite newscast.”
In March, Fries released “The Army Behind the Most Trusted Man in America,” an e-book, which is his thesis with added chapters devoted to the current state of news coverage. “While there is some terrific news being done today, things have declined quite a bit in terms of power and quality,” he says. “Studies have shown that the majority of college-aged students get most of their news from Jon Stewart on Comedy Central. Stewart is a great guy, and very clever, but he’s a satirist, not a journalist. That’s troubling.”

An associate professor of mass communication and writing at the College of Dupage in Chicago, Fries has written books, magazine articles and episodes of television shows including “Quantum Leap,” “Fame,” and “Thundercats,” along with more than 100 produced scripts for the big three television networks — earning an Emmy nomination for his writing. “Everything I’ve done is mass-communication oriented — journalism, TV writing. It’s all about communicating with huge numbers of people.”
Fries communicated with an exceptionally large number of viewers as a staff writer for “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” recently voted by the Writers’ Guild of America as one of the 101 best-written television shows of all time. He also co-wrote a “Star Trek” novel and was a story editor on ten of the series’ video games — one of which starred William Shatner, whom Fries describes as a “smart, generous, really cool guy.”

Fries learned from Clark Professor James Beard that “writing is only important if it connects with the reader,” and that includes writing for television. He says “Star Trek” creator Gene Roddenberry stressed powerful storytelling with compelling themes surrounding forgiveness, death, and tenacity against bleak odds. But Roddenberry also reminded his writers that their first priority was to make people want to watch the show.

“So throw in the phaser battles and the Klingons battling the Enterprise and all that — otherwise nobody’s going to watch,” Fries recalls Roddenberry saying. “He was completely correct about that.”
Fries even inserted a bit of Clark into the “Star Trek” universe. “When I was at Clark, I wrote a short story about a society in the future where the cultural norm was that everybody was incredibly rude and brusque with each other,” he recalls. “However, there was a top-secret underground group that was very, very polite. They would have secret meetings where they read Louisa May Alcott and drank milk and were very polite to each other. It was kind of a satirical look at the future.”
The story was never published, but years later Fries used it as the basis for one of his “Star Trek” storylines. “I created a character, Mordock the Benzite, who was a complete jerk; he thought that politeness was false, and a weakness. He came out of the short story that I wrote at Clark.” The Benzites appeared in later episodes, and Mordock even earned his own action figure.

At Clark, Fries wrote for The Scarlet, was on the air for WCUW and led the Speakers’ Forum. He’s proud of having brought a variety of impressive people to campus, including actress Cicely Tyson, Bugs Bunny animator Chuck Jones, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David Halberstam and presidential candidate Jimmy Carter. He interviewed the speakers for The Scarlet and WCUW while they were on campus. “That was one of the coolest things about Clark. If you wanted to do something, you could do it,” he says.
Fries recently visited campus during a visit to Massachusetts. “It took me back to when I was a student, and I remembered what my dreams and goals were then. I was measuring my life based on if I had achieved those goals. To a very significant degree, Clark helped me succeed.”
And in television-writer fashion, he calls stepping into his old dorm room “a Twilight Zone-like experience.”

“The Army Behind the Most Trusted Man in America” is available as an e-book at amazon.com.
LEEP Fellows tailor some memorable projects

The LEEP Fellows (formerly Pioneers) initiative this summer gave about 90 Clark University students an opportunity to conduct field research, work with emergency room patients and exercise their entrepreneurial muscles, among many other endeavors. With the help of faculty, staff and mentors, as well as alumni and business partners, they turned abstract concepts into tangible accomplishments. Here’s a sampling of this year’s projects:

**FASHION SUITS HIM**

Nick Gerber ’15 remembers that when his mother would take him shopping for clothes, he was so picky she would toss up her hands and declare, “This is impossible.”

He chuckles at the memory, but he does so while showing an interviewer his original menswear designs on his laptop. Using Adobe Illustrator he’s created two custom shirts, two pairs of jeans and a pair of dress pants that as of this writing were being made in preparation for the Oct. 24 Fall Fest. His pickiness, it seems, is paying off.

A comparative politics major with an entrepreneurship minor, Gerber missed the second semester of his first year at Clark following the removal of a non-cancerous growth in his sinuses. While recovering, he took a fashion illustration course at a community college near his home in Santa Fe, N.M., and later worked for the professor in his tailoring shop.

To create his line of clothing, Gerber had to track down fabric suppliers — for instance, finding a company in North Carolina that manufactures high-quality denim. Then he had to find someone willing to turn that fabric into samples, a frustrating process for someone with no industry recognition. He estimated that he made 40 unreturned phone calls to the fashion hotbeds of New York and Los Angeles before finding a Worcester tailor who had the equipment, and, just as importantly, the enthusiasm, to make the clothes.

“Clothing is something we engage with every day, and the way it’s engineered affects us pretty dramatically,” Gerber says. “Also, there are many (fashion) seasons, so clothing is always changing — to the consumer, that’s terrible because you’re always out of fashion, but to the designer this is really fun. Every season is something totally new.”

Gerber can speak with authority on everything from the appropriateness of pant cuffs to the origin of skinny jeans to the history of denim. He insists that it’s not significantly more expensive to make products in the United States because money is saved by avoiding tariffs, manufacturing errors and shipping snafus. “Making things in the U.S. does not blow you out of the water price wise. That’s an old misconception,” he says.

Gerber is pondering his postgraduate options. He prefer to stick with the creative side and leave the business aspects to someone else.

“There’s a lot of room for this to expand to a business after Clark, but it will take finding the right network and dedicated people.”

**PUT THE PATIENT FIRST**

The woman in the Bellevue Hospital emergency room wept from the persistent pain in her legs as she waited to be seen. Fortunately, she had Rezwana Hoque ’15 by her side to make the experience bearable and to be her advocate with the busy medical staff.

Hoque urged the woman not to focus on the discomfort, but rather to talk about other topics that would provide a needed distraction.

“Making things in the U.S. does not blow you out of the water price wise. That’s an old misconception,” he says.

Hoque urges the woman not to focus on the discomfort, but rather to talk about her home life and other topics that would provide a needed distraction.

“I learned about her; that she had a niece and that she used to work in social services. I think it helped her to talk about positive things,” says Hoque, who also made sure the woman stayed on the doctors’ radar and that her wait was as manageable as possible.
The human aspect of medicine can sometimes be lost to science and technology, but Bellevue’s Project Health Care sought to remedy that by giving 51 college and university students from across the country the opportunity to interact with patients and physicians. Hoque was selected from a pool of 800 applicants to work in various departments including emergency, pediatric and psychiatric care, as well as social services. The PHC initiative is overseen by Dr. Lewis Goldfrank ’63, director of emergency medical services at the renowned New York hospital.

Hoque, who aspires to a career as a physician’s assistant, was exposed to much of what a bustling public health center has to offer — alcoholism, homelessness, mental illness. She calmed an agitated psychiatric patient, sat in on an interview with a man suffering from bipolar disorder, and observed the removal of a basketball-sized tumor from a patient’s hip. She also learned the intricacies of ultrasounds and EKGs, and practiced intubation techniques on a mannequin.

“The good thing is that the PHC students are able to return to our institutions and try to think of other ways to deal with these issues because they’re in our heads now.”

**THIRSTY FROGS**

It sounds like the setup for an old joke:

“How does a Clark biology student catheterize a frog?”

And you all know the answer:

“Very carefully.”

Faye Harwell ’15, a Carlson Summer Intern/Fellow, and fifth-year student Hannah Diebboll ’14 are indeed conducting this delicate procedure as part of their efforts to determine the effects of climate change on frogs and toads. They spent much of the summer in the Westboro (Mass.) Wildlife Management Area and in the lab at the Lasry Center for Bioscience, investigating the dehydration rates of the amphibians to establish connections between the animals’ health and alterations to their habitat.

While it may sound counterintuitive that frogs and toads can suffer from dehydration, Harwell and Diebboll note that it does occur when their habitat begins losing water. In fact, amphibians are important early indicators of changes in environmental conditions that could have ramifications for other species.

The students conduct lab tests under the supervision of Philip Bergmann, assistant professor of biology, to determine the effects of dehydration on the animals, including their activity levels — literally how well they jump.

“Small changes in temperature and humidity in the environment won’t affect humans, but you do see the impact on frogs and toads as bodies of water begin drying up,” says Harwell, who worked through Clark’s Summer Undergraduate Research Experience.

For those who are wondering, the catheterization is done with a slender tube that drains the bladder so that an accurate weight can be taken. During a summer trek into the Westboro woods, Harwell and Diebboll demonstrated the technique on two of their favorite subjects, nicknamed Berta and Tootie, who didn’t appear to object.

**CORPS VALUES**

The words “Peace Corps” evoke images of good works being done across the globe on behalf of the world’s most vulnerable populations, so it’s easy to forget the organization’s many local efforts. Brianna Mirabile ’15 immersed herself with the Peace Corps this past summer, working with the regional recruiter for Worcester to strengthen the agency’s connection with the city community. Her efforts included creating a sustainable and efficient way for the recruiter to interact with the city’s college students, acting as a liaison with area campuses.

Mirabile also organized a “story slam” in August at which Peace Corps returnees shared stories with the public about their experiences overseas. The event was geared to be both informational and inspirational.

“It’s one thing to talk to a recruiter about the application process and administrative aspects of volunteering, and another to listen to someone who can tell you their first-hand experience; what they loved and what surprised them or made them laugh,” she says. “I’ve loved seeing the inner workings of such a major organization; I’ve been very fortunate to be involved with the Peace Corps.”

A psychology and women’s and gender studies major, Mirabile spent a semester working in a shelter in Namibia for women survivors of gender-based violence and their children. She eventually wants to counsel the survivors of genocide and mass atrocities.
David Prentice’s beef with burgers

SEE THAT HAMBURGER on your plate? Juicy, blanketed with cheese, capped with onion, drenched with ketchup — at this moment, it probably looks like the most perfect thing in the world.

How much do you think that hamburger cost? No, not the price you paid for it, but the cost to the environment to produce it and the health costs associated with eating it.

This past year, David Prentice ’14 took on a LEEP project that required him to accomplish the near-impossible task of assigning hard figures to the impact of the all-American hamburger on the nation’s populace. He had a worthy ally in his quest: New York Times food writer Mark Bittman ’71, who authored a July 15 Times column based on Prentice’s research titled, appropriately, “The True Cost of a Burger.”

In the column, Bittman acknowledges that the studies to accurately quantify the actual costs “are so daunting that they haven’t been performed.” But he and Prentice take their shot, working to connect the dots by tapping into experts’ analyses and extrapolating from existing information. They speculate that Americans’ habit of consuming roughly 16 billion hamburgers a year may cost about 53 cents per burger in carbon emissions, derived largely from the “carbon footprint” of raising cattle, and 48 cents in costs connected to obesity and its health-related risks. (They note that some researchers suggest their estimates may be conservative.)

Prentice, a Cape Elizabeth, Maine, native, said he was intrigued from the moment he read the project proposal. “I like the idea of peering behind the veil and studying interconnectivity, looking at our everyday habits and how they impact the wider world,” he says.

Prentice largely worked independently with guidance from Bittman and regular check-ins with mentor Jody Emel, professor of geography, to explore the “cascading effects” of hamburger consumption — establishing linkages between the menu item and human health and ecosystems. Researching these “externalities” — the costs of a product not borne by the producers — was like nailing ground beef to a wall. Prentice pore through thousands of pages of research, and talked with nationally known authors and scientists, often finding himself on the phone with them between classes.

“I took everything as far as I could go, finding the right research, calling the right experts, learning the science, assessing the impact, and then developing a method, basically from scratch, on how to monetize the costs,” he says. “There’s really no standard model for this kind of study, which makes it tough to know whether you’re on the right track, whether your analysis makes sense and holds up. And often new facts would emerge that would force me to develop a completely new model. That was extremely challenging, and scary, at times, but the demand to continuously create new solutions was exciting.”

Prentice kept at it, delivering rounds of reworked drafts that returned with questions from Bittman, graphics editor Bill Marsh and NYT fact checkers before a polished final version could be printed.

On the day it was published, the article rose to the fourth most viewed and fourth most emailed story on the Times website. The piece elicited reaction from all over the world, including scores of tweets and blog posts from prominent policy organizations, journalists, thought leaders, researchers and universities, and, notably, Virgin CEO Sir Richard Branson.

“It was very validating,” Prentice says. “When Richard Branson is blogging about the research you were just working on, invisibly, in Goddard Library or your obscure Brooklyn apartment, that’s surreal.”

Not all the reaction was positive. Forbes magazine responded with two pieces attacking the findings and methodology. Prentice says he’s not surprised with Forbes’ reaction to the column because the NYT piece refutes the notion that growth always creates value and wealth for society. “We demonstrated another instance in which the growth of certain industries could be destroying as much, and maybe more, of the value they supposedly create.”

Prentice now works in marketing in New York, but is interested in pursuing a journalism career. He’s off to a solid start: he and Bittman will be teaming up on future projects.

And what of Prentice’s personal feelings about hamburgers? He confesses to loving them as a child. These days? “Not really a huge fan.”
MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CLARK LEGACY.

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

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.

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.

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 14-17

REUNION 2015

mark your calendars
The weekend will be here before you know it.