fighting for breath

RESEARCH PIONEER
DR. RICHARD PIETRAS ’69 TAKES ON THE GROWING EPIDEMIC OF LUNG CANCER IN WOMEN
As an executive director for the Legal and Compliance Division at Morgan Stanley, **INGRID BUSSON-HALL ’96** helps businesses and other stakeholders navigate the regulatory landscape of the U.S. banking industry that only now is steadying itself following the financial crisis.

But Ingrid’s passion for the law extends well beyond Wall Street. She employs her knowledge and experience to advance the cause of fairness for women, whether the issue is establishing pay equity in the workplace or improving access to new technologies that will improve the lives of women in emerging nations.

A longtime leader with the American Bar Association’s Section of International Law, Ingrid also advocates for the practice of law overseas, often in places where legal protections and other essential freedoms have frayed or disappeared.

“It’s easy to forget that we can shout from the rooftops without fear of being incarcerated, but for the vast majority of people living on the planet that is not the case.”

Today’s Clark University students will one day shout from the rooftops of business, art, medicine, education and the law, and, like Ingrid Busson-Hall, they will help others do the same. Your gift to Clark strengthens their collective voice, so it will be heard in a world that just may be ready to listen.
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Dear Alumni, Families and Friends,

This year, Clark University will participate in its ten-year accreditation review. Clark is accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Founded in 1885, NEASC/CIHE is the oldest quality assurance agency for higher education in the world. As one of six regional accreditors, NEASC/CIHE accredits approximately 240 colleges and universities in the New England region, ranging from private research universities, such as Clark, to community colleges, public universities, and institutions with specialized higher education missions (for example, art or music colleges).

Accreditation is a peer review-based system of evaluation by which colleges and universities agree to be held accountable to a set of rigorous standards of quality and effectiveness. The purpose of accreditation is to ensure quality and promote institutional improvement with a particular focus on student learning. In the United States, there are two types of accreditors: regional accreditors, such as NEASC/CIHE, accredit institutions as a whole, while specialized accreditors, typically national or international in scope, accredit particular program areas, such as business, pharmacy, or engineering. For example, in addition to Clark’s accreditation by NEASC/CIHE, our management programs are accredited by a specialized business accreditor, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. The United States Department of Education, working under the auspices of the Higher Education Act, recognizes accreditors such as NEASC/CIHE as a “reliable authority as to the quality of education.” Colleges and universities must be accredited in order for their students to participate in federal financial aid programs.

Accreditation is based on a set of standards that specify the dimensions of institutional quality a college must meet. These standards cover all aspects of the mission and purposes of the university, including planning, organization, governance, academic programs, faculty, students, financial and technological resources, and policies to support public disclosure and institutional integrity. While universities are evaluated against these standards on a continuing basis, every ten years each accredited institution must undergo a comprehensive evaluation. Clark is being reviewed this academic year. We began the review process a year and a half ago by preparing an institutional self-study; this report is complete and will be available for review by the Clark community. Later this fall, a team of reviewers from peer institutions will visit the campus to validate the findings of this review and make recommendations for ways in which we can strengthen our performance relative to the standards of accreditation. The report of the visiting team is submitted to NEASC/CIHE, which then formally votes to renew Clark’s accreditation. This final vote will take place in spring 2016.

Visiting teams bring a wealth of external insight and perspective on best practices. Typically, the visiting team is chaired by the president of another college or university, and includes a chief financial officer, chief academic officer and faculty members from peer institutions in the region. The findings of the visiting team allow us to benchmark our performance not only against the standards of accreditation, but also against the levels of success being achieved by our peer institutions.

Currently, I serve as vice chair of NEASC/CIHE. This volunteer position affords me important insights into accreditation at a critical time for higher education. In general, I have found the accreditation process to be an effective platform for institutional review and self-improvement. Still, some people question whether accreditation is fully accomplishing its fundamental purpose of ensuring the quality of our colleges and universities. You may have read news reports, for example, questioning how accreditation could be awarded to a college that has a very low student graduation rate or whose graduates have a very high default rate on student loans. Others question whether accreditation is too costly a process (one more contributor to escalating costs of education) or an obstacle to truly innovative educational practices.

NEASC/CIHE is now undertaking a comprehensive review of its standards to ensure that they reflect and anticipate new developments in higher education. While a peer review-based approach to accreditation has its critics, I have not seen a better method to ensure the quality of higher education. One of the great strengths of American higher education is the diversity of its colleges and universities. The task of evaluating quality and promoting excellence across the breadth of mission and purposes of these institutions does not lend itself to “arms-length” regulation against a simple set of metrics. It depends upon thoughtful and careful examination of the accomplishments of the particular institutional mission in the context of agreed-upon standards of excellence. We at Clark University look forward to our participation in the accreditation process and are confident that it will provide much insight into ways in which we can enhance the excellence of our university.

Sincerely,

David P. Angel
President
Tell me a your story

Every now and then someone will ask me how we find our stories for this magazine. I'd like to say our decision-making is dictated by a single regimented process, but that's not true, and never could be. In fact, the magazine is shaped through conversations with alumni, brainstorming among staff, questions asked of faculty, and bits of information that cross our radar via online search engines and social media. If you sneeze, Google will tell us about it.

Not all our leads pan out. The whole enterprise is a bit like a carousel where ideas step on and off until we reach the critical mass where we have the mix of stories that will inform, entertain and maybe even inspire. That's the hope anyway.

This issue's cover story came to me from Jonathan Kappel '81, director of campaign advancement at Clark, who told me about a visit he paid to Dr. Richard Pietras '69 at UCLA, where he's doing amazing research into lung cancer in women. Dr. Pietras might be worth a profile at some point, Jonathan suggested.

But there was more. Years earlier, Pietras was a key figure on the research team that developed the drug Herceptin, a groundbreaking breast cancer treatment that shuts down the growth pathways of cancer cells. Jonathan's wife, Carol Bolton Kappel '85, had been administered Herceptin as part of her protocol after being diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer in 2010. She credits the drug with saving her life.

So in a flash the Dr. Pietras story goes from macro to micro, from universal to personal. His efforts in the lab have saved the lives of thousands of women, and among that number is a fellow alum. That's not only a good story, that's a Clark story.

We first learned about Catalina Escobar '93 in 2010 when CNN honored her as one of its "Heroes" for her work in establishing the Juan Felipe Gomez Escobar Foundation. Since its inception in 2002, the foundation has dramatically improved the lives of thousands of impoverished and abused girls and their babies in Escobar's home city of Cartagena, Colombia. Her work earned the attention of New York Times columnist Nicholas D. Kristof, who profiled Catalina in his recent book, "A Path Appears."

Escobar's mission sends her into some of the world's most dangerous slums, but also into the offices of politicians, the halls of academia and corporate boardrooms where she fights the good fight to create partnerships and raise funds that support the girls she calls her "daughters." Kristof describes Catalina as "a force of nature," and any objective reading of our story will confirm his assessment.

As I write this, national outrage has flared over an incident in San Antonio in which two high school football players flattened an unsuspecting referee, then later claimed they were following their coach's orders. When I heard about the incident I immediately thought of Matt Maranz '87, whose profile begins on page 32. I suspect he isn't shocked by all this. As the producer of the Esquire Network series "Friday Night Tykes," Maranz has chronicled the passion-turned-obsession that is Texas football, and has spent enough time in the trenches to know the excesses that can result when the more outrageous behaviors of coaches, players and parents go unchecked.

Finally, in these pages you'll also read about the George Perkins Marsh Institute at Clark, which conducts research that, when boiled to its essence, examines how humanity can best coexist with the natural world. My motivation for wanting to include the Marsh Institute in this issue is as loose and unscientific as the Marsh researchers are exacting and rigorous: I think the work they do is so interesting and timely, so unassailably cool, it would be a shame not to spread the word to the alumni community. Simply put, it's a story worth telling, an idea worthy of the carousel.

Tell me a your story

Tell me a your story

Tell me a your story

Tell me a your story
“When you’ve invested so much thought, time and energy into a place, you continue to care about its future.”

Professor Emerita Virginia Mason Vaughan taught in Clark’s English Department for 37 years and chaired it for 11 of those. She served on numerous faculty boards, chaired key search committees, and hired more than half of the current English faculty. Most importantly, she helped shepherd thousands of students into productive lives and careers, where even if the details of her Shakespeare-themed lessons are forgotten, the deeper messages still resonate.

So upon her retirement, one would assume that Virginia’s commitment to Clark officially ended.

Not quite. In fact, not by a long shot.

Professor Vaughan and her husband, Alden, have apportioned a percentage of their estate to Clark University.

“Clark was a place that allowed me to find my voice as a scholar,” Virginia says. “The University was very good to me over the years, and I think I was good to it, too. It’s a small way to pay back a little bit for what the institution has done for you.”

Virginia hopes her gift perpetuates the Clark University “I can do this” spirit. “The great thing about Clark is there’s enough freedom so that a student with a good idea can get the support of one or two faculty and then run with it. There’s a real desire to think outside the lines.”

Virginia’s gift reflects her commitment to future generations of students and the wonderful contributions they have yet to make, both inside the lines and out.
Clark is reshaping higher education ‘beyond the gates’

Ken Robinson, the internationally recognized leader on creativity and human potential, focuses on one of the most critical issues of our time: how to transform the nation’s troubled educational system. In his new book, “Creative Schools: The Grassroots Revolution That’s Transforming Education,” Robinson writes about Clark University’s pioneering approach to undergraduate education, LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice). Below is an excerpt from the chapter, “Beyond the Gates.”

Great schools are continuously creative in how they connect to the wider communities of which they are part. They are not isolated ghettos; they are hubs of learning for the whole community. For example, we are used to thinking of education in separate stages: elementary school, high school, community college, college, and adult and lifelong learning. But learning can often happen best across age groups and between as well as within institutions. Although elementary school, high school, and college are usually separate stages in education, some students are now working together to dissolve the barriers that often separate them. Take Clark University, in Worcester, Massachusetts.

David Angel, the president of Clark, has been working with faculty and students to build bridges between the campus and the city, and to the lives that the students may live after college. During a recent conversation, he said to me, “We asked ourselves the question, ‘If we want to be intentional at Clark at graduating students who are both strong on the traditional liberal arts criteria and can carry their education out into the world and be impactful, how do you cultivate the resilience of a young person when they hit a road bump?’ How do they develop three-way creative solutions to problems? If you want to build these skills intentionally, you’re much more effective if you do it in an authentic context. If a student is put on a project team and has a real problem to overcome, you see far more development.”

LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice) is a program that combines interdisciplinary studies with out-of-class, real-world challenges of the kind that students are facing every day. Clark alumnus and a range of other professionals host students on project themes. This goes far beyond the traditional internship, where students get only a taste of a career path. The objective is to put students on project teams where there’s a real problem to solve or outcome to accomplish.

One Clark student group, All Kinds of Girls, works with teenage kids from the neighborhood community around issues of identity and bullying. The group address this task from the ground up by creating a program for more than fifty teenage girls on campus every Saturday. “This isn’t about getting a grade,” David said. “This is about helping a particular thirteen-year-old girl. It reaches into their hearts and their heads. Almost inevitably, you see this flourishing of capability when you see someone become passionate about what they do and when the work they’re doing is authentic.”

They also get involved in Clark initiatives like University Park Campus School. Clark helped found University Park as part of the college’s overall effort to incorporate them into real-world scenarios where they can serve a vital function at the undergraduate level.

The reimagining of the ideal Clark graduate led David to a dramatic new approach to the curriculum. Traditionally, colleges think in terms of freshman year, sophomore year, and so on. Clark decided instead to establish three developmental phases around which to organize the curriculum at the university: transition (establishing yourself as a part of the academic university community), growth and exploration (“breaking frame” and discovering your deepest passions and interests), and synthesis and demonstration (pulling together what you’ve learned in your major and nonmajor courses and putting that to work in a practical way). Students are encouraged to go through these phases on their own timeline.

What David Angel is doing at Clark is a particularly refined version of what every head of a school should be aiming to do: honing and reshaping the school as necessary to fit the evolving needs of students and society. David sees our time as a watershed moment for such an approach to school leadership.

“In my view, education is at a transition point where an increasing focus on learning outcomes is becoming the basis for assessing the educational experiences available to students. That can be a very powerful tool for engaging in greater reflection on the future of education in this country.”

Stolen Freud stole the show

I am writing in response to the “History’s Haven” article (CLARK alumni magazine, Spring 2015). You may be surprised to hear that parts of the Goddard collection were stored in bookcases in the old physics building. There were nose cones, combustion chambers and pumps scattered on top of bookshelves in the offices and labs. The valuable ones were moved to the exhibit when the library was opened.

The most valuable object was not mentioned. There was a small statue of Freud, sitting in his consultation chair, which sat on top of a bookshelf on the third floor of the psychology building. My understanding is that it was the only sculpture that Freud sat for in his lifetime; all other sculptures were from photographs.

The bronze statue also had a significant role in Clark history. Besides that it was made after one of his lectures in America, it played a pivotal role in Spree Day, long before the event was co-opted by the administration.

There was a secret society on campus named the Phoenix Society, whose members were anonymous. The society had very few functions. Each year the society stole the statue of Freud, organized the date, booked the band and announced Spree Day on the morning of the happening. There was no advance warning to students or faculty of the specific day.

The University called police about the theft, detectives interviewed students on campus, but the Phoenix Society members were never identified. My first year, the statue reappeared stage center when the Grateful Dead opened the curtain for the second set in Atwood. They’d played “Dark Star” for 90 minutes for the first set. As happened annually, the statue reappeared stage center for the second set in Atwood. They’d played “Dark Star” reappeared stage center when the Grateful Dead opened the curtain for the second set in Atwood. They’d played “Dark Star” reappeared stage center when the Grateful Dead opened the curtain for the second set in Atwood.

Richard Silverman ‘71, MD, FAPA
Assistant Professor
New York Medical College
Clark University cultivates a special relationship with the city of Worcester through initiatives that extend beyond the classroom to connect students and faculty with residents. Here are two that recently made an impact.

A reality show that’s actually real

What are the stories in people’s lives that are not being told? And what stories are being misrepresented in the media? Eric DeMeulenaere, assistant professor of urban schooling, posed these questions to a group of Worcester public high school students this past spring and guided them through the process of making a documentary film to find the answers.

Known as SPIT-IT, the 15-week project was under the auspices of N-CITE Media Collective, run by DeMeulenaere and colleague Angelique Webster. Clark alumna Thu Nguyen ’14 helped launch the program two years ago and continues to stay connected. DeMeulenaere’s storytelling expertise and Webster’s technical filming and editing skills give the students a full view of documentary filmmaking; they tackle real-life, personal issues and explore themes honestly, and often starkly, through their movie.

The project lets the students take the helm, brainstorming ideas, handling production tasks, conducting interviews, and editing the footage into a 30-minute film. The documentary is shown to various audiences, including family and friends who might be hearing these stories for the first time.

Finding the right topics isn’t always easy. The inaugural film explored several issues, like body image, and the sophomore effort examined the immigrant experience. This year’s theme was “colorism” — specifically how different skin tones are perceived and judged within communities of color.

Claremont Academy graduate St. Cyr Dimarche says working on the 2014 documentary opened his eyes. “After making it, I got to understand a lot about the media,” he says. Now a student at Brandeis University, Dimarche says even being grouped with people he didn’t know was a great experience. “We shared our stories with so many people,” he says. “The more I talk to people, the more they understand.”

For DeMeulenaere, the students’ growth and energy is invigorating as an educator—and life-changing on a personal level.

“This is my soul work,” he says. “They work their butts off, and that’s the culture we are trying to build. We are not trying to take the easy path. We are taking the hard path, and it’s something they are proud of.”

Hard choices in the nonprofit world

For Jessica Horton ’17, the straightforward course title, Community and Health: Nonprofit Grantmaking, hardly hinted at the immersive experience to come. Throughout the fall semester, Horton and her classmates researched, wrote and pitched grant proposals on behalf of several Worcester nonprofit health organizations that address health and social disparities among underserved populations.

But the most demanding, and wrenching, element for the students was
deciding which organizations would receive funding, and which would not.

“I didn’t know it would be this intense,” Horton says. “We were emotionally invested.”

The course, designed by Rosalie Torres Stone, associate professor of sociology at Clark University, gave undergraduate students the opportunity to understand the social and economic underpinnings of philanthropy in the nonprofit sector. She secured $15,000 in funding — $5,000 each from the Learning By Giving Foundation, the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, and the Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise at Clark University.

The class was divided into four groups, with each group assigned to work with a local nonprofit health organization to develop a grant proposal and then defend it to their fellow students, who collectively decided how the funding would be distributed. Ultimately, $10,000 was awarded to LAHA Hector Reyes House, which provides residential substance abuse treatment for Hispanic men, and $5,000 went to Pernet Family Health, which offers health and other services to the surrounding community.

Horton’s group collaborated with Hector Reyes House at a time when the organization was launching a major new initiative in which some of the residents work at Café Reyes, a Cuban restaurant where they prepare and serve mouthwatering sandwiches and other fare in a small but vibrant space on Worcester’s Shrewsbury Street. The men are former addicts, some of them ex-cons, who are making the slow, steady climb toward recovery while transitioning into the workforce. “Many of them have hopes of staying clean and rebuilding the relationship with their families,” Horton says.

Torres Stone says the course gave students a rich understanding of the dynamics of a nonprofit, including making the tough call about who benefits from a limited funding pool. “The kids found it was much more difficult to make the decision in the end,” she notes. “They were pretty torn about it — they wanted to fund all four proposals.”

Torres Stone is offering the course again this fall.

A strong sense of selfie

IT’S NOT EASY to convince The New York Times that it’s made a mistake, but Jason Feifer ’02 gave it his best shot. The Times published a July 15 column by science writer Dennis Overbye about the New Horizons mission to gather information about Pluto in which he described a photo taken of Earth from across the galaxy as a “cosmic selfie.”

Not so, Feifer argued in a letter to the paper. As anyone raised in the iPhone generation well knows, a selfie is a photograph shot by the holder of the camera. The photo of Earth was no selfie, he said; it was just a photo.

Feifer’s observation was the subject of a follow-up column by public editor Margaret Sullivan, who suspected his request for a correction would not be met (it wasn’t). But Feifer, whose day job is deputy editor of Maxim magazine, was given column space on the Opinion page to dissect the true nature of a selfie. A sample:

“I took a photo of a slice of pizza and called it a ‘pizza selfie.’ Are you in the photo with the pizza? No, it is just of the pizza. Not a selfie.”

Who knows? Maybe one day the Times will change course and admit Feifer had it right. They’ve been known to take their time before. In 1969, following the U.S. moon landing, the Times issued a correction for an editorial it ran in 1920 that dismissed as “absurd” the theory of Clark alumnus and physics professor, Robert Goddard, A.M. 1910, Ph.D. 1911 — a.k.a. “The Father of the Modern Space Age” — that a rocket could travel in a vacuum.
Rallying for Annie

ANNIE JENKINS IS as tough as they come, but the owner of Annie's Clark Brunch couldn't fight City Hall — at least not alone. When the Worcester Fire Department notified her in May that her restaurant required upgrades and renovations to meet code that would cost tens of thousands of dollars — money Annie did not have — the outlook was bleak for the beloved comfort-food oasis that's practically a campus auxiliary.

But then the Clark community swung into action. Casey Starr '07, M.A./C.D.P. '15, a longtime patron and former Annie's waitress, created an account on YouCaring.com with a goal of helping defray the estimated $50,000 toward Jenkins' share of the renovations, which included ventilation and fire-suppression systems for the equipment and the purchase of new appliances. Several of the old booths also were removed and replaced with tables and chairs. Through the online account about $34,000 was raised, with more coming in through other donations. Clark, the owner of the Main Street building that houses the diner, is paying the landlord's portion of the $100,000-plus total cost of the upgrades and extended a zero-interest loan to help Jenkins pay off her remaining debt.

The comments on the YouCaring site offered personal recollections from many who described Annie's as a touch of home during their student years. They reflect deep affection for the owner (“Please know you have changed the lives of so many, just by doing [and being] something authentic and genuine.”) and appreciation for her cooking skills (“Your chili omelettes and grilled blueberry muffins saved my life many times.”).

The restaurant was closed throughout the summer as the renovations were completed. On Sept. 22, the doors were reopened, and Annie Jenkins was back at her grill.

A new Clarkie – make that clarkii – on campus

CLARK SCIENTISTS HAVE been known to put their university on the map, literally.

Many of us know about the Clark Mountains in Antarctica, named by renowned geographer and explorer Paul Siple, Ph.D. ’39, back in 1940. Now, thanks to Dimitrios Floudas, Ph.D. ’14, we have *Efibula clarkii*, a new species of fungi discovered on an oak tree branch right on campus.

Floudas made his find while a member of Professor David Hibbett’s biology lab, which contributes to global efforts to reconstruct the evolutionary history of fungi.

*Efibula clarkii* is a type of wood decay fungus, but its relevance is nothing to sniff at. The Hibbett lab’s work contributes to the taxonomic and genomic database of the fungal world, which is one of the most diverse and important groups of organisms on the planet.

Floudas and Hibbett published their research in the August issue of *Fungal Biology*, where *Efibula clarkii* appears listed among dozens of data presented.

*Efibula clarkii* (pictured) is admittedly not very photogenic — it looks like crusty paint on wood, according to Hibbett — but in research terms it’s a thing of beauty. “The broader significance of this discovery is that fungi remain very poorly known,” Hibbett says, “so it is possible to discover a new species on a college campus in the middle of a major city.”
Clark University has tentacles everywhere, and this year they touched the great trash removal debate in Region of Peel, Ontario (surely you heard about it). A Feb.17 column in the Caledon Enterprise addressed the region’s $46 million plan to collect garbage in oversized bins as part of the new biweekly waste-collection schedule. Then there’s this: homeowners would be supplied with green bins that were reported to have undergone rigorous testing and judged to be “raccoon proof.” Columnist Tayler Parnaby wasn’t having it, and invoked a 100-year-old study by Clark University graduate student Herbert Burnham Davis, published in the American Journal of Psychology, to make his point. Davis conducted a series of studies on raccoons, “discovering the vast majority of his beasties could unlock a baited box within 10 tries and then remember how it had been done. Davis concluded raccoons had the learning ability of primates, the monkey in particular.” Raccoon-proof bins? No such thing. Or as Parnaby put it: “I suspect the raccoons are licking their chops.”

Honoring Wright’s Labor days

The U.S. Department of Labor was scheduled to induct Carroll D. Wright into its Hall of Honor on Oct. 20, a much-deserved plaudit for an esteemed leader in government and higher education. Many a first-year Clark University student has lived in the residence hall that bears Wright’s name, but few know the illustrious history of the first president of Clark’s undergraduate college. A Civil War veteran, Wright was appointed by President Chester A. Arthur as the first commissioner of the Federal Bureau of Labor in 1885, a post he would hold for 20 years. Another president, Grover Cleveland, appointed him to chair the commission investigating the Pullman Strike that paralyzed rail service in the summer of 1894. Wright was a pioneer in the study of labor statistics during the Gilded Age, when labor conditions, immigration and increasing disparity between rich and poor were key concerns. During his time at Clark (1902-1909) he served as professor of statistics and social economics, and received the Cross of the French Legion of Honor in recognition of his efforts to improve industrial conditions throughout the world. Wright was a major figure in laying the bureau’s foundation and forging its reputation by “the fearless publication of the facts without regard to the influence those facts may have upon any party’s position or any partisan’s views.”

There are rock stars, and then there are “wrock” stars. Former Clark physics major Joe DeGeorge ’10 (pictured) and his brother Paul fall squarely in the latter category. As the founders and lead performers of the band Harry and the Potters, the DeGeorges have been playing “wizard rock” (wrock) concerts to Harry Potter fans and the people who love them since 2002. Though the popular J.K. Rowling book series ended in 2007, the brothers continue to entertain the true believers, a phenomenon recently chronicled in a profile on noisey.vice.com.
The Ultimate honor

THE NEWS THAT the International Olympic Committee has recognized the World Flying Disc Federation, paving the way for possible inclusion of Ultimate Frisbee (now known as Ultimate) in a future Games, is sure to please many Clark University disc-slingers. Clark is among a small group of recognized founders of the original collegiate competitive Ultimate Frisbee league, described in the Fall 2010 CLARK alumni magazine as “vanguard of a sport that captured the subversive hearts and shaggy-topped minds of ’70s-era alt jocks.” Clark hosted Tufts in its first-ever match on April 21, 1973, losing 31-21, but would win 13 games in its inaugural season. “It’s rewarding to know that the years we’ve spent catching and throwing a 175g disc have been acknowledged and legitimized by such an important organization,” says Anela Layugan ’17 (pictured), co-captain of Clark’s women’s team. “It’s more than just chasing plastic — it’s about fostering this sport for all genders at all levels of experience.”

Noah’s Clark

IF it seems oddly true that a Clark connection can be made to, well, just about anything, here’s another one to chew on. This past summer the streaming service Netflix added the 2013 film “The Physician” to its lineup. The movie, starring Ben Kingsley, is based on the bestselling novel about an 11th-century Englishman who undertakes a perilous journey to Persia to learn the art of healing from a legendary Muslim physician. According to a recent story in The Boston Globe, the book was informed by a year of research that author Noah Gordon largely spent “ensconced in a room full of ancient maps at Clark University in Worcester.” The city native clearly knew that when it came time to dive deep into world geography, he needed only to make an extended visit to the university on Main Street.
FROM THE PODIUM

Drops of wisdom

“The world is thirsty, and getting thirstier.” So announced David Goodtree, co-founder of the New England Water Innovation Network, as he opened his President’s Lecture in Razzo Hall. Goodtree noted that while water scarcity remains a source of global conflict, the situation is far from hopeless, pointing to Israel and Singapore as countries that smartly address water shortages. New technologies, political will, and purposeful conservation can put to rest the notion that the world has reached a point of no return, or “peak water,” but only if countries “choose to make it so.”

Hot topic

Don’t be fooled by Worcester’s brutal winter, Susanne Moser, Ph.D. ’97, told the audience in Atwood Hall. Our planet just experienced its warmest year on record, and the temperatures are rising. Moser was the keynote speaker at the day-long Climate Change Teach-in, which brought together faculty, students and outside presenters to grapple with the issues surrounding climate change. Moser cited the power of citizen activism to make a difference. “We are absolutely essential in the fight to win this struggle;” she said, adding that there is no alternative. “We don’t have a planet B.”

Youth is served

In her Reunion Dinner keynote address, Lauren Stiller Rikleen ’75 advised her fellow alumni to disregard the common perceptions of millennials as lazy, entitled and disloyal. “This generation is entering the workplace more negatively stereotyped than any other generation before it,” she noted. Rikleen insisted that millennials don’t require constant positive feedback, but they do crave input and transparency in the workplace. They also have been raised to be more self-confident, which can be misread by older co-workers as arrogance. Work with them, and your company will reap the benefits, she said.

Blue beyond reason

Matt Goldman ’83, M.B.A. ’84, delivered a simple directive to the Class of 2015 during his commencement address: “Be unreasonable.” Throughout his speech, Goldman offered examples of the risks he took both in his life and career, which led to his co-founding the performing arts phenomenon, Blue Man Group, and the innovative Blue School. He urged the graduates to join him in a pact “that we are going to aim, through hard work, clear intent and passion to maximize our life satisfaction, and the by-product will be that the world is a better place.”

Purposeful pageant

TEACHERS, MENTORS AND multi-degree holders don’t typically wear a tiara and sash. But Shala Murray, M.A.T. ’12, M.B.A./C.D.P. ’15, is hardly typical. The oldest of eight children and a first-generation college graduate, Murray has taught with AmeriCorps, works for Big Brothers Big Sisters, is an active mentor for children and teens, and, yes, she represented New England in the Ms. America Pageant this past summer, hence the accoutrements. The mission of the pageant, which is for women 26 and older, is “to celebrate the accomplishments of women, encourage them to be involved in community service, as well as use the ‘Crown for a Purpose’ — to make a difference.” Shala hopes to “join the growing group of educational entrepreneurs who are working to reform our country’s educational system.” Her title of Ms. New England 2015, she says, “shows other youths who are considered at-risk, as I was, that your circumstances don’t define you, but rather the actions you take and the hard work you put in to shape the life you want.”

Many in the Class of 2019 were so excited about coming to Clark they told the world about it on their high school graduation mortarboards.
fighting for breath

BY JIM KEOGH, M.S.P.C. ’15
illustration by alex nabaum
diagnosis of lung cancer is stained by a reputation most other illnesses don’t bear, one shaped by its historical link to smoking. The easy perception is that lung cancer patients at some point lit up and drew the carcinogens into their bodies, making them active participants in their own self-destruction. Put simply: They asked for it.

One other notion clinging to the past is that lung cancer is a “man’s disease.” After all, men had a long head start with smoking before women were even allowed to touch a cigarette to their lips, and many men also traditionally worked rough jobs that exposed their lungs to toxic materials. It would stand to reason that the incidence of lung cancer in women would not be as significant, nor the toll as pernicious.

Dr. Richard Pietras ’69 knows better.

As professor of medicine-hematology/oncology and director of the Stiles Program in Integrative Oncology at UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, Pietras has treated thousands of patients suffering from all types of cancers. He has seen the ravages, counseled grieving families, and searched for new ways to repel the enemy. It is within this landscape that he bears witness to what he describes as an “epidemic” of lung cancer in women.

“Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among women. It kills more women than breast, cervical and ovarian cancers combined,” Pietras says, citing an astounding statistic: Female lung-cancer deaths have soared 600 percent since 1950. Just as astonishing, most nonsmokers who contract the deadly disease are women. Over the last 11 years, Pietras has dedicated himself to learning why that is and how to bring down those terrible numbers.

To better understand his motivation requires a step back to his Clark University days.

A native of Chicopee, Mass., Pietras was only the second member of his extended family to attend college. The first, an older cousin, Robert Pisarski ’68, was a student at Clark, and Richard’s father suggested his son consider joining him there. The University’s offer of a four-year Travelli Scholarship supplied added incentive.

“There were very few people in my high school or family who could advise me on what was the best thing to do,” he recalls. “Fortunately, for me, going to Clark was a wonderful experience that prepared me well for my future.”

He initially considered pursuing a career in law, and spent an internship in Washington, D.C., working for Rep. Edward Boland. But he became disillusioned with some of the uglier realities of politics and government (“When you see the sausage being made, you don’t want to eat it,” he says) and upon his return to Clark he gravitated toward the sciences, particularly biology.

While studying under professors David Moulton and John Reynolds, Pietras became intrigued by how
hormones affect human function, and by his senior year he’d received a National Science Foundation grant to do neurobiological research. After graduating, he worked at the University of Pennsylvania for two years, then headed west to earn his Ph.D. in endocrine physiology at UCLA. In 1986 he graduated from UCLA’s medical school. “I’ve been part of the UCLA community ever since,” he says.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Pietras worked on a breast cancer research team led by Dr. Dennis Slamon, which traced the growth of certain kinds of tumors to an “overexpression” of a gene called HER-2/neu. The protein product of the gene existed at the surface of about 15 to 20 percent of breast tumors and indicated a “receptor protein” that can activate the proliferation of tumor cells. The doctors discovered that certain types of antibodies could be used to block the action of the receptor, in effect turning off the growth pathway so the cancer cells would stop dividing.

Their research spurred clinical trials that resulted in the development of Herceptin, a drug that has proven to be the treatment for women suffering from certain aggressive breast cancers once considered to be virtually terminal (see sidebar).

“With the use of Herceptin, and with other kinds of molecular targeted therapies, these tumors can really be better controlled, and a significant proportion of women have actually had long-term survival,” he says. “That’s led to a revolution in how we approach not only breast cancer, but also other kinds of cancers. For years and years we’ve used toxic chemotherapies or radiation therapies or very aggressive surgeries to treat these tumors. Now we’re finding we can develop other types of targeted drugs like Herceptin that can treat various kinds of cancers.

“This is what I’d hoped for when I decided in the early 1980s to go into oncology,” he continues. “I had a vision that some of these things would be happening so that we wouldn’t have to continue to cut, burn and poison people. As an oncologist I’ve always hated to prescribe chemotherapy because I know the risks of side effects, the toxicities that these treatments can engender. It’s been very gratifying see the changes in the past ten to fifteen years.”

His fascination with hormones, which first found root in Clark University’s labs, combined with a semi-obscure study, helped inspire Pietras to apply his research to lung cancer in women.

In the 1946 holiday classic “It’s a Wonderful Life,” a despondent George Bailey questions whether he’s had any impact in the world until he’s convinced that a person’s actions can ripple across the cosmos and alter the lives of others more than he or she will ever know.

Carol Bolton Kappel ’85 buys into that notion, and with good reason. In 2010 Kappel was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. She endured chemotherapy and radiation, but a key component of her treatment was the revolutionary breast cancer-fighting drug Herceptin, which shuts down the growth pathways of cancer cells. A critical member of the UCLA medical team whose research led to the development of Herceptin was Clark alumnus Dr. Richard Pietras ’69.

“I’m so proud of my university,” Kappel says. “We have people who do really great things. We’ve got life-savers out there, and I’m proof of it.”

Kappel felt the lump in her breast when she was showering after a run. She’d caught it early, but the cancer was so-called “triple positive,” exhibiting significant presence of estrogen, progesterone, and the Her-2 protein. In addition to the more traditional treatment protocols, she received monthly doses of Herceptin for 19 months.

“Cancers are so different that you can’t have one blanket treatment anymore,” Kappel says. “Thank God, the medical establishment understands that now.”

Kappel, a teacher in Newton, Mass., who is married to Jonathan Kappel ’81, has become a vocal advocate for breast cancer research and treatment, pointing to her daughter and niece as inspiration.

“She says she’ll always be grateful she had a Clarkie working in a lab thousands of miles away on her behalf and for thousands of other women with breast cancer.

“I couldn’t be more thankful to Richard Pietras and his team,” Kappel says. “I owe my life to Herceptin.”
The 1970s study, which was never reported in full, enlisted two groups of men suffering from coronary disease. One group was treated with estrogens, with the idea that the introduction of the female hormone might reduce their incidence of heart attack. The study was stopped after two years when the researchers discovered an increased incidence of lung disease in the men receiving estrogen therapy. The result begged the question: If a hike in estrogen in men might be linked to lung cancer, what of women, who produce more of the hormone naturally? Something else merited scrutiny. Increased tobacco use among women since World War II clearly played a role in their greater incidence of lung cancer, but the rising numbers of nonsmokers who contracted the disease was a puzzle. One of the more public cases involved Dana Reeve, wife of the late actor Christopher Reeve, who died of lung cancer in 2006 at the age of 44 despite never having smoked a cigarette. Reeve’s high profile drew attention to a largely invisible medical crisis: Women who didn’t present traditional risk factors were succumbing to lung cancer at an alarming rate.

By the time the National Institutes of Health released the findings of a 15-year study showing that women who took hormone-replacement therapy were more likely to die of lung cancer than women who had a placebo, Pietras was already studying the hormone connection on the suspicion that estrogen was fueling the disease. With grants in 2008 from the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women’s Health Center and the NIH SPORE Program, he and co-investigator Diana Marquez-Garban, M.D., confirmed the presence of estrogen-receptors in lung-cancer cells.

“We found that lung tissue has an enzyme called aromatase that’s responsible for making estrogen, so it’s a little factory in the lung,” Pietras says. “The lung has receptors to respond to estrogen, and those receptors promote the growth of lung tumor cells.”

With the collaboration of Drs. Ed Garon and Lee Goodglick, Pietras is helping to direct two clinical trials to determine if drugs like anti-estrogens and aromatase inhibitors that are commonly used to treat breast cancer can be repurposed and deployed against lung cancer.

Dana Reeve, wife of the late actor Christopher Reeve, died of lung cancer despite never having smoked a cigarette. Women who didn’t present traditional risk factors were succumbing to lung cancer at an alarming rate.

Reaching that point is a lengthy, grueling process. A clinical trial requires years of research and testing before the Food and Drug Administration will consider a drug for approval, Pietras says. Typically, the first two phases can be conducted by a research team with funding from small grants (such as the Gateway and Hickey foundations in his current trials), but the third and final phase often involves thousands of patients as well as the partnership of a large pharmaceutical company with sufficient resources to fund the work, which can run into the billions of dollars. Herceptin, for instance, was developed in tandem with the conglomerate Genentech.

The situation is compounded by the fact that research dollars have declined markedly, Pietras says. Federal funding has been curtailed in recent years, and many private foundations, staggered by the financial crisis, were forced to cut back their donations. He notes that the retiring director of the National Cancer Institute, Harold Varmus, cited a 25 percent reduction in cancer research funding from the National Institutes of Health over the last decade.

“It comes at a bad time,” Pietras acknowledges, “because with all the information we have from the gene project, and all the new information coming to the fore on the hope for immunotherapy, we have fewer dollars...
to move things forward.” Indeed, new immunotherapies that can train the body to recognize cancers as foreign invaders and then kill them — in essence becoming its own defending army — are already offering new hope to lung cancer patients, he says.

While funding in the United States is relatively stagnant, Pietras points to China and other Asian countries that are investing many billions in research and may well take the lead in pioneering oncology research and technology going forward.

Lung cancer research, already underfunded, enters the arena with one hand tied behind its back. Despite the disease’s heavy toll, it lags well behind breast cancer, prostate cancer and other diseases in research dollars because it lacks the advocacy infrastructure needed to draw the public’s attention, Pietras says. For instance, there is no lung-cancer equivalent of Susan G. Komen, the nonprofit foundation that has heightened awareness and raised nearly $1.5 billion for breast cancer research, education and support programs. Lung cancer advocacy organizations are now emerging, he says, having learned lessons from others.

“It’s true that the squeaky wheel gets greased,” he says. “You have an enormous allotment of money at the federal level and from foundations when you have a strong advocacy group.”

Public sentiment that lung cancer patients are “guilty of smoking” and perhaps deserve their fate continues to shape attitudes toward the disease. That the survival rate for lung cancer patients is poor compared with many other diseases — in the first five years most patients with advanced lung cancer will pass away — further chips away at donations because there aren’t survivor groups to lead the charge, Pietras says.

None of that dissuades him. Indeed, Pietras finds endless inspiration in the women who have volunteered for his clinical trials. The mother, battling for her next breath. The daughter, hoping she has many more years. The sister, refusing to be broken.

“Our patients show incredible courage and conviction to put up with these trials,” he says. “All the people who participate in trials enter an arrangement where they know the drug may or may not help them. What they do know is the information gained may help other people. These women are our driving force.”
THE GEORGE PERKINS MARSH INSTITUTE LOOKS TO FORGE A LASTING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANS AND THEIR PLANET WHILE THERE’S STILL TIME

By Anne Gibson, Ph.D. ’95

ILLUSTRATION BY TINA ZELLMER

George Perkins Marsh was a 19th-century Renaissance man — linguist, ambassador, legislator and lawyer — who, during his extensive travels, kept records of how humans were changing the natural environment. He captured his observations and reflections in the 1864 book “Man and Nature, or Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action,” a title that hardly screams “page-turner” today, but which was a bestseller in its time. Marsh was more than just an observer of his world; he was a visionary. At least as far back as Plato, people noted how mankind modified local environments. George Perkins Marsh went a step further by recognizing that altering the landscape can also alter human destiny — he connected the dots.
“It’s not until the middle 1800s that we start to see things that we can associate with modern concepts of environmental sustainability,” says Robert Johnston, research professor and director of the George Perkins Marsh Institute at Clark University. “Marsh made the point that humans were making large-scale changes in the landscape that were ultimately affecting human welfare, often in a negative way.”

To that end, the work of the Marsh Institute is informed by an essential question: What is and ought to be our relationship with nature? The Institute uses both fundamental and use-inspired research to help answer this question.

These interactions can range from a gross exploitation of nature’s resources without thought for the future, to passive acceptance of whatever Mother Nature dishes out. However, what we as a society choose to value, and how we choose to act on those values, determines our position along that continuum. The Institute’s approach, as expressed in its inaugural publication, is to find “George Marsh’s middle path between unbridled economic opportunism and ‘Earth First’ extremism.”

Earlier this year, “The Allegheny Front,” a Pennsylvania-based public radio program, contacted Yelena Ogneva-Himmelberger, Ph.D. ‘98, a Marsh Institute research associate professor and faculty member in the International Development, Community and Environment Department. The producers were creating a multi-part series called “The Fracking of Pennsylvania,” and had come across her recently published investigation into whether the location of fracking wells in the Marcellus Shale regions of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, along with the alleged accompanying pollution, disproportionately affected vulnerable populations.

Ogneva-Himmelberger found correlation between some well locations and the impact on residents in lower socio-economic circumstances, earning the attention of numerous media outlets and environmental organizations, and also drawing fire from the fracking industry.

In short, the work of a Marsh Institute scientist gets noticed.

Here’s further proof:

When Canada’s Standing Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development needed an expert witness to inform its policy on international development and mining, it sought out

Anthony Bebbington, M.A. ’88, Ph.D. ’90, a Marsh research professor, director of the Clark Graduate School of Geography, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

When a U.S. Senate subcommittee required scientific testimony during debate of a proposed bill for reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, it called on associate professor of research Dominik Kulakowski.

When the National Research Council assessed the stock-rebuilding efforts resulting from the 2006 Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act, it appointed Robert Johnston to the review committee.

Organizations of all stripes — public and private, domestic and international, local and national — draw on the expertise of Marsh Institute scientists to provide the information necessary to help us negotiate our fraught relationship with the environment. By doing so these groups are also helping the George Perkins Marsh Institute fulfill its mission to promote sustainable environments for the public good by increasing our understanding of the systems — natural, technological and socio-economic — that link us with the natural world, and by making that knowledge available to policy makers and stakeholders.

The Marsh Institute’s work is driven not by the research agendas of particular academic disciplines but by a dizzying assortment of urgent, real-world challenges, Johnston says. Established in 1990 and housed in the two historic Norcross houses at the north edge of campus, the Institute grew out of earlier research clusters at Clark that focused on topics like environmental risk and hazards, the potential of computer technology and remotely sensed imagery to map and analyze the environment, and the ways humans have shaped and are shaped by nature. In fact, the Marsh Institute is home to one of the premier environmental research libraries in the nation.

Consider some of the questions that today’s Marsh researchers seek to answer:

• How can communities best adapt to the coastal flooding and other hazards that come in the wake of climate change and sea-level rise?
• Is there a way to ensure that chemicals used to bolster agricultural yields and produce consumer goods don’t poison us?
• How do we manage consumption while preserving quality of life?
• How do we ensure that sustainability strategies are just and equitable?

Ensuring sustainable environments for the common good requires the perspectives
of multiple disciplines. This is the very definition of the Marsh approach, which values input from scientists who study the physical processes of earth systems and social scientists who shed light on human behavior and decision-making. Not only does the Institute host approximately 50 research professors and scientists, with specialties that include biology, chemistry, environmental science, geography and economics, but the scientists’ individual credentials often span disciplines. Most of the researchers come from within the ranks of Clark University’s academic departments.

A good example of the Marsh Institute ethos can be found in new assistant director Dana Bauer, whose academic degrees run the gamut from industrial engineering and information systems to environmental policy and natural-resource economics. Bauer, who describes herself as “a nontraditional academic” because she refuses to focus on a single area, finds Marsh’s problem-focused, multidisciplinary community a perfect match. Public and private organizations are increasingly looking for experts who can cross disciplinary boundaries with such ease — giving Bauer a clear advantage whether she is writing grant applications to federal agencies or foundations or speaking to government officials.

“Coming to a place like the Marsh Institute, I can use my broad training and draw on all those tools to come up with solutions to environmental problems,” she says. “From my training as an engineer I’m a systems thinker — I’m pretty good at looking at the whole picture and how the pieces fit together.”

The Institute extends its reach by collaborating with other organizations, both inside and outside the academy.

“Much of the Institute’s research is done with other partners, often bigger partners,” says Clark University Dean of Research Nancy Budwig. “Marsh scientists might be responsible for a piece of a much larger grant. For scientists at a small university like Clark that can be a very successful way to work — one that allows our researchers to
draw upon the advantages of Clark's small scale, while at the same time leveraging some of the advantages of a much larger-scale research project.”

Budwig notes the level of student engagement at Marsh (and Clark's other research centers) is impressive for a university of Clark's size. Marsh researchers involve students deeply in the Institute's scholarly life and work. While the participation of graduate students in Marsh's use-inspired research exemplifies the University's hallmark of engaged scholarship, the Institute also funds undergraduate research opportunities with the Albert, Norma and Howard '77 Geller Endowed Research Award and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Student Fellowships, the latter providing summer opportunities in NOAA labs around the country in partnership with the Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise.

Research professors Deborah Martin and John Rogan — also faculty members in the Graduate School of Geography — lead Clark's Human-Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) program, which has received funding from the National Science Foundation, providing opportunities for undergraduate students to conduct research on human-environment relationships. The program is currently focusing on the socio-ecological impacts of the Asian Longhorned Beetle infestation and tree replanting program in central Massachusetts.

Problem-solving at this level doesn't happen without financial support. Johnston notes that, at a time when money for scientific research is contracting, the Institute directs its research to pressing current issues for which funding is more likely to be available. “Marsh scientists are often invited to apply for grants. We're competing against the best in the world for funding — and succeeding,” he says. “We succeed because we go where problems need to be solved, unconstrained by narrow research agendas.”

It’s a strategy that benefits not just the Institute, but the University as a whole. When Marsh research delivers high-quality, usable results, Clark is put on the radar of policymakers, agencies and media, as well as prospective faculty and graduate students.

Choosing the path of sustainability assumes the need to make tradeoffs that satisfy our needs and wants while preserving the resources necessary to the lives of future generations, as well as our own. Marsh
Institute researchers insist that making informed tradeoffs is key, and requires we value all that nature provides — from tangible products to aesthetics. For example, Bauer knows that to evaluate whether habitats for bees, bats and birds should be preserved, it’s important to factor in the critical, but often unacknowledged, contributions those species make to agricultural production. Her current research aims to assign a monetary value to those contributions.

Johnston and his research team were called upon by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to help think through a dilemma: Did it make sense for the state to keep repairing several eroding beaches on Delaware Bay that threatened adjacent homes? Johnston’s team helped the department assess and balance the costs and benefits of different courses of action, which included letting nature take its course until the houses fell into the water, buying out and/or relocating affected homeowners, and restoring the beaches year after year for an indefinite period of time.

In Johnston’s experience, using cost-benefit analysis to weigh alternatives can be both illuminating and, frequently, surprising. “In the Delaware case,” he says, “it turned out the option netting the greatest social benefit was to do nothing. Just let the water come in and those homes fall into the water. It’s not politically a particularly attractive option, and surely has ethical consequences that need to be considered, but from a pure economic and social-benefits perspective, it turns out that was the best thing.”

Johnston says more inclusive and informed decision-making to address environmental problems is not just fairer but ultimately more sustainable. In his research on how seaside towns adapt to coastal flooding, Johnston incorporates the views and values of a range of residents, not just those vocal few who attend town meetings. He and his team help decision-makers understand the value that the public holds for environmental assets like beaches, coastal marshes and open space. Often these assessments are at odds with what these decision-makers had assumed their constituents wanted, and this eye-opening information helps shape an acceptable response.

There’s no way of knowing for certain how George Perkins Marsh would have regarded Johnston’s research, or the work of the Institute that bears his name, though he likely would be pleased. The Marsh Institute continues to reaffirm his theories about the need for humans to seek balance with their surroundings, pursue a course based on shared values, and keep connecting those dots.

ENABLING SMART CONSUMERS

Some natural resources, like timber, might be sustainable if managed carefully. Others, like oil, are finite. Nonetheless, even their availability might be prolonged through the implementation of thoughtful consumption strategies. The Marsh Institute’s husband-and-wife team Philip Vergragt and Halina Brown pose a question: “Can we come up with policies or technological changes that deliver human well-being and are not based on perpetual consumerism?”

Taking their cue from a similar organization in Europe, Vergragt and Brown have collaborated with Maurie Cohen of the New Jersey Institute of Technology to create the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative. SCORAI describes itself as a global “knowledge network of academics and practitioners working at the interface of material consumption, human well-being, and technological and cultural change.” Through conferences and workshops, its members explore the possibility of transitioning beyond the consumer-dominant society.

For instance, in October 2014, SCORAI co-hosted a workshop, “The Role of Cities in Advancing Sustainable Consumption,” in Eugene, Ore., which enabled academic researchers to share relevant knowledge and brainstorm with practitioners who promote healthier environments, economic prosperity and increased social equity in their communities.
THE MOTHER OF CARTAGENA

PERSONAL TRAGEDY

COMPELLED

CATALINA ESCOBAR '93

TO UNDERTAKE

HER LIFE’S MISSION:

SAVING THE GIRLS

OF COLOMBIA

BY MELISSA LYNCH '95, M.S.P.C. '15
CATALINA ESCOBAR SEES THE GIRLS EVERYWHERE.

HEY ARE YOUNG, they are poor, very often they are pregnant. The babies they bear, if they are female, seem destined for the same lives of oppression and poverty as their mothers. That is, if they live. These children of children often do not survive beyond birth.

The girls in Escobar's home city of Cartagena, Colombia, awaken a pair of painful memories in her.

Thirteen years ago while volunteering at Rafael Calvo Maternity Hospital, Escobar cradled a dying baby in her arms. The infant could have been saved by a treatment that cost $30, money that her mother didn't have. Escobar later realized she had that amount in her own pocket.

A few days later, Catalina's 16-month-old son, Juan Felipe, was killed when he fell from the balcony of the family's eighth-floor Cartagena apartment.

The heartbreak was paralyzing at first, yet it also pulled Escobar's thoughts back to the Rafael Calvo maternity ward, and to the infant who struggled to the end.

Juan Felipe's death was a tragic accident, but Escobar knew that other Colombian women were losing their children because they lacked the resources to care for them. She knew that destitution and abuse continued to crush the women and girls of Cartagena, and that a lack of opportunity was practically assigned to them from the moment they were born.

Though her own financial circumstances were better, Catalina still shared their sense of loss. "When you bury your own son, you start being a part of those women's souls," she says. And she decided that no mother should have to feel that grief.

Juan Felipe Gomez Escobar Foundation, Juanfe for short, grew from Escobar's sorrow. She founded the organization with the goal of reducing the rate of infant mortality and teen pregnancy in Cartagena, and to break the city's cycle of deprivation.

Thirty percent of Colombians live in poverty, with 10 percent earning less than $100 a month. The dire conditions are perpetuated by rampant teen pregnancy — 20 percent of women who give birth in Cartagena are teenagers.

In the slums of Cartagena, multiple generations of a family live together, and there can be upwards of 16 people living in one small house. Children routinely witness different family members having sexual relations, Escobar says, noting that girls often start being touched inappropriately at age 6 or 7, and graduate into sexual relationships by the time they enter puberty.

"They see sex [at a young age] as a normal thing," she says. "They don't know anything else."

Of the girls who enter the Juanfe programs, 70 percent have their first pregnancy between age 14 and 16. At least 30 percent have been sexually abused. Poor girls are more likely to be recruited by the nation's guerrilla fighters and used as sexual slaves.

"If you want to live in disgrace in my country, you just have to be a girl and be poor," Escobar says. "You don't have any chances at all."

Juanfe sees 4,500 teen pregnancies every year. Juanfe enrolls about 450 of the pregnant girls, who must commit to following the organization's rules. "We have very difficult protocols to enroll them. It's hard," Escobar says.

The Foundation operates an educational and social center where the teen moms go every day. During their first six months in the program they receive health care, intensive counseling and education. The second phase takes longer: along with health care, counseling and high school education, they also attend skills workshops (currently, in gastronomy, tourism and cosmetology). The goal is to get them into a normal trajectory of teenage development. At the same time as the young mothers are learning, their babies are cared for
and fed in the foundation’s Comprehensive Center for Child Development.

The Juanfe girls return home at night. Generally, the families in their crowded houses are not encouraging, Escobar says. “When the girls start having opportunities, [some family members] feel jealous — they want to pull the girls down.” Ironically, this is a prime reason why Juanfe doesn’t offer housing for the teen mothers. “They have to learn to fight against their problems at home,” Escobar says. “It makes them stronger.”

Many of the girls’ mothers are supportive, she adds, but the family structure gives little power to females.

Escobar proudly reports that 99 percent of the girls she’s helped have not had a second unwanted baby. Through the Foundation they learn skills to be productive members of society. Without these interventions, she says, the cycle of unemployment, infant mortality, gender violence and sexual abuse continues.

When she speaks about Juanfe and “her girls,” Escobar frequently mentions outcomes and impact. She launched the foundation in 2002 wanting facts about the infant mortality rate — 40 deaths per 1,000 births at the time — and how much it cost the city.

“Just like in business, you have to study the market, focus, and find a niche,” she says. The Juanfe model, Escobar says, is replicable, scalable and sustainable — as all business models should be — but its “product” is the reduction of poverty.

By 2009, the infant mortality rate in Cartagena had dropped to 16.6 per thousand births, much of it attributable to Juanfe’s work, Escobar says.

“We have given these girls an opportunity to be socially productive in life. Seventy-six percent of them either study or work, and have a better standard of living,” she says.

Escobar runs Juanfe with strict business principles, something she learned at a young age. Her father was an entrepreneur who built one of the country’s most profitable steel companies.

Despite her clear successes — lowering the number of teen pregnancies, helping 4,500 teenage girls and their babies, building the Juan Felipe Medical Center, which treats 23,000 of Cartagena’s poorest citizens each year — Escobar is discouraged.

“This year has been pretty hard,” she admits, “and I don’t think things are going to change in the next three years. There’s a lot of uncertainty in my country.”

Taxes in Colombia have risen, and unlike
‘Here, I learned to value myself’

The following is an excerpt from “A Path Appears” by New York Times columnist Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn.

Catalina and her foundation work in some of the toughest slums of Cartagena, dominated by gangs and largely avoided by police. During a visit we made to one such slum, gang members surged onto a nearby highway, set up a barricade, and robbed a vehicle. We asked whether the police would intervene, and one resident said sourly, “I’ve never seen police come to someone’s aid here. They only come when someone is already dead.”

We were in the slum to visit a teen mom who was under consideration for sponsorship by the Juan Felipe Foundation. Each January and July, the foundation sponsors more than 200 troubled teenage girls — typically pregnant girls or new teen moms — bringing them in for an initial six-month phase of support, medical care, counseling, and job training. It’s a bit like the Nurse-Family Partnership in its focus on at-risk moms, but the interactions mostly take place not in the home but at a lovely foundation campus with a cafeteria, meeting rooms, clinic and nursery. The moms get transportation money to come each day.

“Here, I learned how to smile,” said Roxana, a seventeen-year-old girl who endured a brutal rape and years of violence in the slums. “Here, I learned to value myself.”

“Female empowerment” is one of those slogans that is repeated so much in the aid community that it had lost much of its meaning. But Roxana is an example of what “female empowerment” actually can mean. While in the Juan Felipe Foundation program, Roxana heard discussions about how sexual violence is always unacceptable, about how women have to stand up for each other. One day she was going home when she passed a vacant lot and heard a girl sobbing. Roxana stopped and listened. She could hear the girl saying, “No! No!” It was a gang area, and almost anybody else would have hurried off. But Roxana, who herself had been abused as a girl, grabbed a stick and charged into the vacant lot. She found a man who was abusing a sixteen-year-old girl.

“You can’t do this!” Roxana yelled at him. “This isn’t right! You’re a disgrace!” As she yelled, she kept whacking the man with the stick. He began running, and Roxana chased after him, thrashing him with the stick. Then she went back to the little girl, calmed her down, and helped her return to her family.

Catalina Escobar will never, of course, fully recover from the loss of Juan Felipe. Perhaps no parent ever entirely rebounds from the shock of losing one’s child. For Catalina, it was at first difficult to work through her own grief while surrounded by hundreds of other moms all proudly clutching their infants. “It was a tough time,” she recalls. “At the beginning, it was lots of anxiety. Every baby looked like Juan Felipe.”

But Catalina threw herself into her campaign to transform the lives of slum girls like Roxana, and so she has seen sadness and misfortune far greater than her own. She has also found that when they are given an opportunity, many of these girls leap for it and turn their lives around.

Now the Roxanas of Cartagena are sending forth their own ripples and transforming other people’s lives. Some of the girls have found good jobs in Cartagena’s booming tourism industry, working in fine hotels and restaurants, and can now give their own children the kind of upbringing they never had. Catalina still cries when she talks about Juan Felipe — and about the mother who lost her child for want of $30 — but she has found a new life full of purpose.

in the United States, there is no financial incentive to donate to charitable causes. “When people donate, it’s because they really like the cause, not because they have a tax exemption,” Escobar says. “For corporate donors, when costs increase, the first thing they do is lower contributions.”

Increased taxes and an ongoing oil crisis have led to significant revenue loss for Juanfe, which relies heavily on corporate donations.

“One-third of my corporate donations come from oil companies, so I’m having a hard time this year getting those funds,” she says.

Government funding makes up just 1 percent of Juanfe’s income. “I see so many nonprofits in the United States that are similar to what I do, and they have tripled their budgets with half of the impact I have — and 50, 60, 70 percent of their income comes from the government.” Colombian money that is earmarked to help the poor — subsidized by the middle and upper classes — instead pays for political favors, she says.

Along with sharply declining income, Escobar is fighting against a culture still reeling from 50 years of guerrilla warfare, which arose in the 1960s as part of a communist movement seeking equality for the lower classes. “Nowadays, terrorism is a business,” Escobar says. “FARC [Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, or the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] is the oldest terrorist organization in the world, 54 years. I grew up with the guerrillas around in the rural areas.”

FARC is also one of the richest terrorist groups in the world, according to Forbes magazine. The organization makes its money from war and drug smuggling, and the government is trying to get a handle on the problem by crafting a peace treaty. Negotiations have been rocky, and FARC has been reluctant to comply. “I’m not
sure they want peace, so they are buying time to potentially get more guns for more terrorism,” Escobar explains.

Despite constant warfare and rampant corruption that have created dramatic income inequality, government indicators proclaim that Colombia’s GDP is growing more than 3 percent. “That doesn’t measure overall wealth,” Escobar notes. Years ago “Colombia had the twelfth greatest level of ‘social despair’ in the world, and now we’re fourth. And I don’t see big government programs to stop poverty.”

Escobar’s work has not gone unnoticed by the international community. She was awarded a Fortune/U.S. State Department Global Women’s Mentoring Partnership in 2012, and attended a conference led by then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. She travels to New York several times a year to network with potential partners and donors, and this past summer she attended the World Economic Forum in China.

In 2012, Escobar was named a CNN Hero at a gala that attracted prominent figures from the worlds of news and entertainment. At the event, attendees were shown a video of Escobar and the Juanfe operations. One of the teen mothers interviewed explains how important the work has been to her: “At the foundation, I’ve learned to value myself — and love my daughter.”

Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof wrote a chapter about Escobar and Juanfe in his 2014 book, “A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity” (see sidebar). Kristof and actress Eva Longoria spent time in Cartagena with Escobar and saw the Foundation’s impact firsthand while filming the PBS documentary series “A Path Appears” (available on Netflix and Amazon; Juanfe is featured in episode two).

“Catalina is a force of nature,” Kristof told CLARK alumni magazine in an email. “I’ve interviewed so many people around the world, and I’m hard-pressed to think of someone as passionate and committed as Catalina. And while Cartagena and Colombia still have plenty of problems, she’s registering real progress against some of the most important challenges.”

Despite its growing GDP and oil exports, Colombia remains a “developing” country, according to the United Nations. Escobar knows what must be done to get her country off that list.

“What drives the development of nations is investing in women and girls,” she says. “There is a close correlation between teen pregnancy and poverty, and between girls in school and their successful development. If a girl attends one year of secondary education, she’ll earn between 15 and 25 percent more than if she stayed out of school.” Initiatives such as “He for She” and “Girls Not Brides” raise the issue of female empowerment, but investment leads to better nations, Escobar insists. “Women are the ones who structure the families in society,” even if they’re not at the top of the familial pecking order, she says. “To reduce poverty, you should target what is more sustainable and efficient.” This includes providing girls with education, access to proper medical care, nutrition, and equal wages — the tools for success.

In her blog at APathAppears.org, Escobar sums up her feelings about her philanthropic enterprise that has changed so many lives in Cartagena.

“Every time I see one of my girls fulfilling her dreams by graduating from our program, having a responsible sex-life, being employed, earning a decent and stable income, breaking those chains of poverty, I feel like the proudest mom ever.

“All of the girls we have worked with are my daughters.”
PINT-SIZED PLAYERS, TEXAS-SIZED DREAMS

“FRIDAY NIGHT TYKES”
PRODUCER MATT MARANZ ’87
PEERS INTO THE TROUBLED SOUL OF YOUTH SPORTS

By Jeremy Shulkin ’07, M.A.T. ’08
PHOTOS COURTESY OF ESQUIRE NETWORK
ATT MARANZ spent a chunk of his summer in Pennsylvania’s Beaver County, a tradition-rich region northwest of Pittsburgh that has been the breeding ground of NFL stars like Joe Namath and Mike Ditka. As the producer of the Esquire Network’s documentary TV show “Friday Night Tykes,” which devoted its first two seasons to chronicling the cutthroat world of the Texas Youth Football Association, Maranz isn’t necessarily looking for good football — he’s looking for good stories.

Following multiple teams comprising 8- to 11-year-olds, the show has shadowed Texas coaches, players and their parents during a season of football. There are injuries. There are arguments. There are firings.

During the show’s first season, two coaches were suspended by the TYFA, one for encouraging his players to injure others with hits to the head, the other for swearing. Coach Marcus Goodloe (the swearer), also ran afoul of the league office when he interfered with the referee’s marker before an important fourth-down measurement.

The show’s depiction of intense coaches and fanatical parents has roiled debate. The New York Times, USA Today and Slate, among others, have considered the question of whether viewers are witnessing child abuse in action. Senate Minority Leader Dick Durbin of Illinois sent the Esquire Network a letter asking for the cancellation of “Friday Night Tykes,” charging that the show celebrates a culture of violence at a time when concussions have become a problem in the sport.

“IT DEFINITELY HAS CREATED SOME CONTROVERSY,” MARANZ acknowledges. “A LOT OF PUBLICATIONS have said, ‘This might be borderline child abuse; we’re not sure these adults should be around kids.’

Those questions may be warranted when the parents of opposing teams taunt each other as a 10-year-old lies on the field with a dislocated elbow, or when a coach responds to an injury by muttering, “He’s got a f***ing concussion. I know it.”

When a young player pulls himself up after a tackling drill with tears in his eyes, his coach explains, “Society as a whole has weakened kids these days. They are soft as Charmin.”

In one episode, a parent explodes at a team’s coaching staff, accusing them of only running plays designed for the offensive coordinator’s son rather than his. After the man is asked to leave the stands, his son can be heard worriedly asking, “What’s wrong with my dad?”

Maranz isn’t surprised by the public reaction. “When I sat down with the head of the [Texas Youth Football Association] even before this all happened, I said there’s a chance some, like The New York Times, might write op-ed pieces saying some pretty critical things about you and your league,” he recalls. “His response was, ‘I welcome that conversation. I want them to write things because I believe I’m right and I believe they’re wrong.’”

The show intentionally keeps its distance in the debate about the relative toughness of America’s youth. “It would be easy for us to sensationalize things or try to provoke a reaction by offering an opinion or particular point of view. But that’s not the goal,” Maranz says. “We work hard at not telling you what we think is right or wrong. All we want to do is document what would be happening even if we weren’t there and let you decide for yourself.”

In fact, the football aspect of “Friday Night Tykes” interests Maranz less than the broader issues arising from the show.

“How hard is too hard? How far is too far? How as a society do we want to be raising our kids?” Maranz says. “Those really are the questions this series is asking” through the prism of youth football.

Hence the attraction to Beaver County, whose hardscrabble stories Maranz believes will provide great fodder for the show’s third season, just as San Antonio did in the first two seasons (part of season three also is filmed in San Antonio).

The Texas city’s make-up created striking juxtapositions. In a memorable episode, Daibo, an African-American player on the predominately black and lower-income San Antonio Outlaws, waits for his coach to pick him up for practice while his mother relates how she doesn’t let her son play in the yard because their house was the backdrop for a recent shooting. Then we meet the family of

“EVEN IF YOU THINK THE COACHES ARE MONSTERS, IT’S NOT LIKE THEY WOKE UP IN THE MORNING AND SAID, ‘I CAN’T WAIT TO TRY TO SCREW UP SOME KIDS.’”
Justice Hurt, a white player whose father is the Alamo City Lobos offensive coordinator. They sit in front of a large television reviewing game film together in their house’s media room. “It’s all about football here,” Justice’s mom confesses.

The “Friday Night Tykes” second season zeroed in on parent behavior, with mothers and fathers openly criticizing each other, coaches and referees, and placing their rooting interests above the players’ well-being. The parents of Justice Hurt even admit they named their child based on what would sound most impressive coming out of a game announcer’s mouth.

“The whole youth sports movement has taken on a life of its own and that was the subtext about why I thought this show was going to be interesting,” Maranz says.

Maranz has always been attracted to character-driven storytelling. A history and geography major at Clark, he wrote for The Scarlet in his junior and senior years. After graduating, he turned an internship at Worcester Magazine into a full-time job, which he held for a year before heading to Columbia University to earn his master’s degree in journalism. His work appeared in The New Yorker and The New Republic, among other publications. A Tokyo Broadcasting System correspondent recruited him to uncover stories in the United States, kickstarting Maranz’s career producing content for television.

In 2002 Maranz launched his own company, 441 Productions, as a way “to tell bigger stories.” He produced for HBO’s “Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel,” as well as for the Atlanta, Salt Lake City, Nagano and Sydney Olympics on NBC and CBS. He crafted documentary- and biographical-style segments for sports and games programs, and created the popular “World Series of Poker” for ESPN in 2003. The results have proven a success in both ratings and awards: 441 Productions boasts 22 Emmy wins.

When it comes to “Friday Night Tykes,” Maranz has mixed feelings about the interactions between parents, coaches and kids that his cameras are capturing.

“What we find is that everyone wants what’s best for their kids. How we decide what that is or how to accomplish it, is different for everyone,” he says. “Even if you think the coaches are monsters, it’s not like they woke up in the morning and said, ‘I can’t wait to try to screw up some kids.’ They truly believe this is what’s best for the children.”

Some parents clearly agree with the tough-love approach the Texas coaches prescribe. In season two, one coach explains that a parent called him to say her son, Simon, had been talking back at home. At the next practice, the coach addresses the situation in front of the team:

“You need to have respect when you’re at home and at school. What Simon’s gonna do, he’s gonna bear crawl along the goal line” — the coach pauses here to point to another stretch of the field — “and run. And he’s gonna do that all … day … long. So let me hear about you guys wanting to talk back to your elders. You’re gonna pay.”
Abuse to some ears; music to others.

Wendy Grolnick, professor of psychology at Clark and the author of “Pressured Parents, Stressed-Out Kids: Dealing with Competition While Raising a Successful Child,” says parents should proceed with caution when enlisting their child in a sport or other activity.

“Parents who want their kids to be good at a sport or an instrument really have to be careful about pushing kids from behind,” Grolnick says. “It’s a hard thing to do once your child is involved in one of these sports, because you love them and nature wants us to be competitive.”

For all the cringe-worthy moments, “Friday Night Tykes” also offers testimony to the benefits of youth sports. A father, out of prison after serving six years — more than half of his child’s life — uses his son’s passion for football as a pathway for reentering the family. A young player under doctor’s orders not to play anymore because of a concussion offers kicking advice to a teammate, his spirits lifted.

These types of positive outcomes, Grolnick says, should be the focus for parents and coaches. She says research shows that participating in sports correlates to students performing better in school and avoiding trouble, but adds that there is no evidence children need to be in a high-pressure environment to reap those benefits.

“One of the things that we really don’t want to do is stamp out that fun and intrinsic motivation, because the love of the game is really what’s going to take them through,” she says. “Take that out and they’re going to burn out. They’re going to get hurt.”

Maranz has the advantage of seeing the people and situations on “Friday Night Tykes” from multiple angles. He’s the parent of an athlete (his middle school-aged son plays soccer, basketball and baseball) and the son and brother of coaches (his dad coached high school basketball for 30 years and his brother coached basketball at the collegiate level). Throw in his own experiences playing soccer and basketball at Clark and he’s able to empathize with just about every person who appears on his show.

The Texas Youth Football Association may regret the decision to allow access to Maranz’s documentary series — league president Brian Morgan intimated as much to USA Today — but Maranz believes raising questions about youth sports without narrative judgment has been the most effective way to probe for answers.

“We over-schedule our kids and we’re very demanding of our kids, doing everything possible to get them to success,” he says. “On one level we’re too soft on them, while on another we’re pushing them to become these super-achievers regardless of what the activity is — it could be soccer, or clarinet, or Mandarin lessons.”

In other words, it’s always Friday night somewhere.
A boy hits the ball, charges towards first base — and keeps running, straight ahead, onto another field.

Welcome to little little league.

The main difference between my youth sports experiences as a player and as a coach (other than 30-plus years) is the mixture of ages of the players on the team, and therefore also the talent levels. When you have 8-year-olds playing with 13-year-olds, you don’t play the same way as when you group kids by grade.

Case in point: my first youth baseball season. I played deep right field, somewhere near Canada. I rocked a .000 batting average, but was third on the team in walks, figuring out early on that even the best young pitcher has trouble finding the strike zone. This made me feel valuable to the team despite being lousy. This would have been impossible if tee-ball or coach-pitch leagues had been around back then.

As for coaching, if Dante were alive today and revised “The Inferno,” one of the circles of Hell would be an un-athletic 6’3” man (me) pitching overhand to 9-year-olds. First: I am not a pitcher. Second: these kids have a strike zone the size of a grape. Third: just before releasing the ball I would think, “Oh no, I’m going to hit him in the head,” causing the pitch to wind up in the dirt.

Then there was the day I coached the final game of the year alone. Some kids didn’t show, so I had to play catcher. My knees are still recovering. The situation was extra weird because I wasn’t allowed to make any plays at the plate. I was catching pitches from the opposing team’s coach, all while keeping an eye on my guys in the field, shouting encouraging directions to the boys who didn’t know what to do when the ball was hit.

That bit — positive reinforcement yelling — was the most fun part of coaching.

I am unqualified to teach baseball fundamentals. (When I was 11 I made an unassisted double play that my mother still talks about; my eyes were closed.) Even if I had mountains of baseball wisdom to impart, scheduling practices outside of game days was a pain. But shouting instructions to the kids on the field? It’s like a video game, with yelling instead of a controller. “Pick up the ball! Good job! Throw to first! That’s second! That’s okay, good thinking! Great hustle!” It’s the same when your team is batting: “Run home, run home! Yay! Oh, you’re out. That one’s on me! Great running! Good hustle!”

Another key difference between then and now is that in the tee-ball and coach-pitch leagues my children played in, we didn’t keep score. (That didn’t stop the kids from doing it, which was amusing since each player had a different total. I rarely knew who was right.) Officially, there were no winners and no losers.

That’s what I think is missing. What motivates kids to play when there’s nothing on the line? Some are naturally talented, even when very young. Some are not. But I am living proof that anyone can become solidly mediocre if they try hard enough. My lifetime batting average is around .250, and I moved from deep Canadian outfield to first base. This happened because I loved baseball. Not keeping score doesn’t make things equal so much as it makes them a little boring. Good players (or, in my case, motivated players) will always care and try their hardest. Lousy ones are less likely to give two cents about the outcome of the game because they have been told that the outcome doesn’t matter.

Another coaching duty: rotating players’ positions every inning. I created the most complicated spreadsheet since I temped for investment banks. (Google “little league roster templates.” Your head will explode.) I understood the kids’ desire to play certain positions. But is it really fair to put someone who can’t throw at third base? Or one who can’t catch at first? Believe me, I did it. But any notion of teaching values through sports goes out the window.

Or does it? One thing my playing and coaching careers have in common is sportsmanship. I only scolded my players if they teased or taunted a teammate (or opponent). Back in the day, I hung out with the other kids who stunk; we were the same age and all played Canadian outfield. But there was camaraderie among all of my teammates. When I got on base, the older, better players cheered for me like I did for them. We wanted to win, but it wasn’t the end of the world if we lost. We did it because we loved to play. And that was all that mattered.

In early August, six people with connections to Clark basketball were inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame.

Former student-athletes Jay Ash ’83, Wanda Mazzamurro ’84, Marissa Garrity ’00, Jason Qua ’90, Gina Pizzimento ’92, and head men’s basketball coach Paul Phillips were enshrined along with a host of others at the DCU Center in Worcester.

Launched in 2003, the Hall of Fame recognizes the people whose excellence has contributed to the rich legacy of New England basketball.

Ash led the Cougars to the NCAA Division III Elite Eight during his senior season. That year, he started all 27 games and averaged 13.5 points while shooting 55 percent from the floor as Clark went 23-4.

Garrity took the women’s program to three NCAA Tournament appearances, three regular-season NEWMAC titles and three more NEWMAC Tournament titles, and an overall record of 84-30. She started all 114 games of her career and was a three-time All-NEWMAC selection, earning Player of the Year accolades as a senior in 2000.

One of New England’s elite floor leaders, Pizzimento guided the Cougars to an incredible 92-19 record and four seasons of 20 or more wins. Her first year, the Cougars went 26-0 during the regular season and advanced to the NCAA quarterfinals, putting together the longest consecutive winning streak in NCAA history at the time (36 games). She finished her career as the school’s all-time steals leader (275) and is second in program history with 450 assists.

Qua was a two-time All-American who helped the Cougars to three postseason appearances, including a berth in the NCAA championship game in 1987. His final two seasons were off the charts, beginning in 1988-89 when he averaged 23.3 points per game, hauled in 10.7 boards per game, and shot 55 percent from the field. As a senior in the 1989-90 campaign, he was again brilliant, turning in nightly totals of 22.6 points and 9.2 rebounds on 57 percent shooting.

The two-time captain and ECAC All-New England First-Team selection, Qua played in 109 career games and his name is splashed all over the Clark record books. He ranks second in rebounds (891), and third in points (1,772), field goals made (672) and free throws made (384).

All five players are in Clark’s Athletic Hall of Fame.

Phillips, who has been on the Clark sidelines for 18 seasons, was a high school star at Palmer High (Mass.) and went on to play at Assumption College. He has more than 400 career wins and is the all-time leader in coaching victories at both Anna Maria and Clark.
Maximum Wage

Not many can brag about being the winningest coach in a school’s history in two different sports. Longtime field hockey and softball coach Linda Wage was able to make that claim years ago.

But on a warm Tuesday evening in September, with her team’s 9-1 dismantling of Nichols College, Wage joined another exclusive group — the 300-win club in field hockey.

An amazing milestone without question, but when you combine those 300 field hockey victories with the 400 more she’s accrued on the softball diamond, you sit up and take notice.

“We all marvel at Linda’s coaching accomplishments,” says Trish Cronin, director of athletics and recreation. “Beyond the wins, it’s Linda as a person and as a leader and mentor of so many young women that really embodies who she is.”

A former three-sport star at Providence College, where she still holds the field hockey record for most goals (95) and points (213), Wage is in her 31st season with Clark field hockey, and in the spring will begin her 28th year in the Cougar softball dugout.

Wage has taken both programs from infancy to national prominence with her unassuming and selfless style.

For once, the spotlight shines on her.

Congratulations, Coach Wage.

Gonna wait til the midnight hour

The opening of the college basketball season is one of the most anticipated events on the sports fan’s calendar.

This year, the Cougars will be among the first Division III teams to tip off the 2015-16 campaign. Head coach Paul Phillips and his charges will host crosstown rival Worcester State in the Midnight Madness game on Nov. 13, at 12:01 a.m. — the earliest possible moment the NCAA allows teams to play regular season games.

The idea was hatched when New Hampshire rivals Daniel Webster College and Rivier College played a midnight game following a scheduling conflict.

Clark and Worcester State were in a similar situation, complicated by the fact that Worcester State is without a home gymnasium until 2016-17.

“We just saw this as an opportunity to be unique,” Phillips said. “This is something the entire Clark and Worcester communities can rally around. It should be a great event for the students and the two schools, and will really get the ball rolling on the season.”

In addition to the Midnight Madness game, both the men’s and women’s basketball programs will host the first-ever Clark Holiday Tournament. The men’s games will take place on Dec. 29 and 30, while the women will play Dec. 30 and 31.

The tournament will feature some of New England’s premier teams and could become an annual event.

“We are hoping this really takes off and becomes somewhat of a staple with our programs,” says Joe Brady, associate athletics director, who helped put the tournament together. “This is something that has been in the works for a while now and we are excited to see it come to fruition.”

There’s nothing like a little home-field advantage. Over the summer, Clark installed a new turf field at the Granger Complex for the baseball, field hockey and men’s lacrosse teams — one of the few synthetic surfaces to host intercollegiate baseball.

The Clark intramural community also enjoys access to this field and the adjacent soccer field, which was upgraded with synthetic turf last year.
Published and presented

Clark University faculty this year examined forced migration in the Muslim world, uncovered the politics behind our growing appetite for meat, and analyzed the work of one of history’s great composers. A sampling:

**Political Ecologies of Meat** // Jody Emel, Professor of Geography, editor; with Harvey Neo

Livestock production worldwide is increasing rapidly, in part due to economic growth and demand for meat in industrializing countries. This book tackles the key issues of contemporary meat production and consumption through a lens of political ecology, which emphasizes the power relations producing particular social, economic, and cultural interactions with non-human nature.

**Managing Muslim Mobilities: Between Spiritual Geographies and the Global Security Regime** // Anita Häusermann Fábos, Associate Professor, Department of International Development, Community and Environment, editor; with Riina Isotalo

This volume addresses forced migration and mobility in the Muslim world, exploring the tensions between Muslim religious conceptions of space and place and new policies of “migration management” and secure borders. The book analyzes how states in the region call on Islamic ideas of welcome, sanctuary and protection while establishing policies to prevent movement and citizenship.

**Techno-Orientalism: Imagining Asia in Speculative Fiction, History, and Media** // Betsy Huang, Associate Professor of English, editor with David S. Roh and Greta A. Niu

What will the future look like? To judge from many speculative fiction films and books, the future will be full of cities that resemble Tokyo, Hong Kong and Shanghai, and it will be populated mainly by cold, unfeeling citizens who act like robots. The book’s 14 essays investigate the phenomenon of imagining Asia and Asians in hypo- or hyper-technological terms in literary, cinematic, and new-media representations.

**Mahler’s Bruckner** // Benjamin Korstvedt, Professor of Music; presented at the North American Conference on Nineteenth-Century Music, July 2015

Composer Gustav Mahler conducted the New York Philharmonic’s first performance of Anton Bruckner’s Symphony No. 4, Romantic, in 1910. Mahler’s marked copy of the score, originally published in 1889 and now too fragile to handle, was recently digitized. Korstvedt is the first scholar to make a thorough study of Mahler’s extensive markings and cuts in this score.

**Dilemmas in Youth Work and Youth Development Practice** // Laurie Ross, Professor, Department of International Development, Community and Environment; with Shane Capra, Lindsay Carpenter, Julia Hubbell, Kathrin Walke

The fundamental aim of youth work is to build trusting and mutually respectful relationships with young people that create transformative experiences for them outside of homes and schools. The book contributes to a practice-based theoretical foundation of youth work, showing how workers respond to a variety of dilemmas with unique knowledge and skills, and explores how to work with challenging situations.
MATTHEW MALSKY NAMED DEAN OF THE COLLEGE

Clark University named Matthew P. Malsky associate provost and dean of the college. Malsky has been at Clark for 21 years, most recently as a full professor and an endowed chair. He served as director of the Music Program in the Visual and Performing Arts Department.

“I am deeply committed to liberal education, both in my teaching and intellectual work. I believe that liberal education is beset in America — from within and without, and that through its own unique character and commitment to Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP), Clark has taken an admirable and important stand. I’ve long been proud to be a part of that effort. I am delighted to have the opportunity to be an advocate for its ideals and practices on campus as the dean of the college,” Malsky said.

Malsky is an internationally acclaimed composer whose works have been performed throughout the United States, Europe and Australia by ensembles such as the Contemporary Chamber Players at the University of Chicago, the Minnesota Composers Forum, the Musik Factory (Norway), on the radio in Buffalo, St. Paul and Toronto, and at numerous contemporary music festivals. He is currently on the board of the Worcester Chamber Music Society.

As a scholar, Malsky’s research examines, from a psychoanalytic perspective, the intersections of American music, technology and culture in the post-World War II period. His teaching interests include computer music, audio production, musical acoustics, composition, film sound and music, and popular music.

Malsky recently released a chamber music album entitled “Geographies & Geometries” in collaboration with the Worcester Chamber Music Society, Radius Ensemble, and C-Squared. He is also the creator of Clark Laptop Orchestra — CLOrk, a project to bring musical experiences with laptop computers to the Clark community.

Malsky graduated with a bachelor’s degree in music from Brandeis University in 1983 and received his Ph.D. in composition and music theory from the University of Chicago in 1990.

EDWARD CARR LEADS IDCE

Professor Edward R. Carr has joined Clark University as director of its Department of International Development, Community and Environment.

Carr comes to Clark from the Department of Geography at the University of South Carolina, where he served as the associate director of the Walker Institute for International and Area Studies and director of the Humanitarian Response and Development Lab (HURDL), an entity that brought academic rigor and cutting-edge thinking and research to the development policy and implementation world. HURDL currently has projects in Mali, Senegal, Zambia and Ghana, and policy and implementation projects with a global remit. Carr brings HURDL with him to Clark; the lab will reside in the George Perkins Marsh Institute.

“It is an honor to be asked to lead a program with such a rich history, at such an exciting time for both IDCE and the larger Clark community,” Carr says. “The program uniquely links the various aspects of my research identity within a single department, and further supports those interests through the work of the Graduate School of Geography, the George Perkins Marsh Institute, and the Graduate School of Management.”

Carr previously served as an American Association for the Advancement of Science fellow, and worked at the U.S. Agency for International Development. In this role, he was the first climate change coordinator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, and later served as an adviser on the Climate Change Team in the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and the Environment.

For more than 15 years, Professor Carr has worked in rural Sub-Saharan Africa on issues of globalization, development and environmental change, living among and working with various rural communities. His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Geographic Society, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, and others.

Carr holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia; a master’s and Ph.D. in anthropology from Syracuse University, and a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Kentucky.
A steady rise for ‘the Polish Obama’

JOHN ABRAHAM GODSON, M.S.P.C. ’12, left his native Nigeria in 1993, arriving in Poland to do missionary work and lecture at a local university. He planned to stay for two years.

Instead, he made history.

In 2010 Godson became the first black man elected to Poland’s Sejm, its lower house parliament (equivalent to the U.S. Congress). He is one of only about 5,000 Africans in a country of 39 million people, which makes his presence in national circles a rarity, but one with mutually positive consequences. Not only has Godson embraced his adopted country, but Poland has more than returned his respect and affection.

“The Polish people are very welcoming, very hospitable,” he says. “There was what I call low intercultural competence, which came from being a closed nation before the fall of communism and Poland entering the European Union. There were many places I would go where I was the first black person the people had ever physically seen. The reaction was rather positive.” He adds with a chuckle, “I was like a star.”

Godson comes from a family of teachers. His father was the principal of a secondary school, his mother the headmistress of a primary school. “I lived in an environment where education is very, very important,” he says. “My father always told us kids, ‘I don’t have land, and I don’t have money. But what I have I will give you, and that’s an education.’” Godson is the embodiment of his parents’ philosophy as evidenced by his raft of university degrees. In addition to the joint master’s in business and professional communication degree from Clark University that he earned at the Lodz University of Social Sciences, he holds a bachelor’s, two other master’s degrees, and two doctorates.

Godson was a university student in Nigeria when he began investigating opportunities to do Christian missionary work in Eastern Europe. He applied to a number of organizations before receiving a letter from the leader of a missionary team in Poland offering him a job teaching English at the Technical University of Szczecin. After four years at the university and another at the University of Poznań, he resigned, and for the next 10 years, alongside his wife Aneta, he continued to preach and do social work among Poland’s poorest citizens. The couple created three separate foundations that, among other causes, provided scholarships to students who couldn’t afford to attend college.

After moving to the city of Lodz, Godson was encouraged to run for political office. He was elected to the district council in 2005 with the highest voter tally in the region, and in 2008 he was elected to the Lodz city council.

His 2010 election to parliament was a seismic event. According to media stories, Godson’s supporters were known to cheer “Vivat! Vivat Polski Obama” (“Long live the Polish Obama”) during the campaign. He laughs at the recollection. “They called me that, and I would say, ‘I’m not the Polish Obama. I’m the Polish Godson.’”

Godson was sworn in on Dec. 14, 2010, and began addressing issues that capture his passions and which he believes promote a stronger Poland. Among his major priorities is to fortify economic ties between Poland and Africa. To that end, he organized the Polish-Africa Economic Forum and Polish Africa Day, and has coordinated trade missions between Poland and African countries.

His efforts have borne fruit. In 2013, for the first time in Poland’s history, the prime minister visited the continent of Africa, specifically Nigeria, Zambia and South Africa. In the last year alone, Godson says, economic activity between Poland and Africa has increased 25 percent, and more than 40 percent in some countries.

Godson, the father of four, also continues to focus on the needs of Poland’s disadvantaged. Through several foundations, including The African Institute, which he founded, he and Aneta supply scholarships “to intelligent young people who come from indigent families and want to make it in life.”

It’s unlikely many in the Sejm can match the multi-degreed Godson’s own academic portfolio.

“To be a competent politician you need to have knowledge of various areas of life,” he says. “My knowledge of agriculture, international relations, economics, professional communication and management, all woven together, is very helpful in the work that I do.”

“Work” is the operative word for Godson, who in 2011 was joined in the parliament by another politician of African heritage, Killion Munyama, a native of Zambia.

“I enjoy what I do, but it can sometimes be frustrating to just sit down and take votes,” he says. “I’m more of an action person — I want to make things happen. That’s why I love the work I do with my constituents. It’s not just talking and being passive, it’s about creating change.”

— Jim Keogh, M.S.P.C. ’15
LETTER TO ALUMNI:

Fall of 2015 is upon us and I hope you all had a wonderful summer. This academic year looks to be an exciting one here at Clark.

The Class of 2019 is reported to be Clark University’s largest incoming class ever, with 684 eager and bright minds beginning their studies. What is most striking is the 87 percent increase in applicants to Clark over the past three years. This is certainly an indication that Clark University is moving in the right direction and that college applicants and their families are noticing. We may soon have to drop that “hidden gem” reference many of us have used to describe Clark to people.

I have been fortunate to speak to both incoming undergraduate and graduate students over the past few weeks. It is great to see the excitement in the students’ eyes as they realize they are now official members of the Clark University community. I am amazed at the quality and intelligence of the students who are now on campus, and proud that they are part of the Clark family. They represent our University well today and will continue to do so in the future.

You as an alumnus/a play an important role in this momentum — whether by talking to people about your own experiences at Clark University, or through various volunteer efforts. Your monetary gifts are also an expression of your high regard for this institution — your donations to Clark are a direct result of, and a contributing factor to, our collective success. Our ability to extend financial aid certainly attracts students who otherwise would not be able to attend a university of Clark’s caliber.

This is a time of change for the Alumni Association Executive Board. Over the past year, our members have been discussing how we operate and the best way to move forward. There has been a growing need for the board to focus on specific, ongoing alumni-related projects that are a priority for the University. This year, the board is implementing subcommittees to address new and critical demands. In addition, we hope this subcommittee structure will open up avenues for more alumni participation and help shape how the University and the Alumni Association (i.e., you) can make Clark even stronger. You will see future communications apprising you of exciting developments.

The Alumni and Student Engagement Center is being built at an impressive rate, with plans for the building to officially open in 2016. You can check out the following link for more on the project and to see time-lapse photos: clarku.edu/newbuilding.

The Clark Fund finished last year with $2.5 million raised and an 18.2 percent B.A. participation rate. For those of you who participated, a big “thank you” for your contribution. It is nice to see the alumni body coming together to invest in the future of the current students and greater Clark community. This year we’re looking to raise $2.6 million via the Clark Fund and achieve a 19.2 percent participation rate. Please talk to your fellow alumni about these goals, and help ensure our numbers exceed expectations!

As always, if you have any questions or comments please feel free to drop me a note at LVelasquez@alumni.clarku.edu.

Sincerely,

LEO VELASQUEZ ’86, P ’18
Alumni Association President
1948

RUTH MEYER BUTLER, M.A.Ed. ’48, a Worcester native, left the city for a job in Texas after she received her Clark degree. She has lived there ever since, “married a Texan,” raised a son and taught in the public schools for 35 years. She is proud to report that her husband was a professor at the University of Texas – Arlington, her son has three degrees, and her grandson is working toward a doctorate at New York University. Ruth writes that she has fond memories of watching the WPI-Clark athletic rivalry while she was growing up and her father was a professor at WPI.

1952

ELLIOT BAKER wrote “The Past Is Not Past” to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The play was stage-read at the Cambridge School of Weston and at the Armenian Library and Museum in Watertown, Mass., and was later made into a book, with monoprints by John Avakian, by the Thompson Gallery of the Cambridge School of Weston (Mass.). The book has been placed at the libraries of the Cambridge School of Weston, the Armenian Library and Museum, the National Association for Armenian Studies in Belmont, Mass., Lesley University, Pennsylvania State University, UCLA, the American University of Armenia in Yerevan, Armenia, Lynn Classical High School (Mass.), and Clark University.

1953

RICHARD “DICK” ’53 AND BIRGIT SUNQUIST NELSON ’55 were thrilled to attend Reunion Weekend 2015, during which they celebrated their 57th anniversary. Birgit writes, “Incidentally, we did not meet at Clark. We became neighbors when Dick moved into my neighborhood when I was 14. We attended the same high school as well as Clark, but never dated until he was headed off to the U.S. Navy and realized that I was no longer the awkward kid next door.”

1962

J.P. BO, senior sales consultant with Pacific Honda in San Diego, was recently honored by American Honda Motor Co. with Gold Master-Level membership in the Council of Sales Leadership program, reserved for Honda sales consultants who consistently display leadership and provide world-class customer service. J.P has earned Gold Master status for 20 years straight, an accomplishment never before achieved in San Diego County. He has been a salesman at Pacific Honda since 1985.

1964

KIRBY FARRELL has published “The Psychology of Abandon,” about “berserk style” in American culture. Berserk style, Kirby says, promises access to extraordinary resources by overthrowing inhibitions. It has shaped many areas of contemporary American culture, from warfare to politics and intimate life. Focusing on post-Vietnam America and using perspectives from psychology, anthropology and physiology, this book demonstrates the need to unpack the confusions in language and cultural fantasy that drive the nation’s fascination with berserk style. Kirby is a regular contributor to Psychology Today online and teaches at UMass-Amherst.

1966

JEFFREY A. SMITH could formerly be found skippering public sails on Belfast Harbor on Penobscot Bay, Maine, or teaching English, writing and languages — including Japanese — at River School Belfast. He writes that he’s now “old enough to have fully retired,” sold his sailboat, and bought his last house in Waldo County’s quiet countryside with his beautiful, “almost perfect” wife, Betsy. Jeff invites his long-lost friends to find him on Facebook and email as there are “no smart or dumb phones at hand in the coastal lands of near Down East Maine.” He adds, “I’m older, no wiser, and being mad as hell about the far right, ‘money is speech,’ racist, and bigoted flavor of too much discourse, so I’m spending the ‘brass years’ as a grass-roots warrior for progressive populist political campaigns in Maine [and nationally] to stop any further swing in politics.”
1969
STACY AMARAL '69, M.A. '84, P '01, has published “Sharing Voices, Getting from There to Here,” a compilation of 13 interviews with people who emigrated from other locations to the Main South community in Worcester. The participants are from, among other places, Puerto Rico, Burundi, Wales, Vietnam, Ecuador, Armenia, and Richmond, Va. Stacy says she was glad to have help on the project from Clark Professor Yelena Ogneva-Himmelberger, Ph.D. '98, P '06, P '19, as well as from Steve Teasdale, director of the Main South Community Development Corporation. Stacy, who has lived in the Main South area since 1971, is a member of the Main South CDC board. She raised almost $4,500 through a Kickstarter campaign to fund the book.

1970
WESLEY S. CHUSE has joined the law firm of Preti Flaherty as a director, and will practice from the Boston office. His practice focuses on transportation law and litigation, assisting clients from across the transportation sector with legal matters ranging from litigation to transactions to regulatory issues. His clients include many of the country’s leading motor carriers, van lines, and insurance companies specializing in transport and cargo issues. He has been honored with the Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating, its highest rating for legal ability and professional ethics. Wesley has also earned the Transportation Lawyers Association Distinguished Service Award and the Conference of Freight Counsel Chairman’s Award.

1971
SANdRA MOHR KNOTTS recently co-authored an article, “An Introduction to the new SI.” Plans are underway to redefine the International System of Units (SI) around 2018. The article specifies the values of certain physical constants to define units and explains the new SI in a way that could be used to present it to high school physics classes. In September, Sandy entered her 30th year of teaching physics at Perkiomen Valley High School in Collegeville, Pa. In addition, she is an adjunct professor at Wilkes University, where she has prepared middle school teachers to take a physics praxis examination. She has also written a high school curriculum for NASA. Sandra is married to Dr. David Knotts ’71.

1973
MARGARET A. FRUTH continues to write. “I use my geography education to monitor and comment on local and regional planning issues,” she shares. Fellow alumni can contact her at clarkyou1973@yahoo.com.

1980
YAEl S. KANER is excited to reconnect with Clarkies via Facebook and email (yaelonfire@gmail.com). She is a professional networker living in Israel.

GLORIA GIFFORD JOHNSON ’80, P ’06, is director of the Guild of St. Agnes’ largest preschool in Worcester, which serves inner-city children on many levels.

1985
ANDREW “ANDY” GORDON was named Syracuse University’s senior vice president and chief human resources officer in April. He previously was vice president for university human resources and global support at New York University, where he restructured operations to incorporate a human resources shared-services model; implemented
new technology and database systems for benefits, payroll and human resource transactions; and guided directional changes to ensure priority of developing talent through career development and the integration of collaborative cross-functional teams. Gordon played an integral role in ensuring the successful transition of the Polytechnic University from an independent university to NYU’s School of Engineering. Andy earned a J.D. from the College of William & Mary and taught law at an affiliated college of the University of London.

1991

HILARY NERONI has published “The Subject of Torture,” about psychoanalysis and biopolitics in television and film. She is an associate professor of film and television studies at the University of Vermont, where she teaches courses on film theory, history, and production. Hilary also is the author of “The Violent Woman: Femininity, Narrative, and Violence in Contemporary American Cinema,” as well as multiple journal articles and papers. She earned both master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Southern California.

1992

STUART G. GLASS has been elected partner at the law firm of White, Fleischner & Fino. He co-manages the Long Island, N.Y., office and serves as trial counsel for civil litigation matters in state and federal court.

1993

AMY ROSENBERG married Benjamin Rand on Oct. 18, 2014, at the New York Yacht Club in New York City. Amy is an executive vice president at Hill & Knowlton Strategies, a public relations firm in Manhattan, and oversees the team that specializes in media relations. She is a director of Youth I.N.C., which provides support to groups that work with high-risk and underprivileged children.

1994

AVI Z. WEIDER is pleased to announce the digital release of his feature documentary, “Welcome to the Machine.” The film, which premiered at SXSW in 2012, is now available on iTunes, Vudu and Google Play. It will soon also be available on Amazon and Hulu. The movie may also be rented or purchased directly at welcometothemachinemovie.com.

1997

WILLIAM S. BENNETT, M.P.A. ’97, is a senior development officer at the Harvard Business School. A key member of the front line development team and responsible for raising current use, endowment, and capital support at the 6-, 7- and 8-figure level, he is responsible for developing and executing a major-gift fundraising strategy to increase giving. Bill is managing a portfolio of 200-250 major-gift prospects in his assigned region(s) and performing identification, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship activities.

DANIEL P. BILODEAU was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor at the University of Maine in September 2014. He chairs the Theatre and Dance Department.

TIMOTHY M. BOULAY, M.S.P.C. ’97, joined General Dynamics Electric Boat as director of communications in January. His duties include media relations, employee communications, advertising, trade shows and exhibits, special events, corporate philanthropy, community relations, and emergency response communications.
2001

CASSANDRA PERRY '01 and C.J. CLARK '02, M.A. '04, were married on Dec. 7, 2013, in Worcester and welcomed their first child, a daughter, Everleigh Mara Clark, on Oct. 1, 2014.

GEOFFREY DANCEY '01, M.B.A. '02, is president and managing member of Cutler Capital Management, LLC. He joined Cutler in 2002 as a financial analyst and most recently served in the dual positions of director of research and portfolio manager. Geoffrey studied negotiation for executives at the MIT Sloan School of Management and received special training in real estate securities at an analyst training program at SNL Financial’s Center for Financial Education in Charlottesville, Va. He is a member of the Boston Security Analyst Society, the CFA Institute and the Worcester Young Businessmen’s Association. He serves on the board of directors of both the West End House Boys Camp and the West End House Girls Camp, and is a Big Brother volunteer.

2002

DAVID A. JORDAN, M.P.A. '02, has been appointed Becker College’s first professor of practice in social innovation as part of a focused initiative on global citizenship education and agile-mindset perspective for all students. Dr. Jordan, president and CEO of Seven Hills Foundation, is a longtime adjunct professor at Clark University, where he teaches courses in social entrepreneurship, strategic management, and other graduate- and undergraduate-level subjects. He holds a doctorate in health administration from the Medical University of South Carolina.

2003

RICHARD R. FIELDS '03 and WENDEY CARNEY FIELDS '04 welcomed Henry Richard Fields on Feb. 25, 2015. The family — including big sister Vivian — are doing very well.

JEFFREY J. MALANSON ’03, M.A. ’04, has published “Addressing America: George Washington’s Farewell and the Making of National Culture, Politics, and Diplomacy, 1796-1852” (Kent State University Press).

GEOFF PHILLIPS is an assistant recovery officer with the Texas Division of Emergency Management, where he is responsible for individual and public assistance. He graduated from Jacksonville State University (Alabama) with a master of science in emergency management. During his time at Clark, Geoff was a member of the University’s Emergency Medical Technician squad.

2004

KAREN P. HIGGINS, M.A.T. ’04, was recognized as one of 33 teachers statewide by Mass Insight Education Partners in Excellence, for her success in teaching AP courses and bringing students to qualifying scores on AP exams during the 2013-2014 year. Karen teaches English at Shepherd Hill Regional High School in Dudley, Mass., and was recognized for her work in AP English Language and Composition.

2006

JOANNA BRINTON, ’06, M.P.A. ’07, recently relocated to the Princeton, N.J., area after living in Boston for more than five years. She has joined the major gifts team at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. For her 10-year reunion next spring, she is looking forward to being back in Massachusetts and eating at DaLat one more time.

JANET REDMAN, M.A. ’06 is director of the Climate Policy Program at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., where she provides analysis of the international financial institution’s energy investment and carbon finance activities. She appears regularly on radio, TV and in print sharing positive visions for fair and equitable climate action in the United States and overseas. She previously was a visiting faculty member at the College of the Atlantic and directed its Watershed Initiative of the Center for Applied Human Ecology. Her involvement in youth and women’s empowerment through community farming and sustainability has allowed her to work with local activists from coastal Maine to Bangladesh.

2007

MEGHAN MCCOMBS is the Teacher in Charge of School Entry for Cambridge (Mass.) Public Schools, as well as an active school psychologist.
In 2004, Darius Shirzadi ’94 (left) launched Project GOAL (Greater Opportunity for Athletes to Learn), a Rhode Island-based nonprofit that guides inner-city youth through after-school tutoring, health education, and soccer-related programs. One of its early participants was Miguel Angel Lara, a seventh-grader who joined Project GOAL in 2005. Miguel excelled in the program and would go on to earn a scholarship to Darius’ alma mater, Clark University. This past spring, Miguel was selected to deliver the Senior Address at Clark Commencement ceremonies. “It’s incredibly gratifying to see our kids do so well,” Shirzadi says. “Sure, not all will give the Senior Address for their university or high school, but 96 percent of our kids do graduate high school and almost as many go to college. And those are amazing numbers.”

TIM MULVEHILL was honored at the Massachusetts State House as one of three finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. Tim has working with urban youth in Boston since graduation, the past four years as a classroom teacher. “I truly cherished my time at Clark and am able to stay connected because one of my former students just completed his first year at Clark,” Tim writes. “My wife, Samantha Fonseca-Moreira ’09, and I held our wedding ceremony in Tilton Hall last June. Needless to say, Clark holds a very special place in my heart.” Tim is a fourth grade teacher at the Renaissance Charter School in Boston.

TIMOTHY D. SWEETSER graduated in June 2015 with a master’s in statistics from Stanford University. He is now working for Stitch Fix, an e-commerce startup in San Francisco.

2009

ARMEN KASSABIAN spent a semester in Santiago, Dominican Republic, working with the Council on International Educational Exchange, and was recently named CIEE’s Alumni of the Month. He was awarded a Fulbright to teach English in Brazil and published “Beyond the ‘To Be’ Syndrome: An Alternative Method to Teaching Language,” about teaching language in a more creative, interactive way. Prior to his Fulbright program, Armen taught English on the island of Martinique, as well as in New York City Public Schools. He is studying for a master’s degree in teaching English as a Second Language at Long Island University and a master’s degree in bilingual childhood education at Hunter College, and is working as an elementary school teaching assistant in New York.

GARRETT ’07, M.B.A. ’08, and CAITLAN ABRAHAMSON are excited to announce the arrival of Shiloh Grace Abrahamson, born on June 29, 2015. Shiloh weighed 9 pounds and was 20.25 inches long. She was welcomed by her big brother Sammy.

DAVID GAGNON ’09, M.B.A. ’10, and MALLORY KENNEDY ’09, M.B.A. ’11, were married on May 16, 2015, at the Captain Linnell House in Orleans, Mass. Among those in attendance were (left to right) James Callahan ’09, Brian Sandina ’09, Bill Cobb ’08, Sara Hagstrom Alahlian ’09, Caleb Evuster ’09, M.B.A. ’10, Mallory, Angelo Guisado ’08, David, Jillian Camilleri ’10, M.A.T. ’11, Kelly Nugent ’08, Allison MacHaffie ’08, Catherine Hart ’09, M.P.A. ’10, Katie McClokey Shea ’09, Kristin Healy ’08, Kate Petty ’10, Sarah Rodrigue ’09, M.B.A. ’10, Becca Leighton ’08, and Mel Vicne’08 (not pictured).
NICOLE LEVEQUE '09, M.P.A. '10, married Steve Bova on Nov. 15, 2014. Clarkies at the wedding included (back row, left to right) Danielle Goldman Carrier '09, Mallory Kennedy '09, M.B.A. '11, David Gaynor '09, M.B.A. '10, Catherine Hart '09, M.P.A. '10, Sara Hagstrom Akashian '09, Kathleen McCloskey '09, Nicole, Salvatore DeMarco '09, M.B.A. '11, Katelyn Petty '10, Sarah Goreham Auger '09, Christopher “Chris” Auger '09, (front row, left to right) Byron Roberts '09, Maria Arabatzis '09, M.B.A. '10, Sarah Roderigue '09, M.B.A. '10.

2011

COLLEEN E. BURNS is a grant specialist at Wheeler Clinic in Plainville, Conn. Colleen is also a member of the Farmington Valley Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International that is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2015.

JESSICA MCKENZIE, M.A. '11, PH.D. '14, is an assistant professor in the Department of Child, Family, and Consumer Sciences at California State University-Fresno. Her primary research interests include moral development across cultural contexts and the psychological impact of globalization. She is particularly interested in the intersection of those domains, and has also examined related topics such as identity development, socialization, and religion. Jessica has analyzed moral discourses of children, adolescents, and adults from evangelical and mainline Presbyterian communities in the United States. She is passionate about travel, photography, speaking Thai, reading, running, and yoga.

2013


CLASS OF 2006 friends Manda Graizel, Lucie Snow Kahn, Sandi Fox '06, M.P.A. '07, Joanna Brinton '06, M.P.A. '07, and Paige LaMarche celebrated their life adventures with a mini-reunion over pizza in New York City.


CARSON STEVENS '13, M.B.A. '14, worked for more than a year with Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (Our Little Brothers & Sisters), a home for children in Honduras. His jobs included computer teacher and English teacher (officially) and English, Spanish, and math tutor (unofficially). He writes, “A large part of the experience is what volunteers do during the evenings and weekends, which is work in the dorms where the children live. I have worked with seven special needs boys/men from ages 16 to 31. They have been the highlight of my time here, but I never anticipated finding or enjoying a match with special needs individuals. It was a life-changing experience!”
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>ELLIOT S. WOLK '40</td>
<td>Storrs, Conn., 4/18/2015</td>
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<td>WILBERT J. HUMPHLETT '43, M.A. '44</td>
<td>Lake Ridge, Va., 8/27/2015</td>
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<td>BARBARA E. BRODSKY '48</td>
<td>Philadelphia, Pa., 7/1/2015</td>
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<td>RICHARD D. GALE '48</td>
<td>Endicott, Conn., 2/27/2015</td>
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<td>BYRON W. RIGGAN, M.A. '48</td>
<td>Chicago, Ill., 1/26/2015</td>
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<td>HAROLD O. GRAVES '49</td>
<td>Ware, Mass., 5/23/2015</td>
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<td>ROBERTA B. SCHOLLARD '49</td>
<td>Sarasota, Fla., 6/2/2015</td>
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<td>Townsend, Mass., 4/22/2015</td>
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<td>RICHARD D. COCHRAN '51</td>
<td>Mooresville, N.C., 8/30/2014</td>
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<td>RUTH M. LAMARRE '51</td>
<td>Kennebunkport, Maine, 2/15/2015</td>
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<td>Viera, Fla., 5/15/2015</td>
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<td>JOY C. DUNKERLEY, M.A. '54</td>
<td>Washington D.C., 6/5/2015</td>
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<td>ELIZABETH L. KEENAN '54</td>
<td>North Attleboro, Mass., 4/29/2015</td>
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<td>JOAN W. BABOR '55</td>
<td>Houston, Texas, 2/5/2015</td>
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<td>ANNA H. STEAD, M.A.ED. '56</td>
<td>Auburn, Mass., 2/14/2015</td>
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<td>JAMES W. WIGHTMAN, M.A. '56, PH.D. '67</td>
<td>Centrailia Pa., 1/14/2015</td>
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<td>WILLIAM G. COOPER '57</td>
<td>Erwin, Tenn., 2/25/2015</td>
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<td>FRANK A. CARO '58</td>
<td>Worcester, Mass., 1/17/2015</td>
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<td>THOMAS H. HIGGINS, M.A. '59</td>
<td>Indianapolis, Ind., 4/21/2015</td>
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<td>MARIA FORSYTH '62</td>
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<td>D'ARMY BAILEY '65, LL.D. '10, P '00</td>
<td>Memphis, Tenn., 7/12/2015</td>
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<td>MICHAEL W. MCQUAIDE '65</td>
<td>West Hartford, Conn., 3/19/2015</td>
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<td>RAYMOND P. BAZINET '66</td>
<td>Dudley, Mass., 2/15/2015</td>
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<td>FREDERICK C. HOLTZ '66</td>
<td>Bloomfield, Ontario, 8/30/15</td>
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<td>BRUCE L. LAROSE, M.A. '67</td>
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<td>RONALD M. BOUCHER '68, M.A. '70</td>
<td>Ashland, Mass., 2/3/2015</td>
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<td>LORRAINE M. GRIFFIN, M.A. '68</td>
<td>Worcester, Mass., 7/12/2015</td>
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<td>Dedham, Mass., 5/29/2015</td>
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<td>Greenfield, Mass., 5/17/2015</td>
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<td>Charlton, Mass., 1/15/2015</td>
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<td>JOHN W. STEIN '71</td>
<td>Mill Valley, Calif., 1/30/2015</td>
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<td>MICHAEL FERDORCZUK '72</td>
<td>Upton, Mass., 2/3/2015</td>
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<td>JOHN W. PENDERGAST '73</td>
<td>Southborough, Mass., 5/28/2015</td>
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<td>SHIRLEY M. CASSIDY '74</td>
<td>Worcester, Mass., 2/5/2015</td>
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<td>VICTOR I. ZINN, PH.D. '74</td>
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<td>LEONARD J. McGLYNN '76</td>
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<td>JONATHAN B. RAPHAELSON '76, P '14</td>
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Judge D’Army Bailey always courted justice

D’Army Bailey wasn’t born with an apostrophe in his name.

That came later. In the summer between eleventh and twelfth grades he decided the way most folks pronounced his birth name of “Darmy” was too pedestrian — Didn’t they realize there was supposed to be a slight pause between the “D” and the “A”? — and that the collection of letters by which he’d be known throughout his life needed something to distinguish itself. So he adopted the apostrophe.

The sideways wink of punctuation may have set him apart early in life, but D’Army Bailey wouldn’t need it to get noticed later on. His name found its way into newspaper headlines and police reports, into movie credits and legal decisions, and onto the cover page of a thick FBI file that labeled him a “subversive.”

So began the profile of D’Army Bailey ’65, L.L.D. ’10, P ’00, in the Fall 2010 issue of the CLARK alumni magazine. The story chronicled his life of accomplishment and purpose, one whose most dramatic chapter involved Bailey’s fight against the injustices heaped upon African-Americans during the Jim Crow era.

Bailey passed away on July 12.

The consequences of his activism brought D’Army Bailey to Clark University. He’d been expelled from Southern University in Louisiana after leading civil rights protests in the streets of Baton Rouge, his discontent with the status quo having evolved into a righteous rage to reverse institutional discrimination. Thanks to a scholarship fund established by Clark University students, he was able to accept an invitation to finish his college studies at Clark, a place he’d never heard of in a part of the country he’d never visited.

At Clark, Bailey continued to churn the waters of civil protest. He organized student pickets of local companies with poor records of hiring and promoting minorities into managerial positions. He brought to campus James Meredith, the man who had integrated Mississippi State University, and Black Muslim leader Malcolm X, who spoke to a packed Atwood Hall. As they did with many civil rights leaders, the FBI kept Bailey on its radar.

“If you had taken the white kids at Clark and put them in Baton Rouge, they would have been in the front lines, perhaps not as ready for the vehemence of the southern reaction, but with the same spirit,” Bailey wrote in his book, “The Education of a Black Radical.” “We all were one in having within us a deep anger at injustice.”

Bailey earned his law degree at Yale, practiced in San Francisco and returned to his hometown of Memphis, where he served 19 years as an elected judge on the Tennessee trial court bench. He later practiced law for a private firm and dabbled in acting, taking small roles in movies like “How Stella Got Her Groove Back” and “The People Vs. Larry Flynt.”

“Judge D’Army Bailey was a great Memphis and American icon,” recalled Ronald Walter ’71, a member of the Clark University Board of Trustees. “Fearlessly, he faced difficult issues with courage and conviction. In Memphis, he led the way in the preservation and founding of the National Civil Rights Museum at the old Lorraine Motel where Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated.

“He was a patron of the fine arts, a man who produced and appreciated learned literature, and one of unreserved action to worthy causes, especially in his crusade against injustices against the poor, powerless and disenfranchised. He was a true Clarkie: liberal, educated, caring, concerned, responsible, and a cynosure of important movements of our time.”

In 2010, Bailey was awarded an honorary degree from Clark University, and just this past spring he was given the Distinguished Service Award during Reunion Weekend. Among those speaking at his funeral was former President Bill Clinton.

Shortly after his death, the Shelby County Commission, ever proud of its native son, voted to rename the county courthouse the D’Army Bailey County Courthouse.
In life, Gil Markle left no stone unturned

**Gil Markle**, a former Clark University philosophy professor and owner of a recording studio that brought the Rolling Stones to Worcester County, passed away March 20 at his home in Spencer, Mass.

Markle, who held doctorates from the University of Paris and Yale, was renowned for packing classrooms and auditoriums for his wide-ranging lectures, which he often delivered as multimedia presentations throughout his teaching career (1966-1978). He incorporated tape recorders, slide projectors, live actors and a mini-computer — a radical approach for the time. A 1981 *Scarlet* profile of Markle described him as a “visionary,” “mentor” and “a phenomenon” for his prowess at the podium. Colleague Gary Overvold, professor of philosophy, told reporter Eric Lefcowitz ’82, “Gil Markle was the most popular professor who ever taught at Clark.”

Dashing and charismatic, Markle connected with his students during the turbulent 1960s, basing his radical teaching methodologies on the theories of Marshall McLuhan. “A good teacher is thus something of an artist, an actor, psychologist and salesman,” Markle said. “He regards his task as a ‘no-holds barred’ enterprise.”

During his time at Clark, Markle launched the successful American Leadership Study Groups, which coordinated travel package tours for students.

His destiny took another turn when he purchased the 150-acre Long View Farm in North Brookfield, Mass., converting a big red barn into a recording studio. Starting in 1974, the studio attracted top acts like Aerosmith, Stevie Wonder, Cat Stevens, Arlo Guthrie and John Belushi during his Blues Brothers days.

But it was the Rolling Stones’ arrival that truly put Long View on the map. The group descended on the farm in August 1981 to rehearse for a tour supporting their newly released album “Tattoo You.” Mick, Keith and the boys lived on the property for six weeks, keeping out of the limelight for most of that stretch except for one memorable occasion. On Sept. 14, the band took the stage at Sir Morgan’s Cove in Worcester billed as The Cockroaches; the concert was in part a thank-you to Markle and his staff for their hospitality. It was also the worst-kept secret in town: fans flocked to the Green Street club in an attempt (mostly in vain) to score access to the 300-person venue.

The 1981 *Scarlet* piece (clarku.edu/markle) was written during the Stones’ visit to Long View Farm. In it, Markle reflected on his uncommon path from academia to entertainment, from challenging students to think deep thoughts, to hobnobbing with rock stars. He cited the university as “a very important chapter” in his development.

Of course, he also couldn’t resist having a bit of fun with his recollections. Asked what he missed most about Clark, Markle replied, “The hordes of adoring faces.” And the least? “My attendance at faculty meetings.”

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**Evelyn M. Vaskas**

**Longtime Clark University** math professor Evelyn M. (Bender) Vaskas, 86, passed away at Shrewsbury Crossing on April 22, 2015.

She was the widow of Edmund J. Vaskas, to whom she was married for 49 years. She leaves her loving family of two sons and three daughters. Professor Vaskas taught at Clark from 1977 to the early 1990s.

She graduated from Emmanuel College, and earned master’s and doctoral degrees from M.I.T., where she was on the math faculty. She was also a professor of mathematics at Cornell University and Boston College in the 1950s.

**Robert E. Dik ’50**

**Robert “Bob” E. Dik**, 86, died April 22, 2015, at his home in Worcester. He is survived by a daughter, a son, three grandchildren and his sister. He was preceded in death by his partner of 20 years, Malba Chase Ryder, and his two brothers.

An honor student, he was co-captain of the Clark varsity basketball team and recipient of the Hebert Trophy for outstanding senior athlete. He was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1969 to 1981.

Bob served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany during the Korean Conflict. He worked for Knight-Dik Insurance Agency for 59 years, serving as president until 1991.
A memorable weekend in May

Commencement, May 17
1. A shout of joy punctuates the commencement ceremony.
2. Flower power meets brain power on this graduate’s mortarboard.
3. A grad spots family members in the crowd.
4. There is time for a pensive moment before the diplomas are passed out.
5. Commencement speaker Matt Goldman ’83, M.B.A. ’84, co-founder of Blue Man Group, instructs the grads to “be unreasonable” when pursuing their passions.
6. On a clear, sunny day, it helps to make your own shade.
7. Diplomas in hand, Clark’s newest alumni are all smiles.
8. What’s the perfect accessory for crossing the graduation finish line? A laurel drape, of course.
Reunion Weekend, May 14-17

9. Karleen Porcena ’09 and Janette Ekanem ’09 greet Professor Sharon Krefetz at a symposium held in honor of her retirement after 43 years at Clark. 10. Adrienne Desjardin Hindley ’85 and Scott Hindley ’85 kick up their heels in The Grind. 11. Be careful what you say on Red Square — Sigmund Freud might be eavesdropping. 12. President David Angel and Trustee Elyse Darefsky ’79 (center) lead the groundbreaking ceremony for the Alumni and Student Engagement Center on Main Street. Turn to page 64 to check out the progress. 13. President Angel greets alumni on the Wetzel Terrace. 14. A selfie for posterity at Dancing Under the Stars. 15. Shamiyun “Sami” Noor ’15 addresses the Jonas Clark Fellows at the President’s House.
Kim Dougherty ’98 brought the law to the lab

In October 2012, doctors in 23 states recognized that an unusual pattern of disturbing symptoms cropping up among their patients was transforming from a medical mystery into a public health emergency. Something was clearly wrong.

Then people started dying.

The crisis, which ultimately led to more than 64 deaths, was the result of contaminated steroid injections shipped from the New England Compounding Center (NECC) in Framingham, Mass., from May through September 2012. Those who became ill or passed away had received epidural injections directly into their spines, resulting in infections and, in some cases, fungal meningitis. About 14,000 patients were exposed, and 700 cases of illness reported.

The vials of steroids were immediately recalled by NECC, but the damage was done. In October 2012, attorney Kim Dougherty ’98, a partner and attorney of the Boston office of Janet, Jenner & Suggs, was consulted by a lawyer in Georgia who wanted to file a case in Massachusetts against the compounding center, and her work on behalf of those affected by the contamination began.

“We thought it made sense to get preservation orders and an inspection of the [NECC] facility,” Dougherty says. The Food and Drug Administration and Massachusetts Department of Public Health already had sent investigators into the now-closed facility, and the clock was ticking.

Dougherty immediately filed motions to inspect the center and to preserve whatever evidence was found. The state judge ruled in her favor, but she had to fight again, this time over vehement, lengthy objection by NECC, when the case was moved to federal court.

That success was critical to the case, Dougherty says. “We were able to get the inspection of the facility early on, before too much had been done, and gather the evidence we needed — not just against NECC, but many additional potentially responsible parties.”

The various agencies involved complicated matters. “At one point during the four-day inspection I was arguing with an FBI agent over a ceiling tile,” Dougherty says. “They didn’t want us to take it. We ended up compromising, and only took a piece of it.

“We didn’t even know what we could get out of the inspection,” she continues. “It was certainly our concern that evidence could be removed, tampered with or altered. There was evidence of cleaning in places that never should have been cleaned.”

The evidence gave Dougherty and her colleagues the upper hand against NECC. “We were able to identify the contaminants, Exserohilum and Aspergillus — the disease-causing funguses that were found in the recalled vials of steroids and in our clients’ spines.” The inspection connected the outbreak directly to the compounding center.

The inspection also identified additional defendants in what was eventually a $200 million settlement, confirmed in May 2015. “It was a long process,” Dougherty says. “And we wanted to maximize the victims’ recovery — they’re never all going to be compensated for the harm they suffered. That’s the hardest part, but you make sure that you do the best you can for everybody.”

Dougherty has been involved in a number of high-profile cases, but she says the NECC case is the most complex. “I’m used to mass torts across multiple states, but they don’t usually involve so many different areas of the law — bankruptcy, criminal, and civil tort litigation crossing state and federal jurisdictions. There are complex angles here that you don’t often see in other cases.”

Dougherty has litigated against manufacturers of transvaginal mesh, and against the maker of Zofran, a drug approved to treat nausea in chemotherapy patients but which was off-label marketed to OB/GYNs and given to pregnant women in the first trimester, leading to multiple birth defects.

A psychology major at Clark, Dougherty earned a master’s in social work from Columbia University before entering Northeastern University Law School.

Dougherty knew she wanted a career with impact. During law school, she debated whether to craft laws for the state legislature, or to litigate them. “With legislation, you have to compromise — the bill you’re drafting is never going to be the bill you see in the end. But with litigation, you can stand behind what you believe in and truly fight hard for it.” Changes to compounding regulations have been enacted due to the NECC case, she noted.

Dougherty hasn’t completely given up legislative advocacy. She is the current president of the Women’s Bar Association in Massachusetts, and regularly testifies on various bills supporting the association’s mission: to create an equal and just society for women and children. Dougherty recently testified on behalf of the WBA for the equal pay bill which, if passed, would be one of the most comprehensive equal-pay statutes in the country.
Jeff Gillooly is new to Clark University, but not to a challenge. Which makes him the perfect fit.

Gillooly arrived on campus in June as the vice president for university advancement, eager to lead fundraising efforts that support Clark’s academic and capital initiatives, deepen and broaden areas of engagement for alumni, families and friends, and further the culture of philanthropy across the University.

“I consider it an unbelievable opportunity to come into an outstanding university and help to build a strong, sustainable and consistent advancement organization that Clark needs, not only for today, but for its long-term future,” Gillooly says.

Gillooly comes to Clark from the University of Rochester, where since 2006 he served as assistant vice president for presidential advancement and university volunteer management. In this position he helped build the architecture of the university’s $1.2 billion campaign, called the Meliora Challenge, while simultaneously assisting with restructuring the entire advancement organization to support the endeavor. He also coordinated advancement volunteer engagement across all schools and units, including the university’s hospitals, medical center, and School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Gillooly is no stranger to Worcester — far from it. His wife Joanne’s parents were born and raised in the city, and much of her extended family still lives here. “Our entire life together has involved at least some time each year visiting Worcester,” he says. “We’re very familiar with the area and had always hoped to eventually get back to New England.”

A native of Louisville, Ky., Gillooly earned an English degree at Dartmouth College and a master’s in higher education administration at Vanderbilt University. He worked as a paralegal in Boston for several years before moving into higher ed as director of student activities at Middlebury College and then as associate dean of students at Newbury College in Boston. The latter position was particularly challenging because Newbury was transitioning from a two-year community college to a four-year baccalaureate, which meant Gillooly had to develop a full-fledged student affairs program from scratch.

He moved on to become chief of staff for the president of Roger Williams University, where he found his calling as a fundraiser during two stints as interim vice president for advancement.

“I loved every minute of it,” Gillooly recalls. “You not only directly effect change for an institution by helping raise the funds to support it, but you also are able to connect individuals to their dreams, their legacies and their passions so they truly know they are making a difference.”

Roger Williams experienced remarkable growth during Gillooly’s time there, expanding programming at its law school, building a school of architecture and investing in its aquaculture program, which has helped to successfully reintroduce oysters to Rhode Island’s Mount Hope Bay. “We connected the local fishermen with an academic endeavor they never thought they’d be a part of. It was a great experience,” he says.

The Gillooly family — Jeff, Joanne, son Jack, 18, daughter Reagan, 14, and son Danny, 12 — have relocated from the Rochester area to Shrewsbury, Mass., where Jeff continues to root for the Red Sox. Yes, continues. Gillooly is quick to note that the Red Sox Triple A team was located in his hometown of Louisville before it was moved to Pawtucket, R.I., and he grew up a fan of the Sox, even when it was unfashionable to be one (particularly in 1975, when his family and neighbors were cheering on the Cincinnati Reds in the World Series).

Gillooly has been meeting with Clark faculty, trustees, alumni and administrators to learn and understand the Clark culture and listen to their thoughts about the University. He says he’s deeply impressed with the level of professionalism and shared vision for Clark — “where it is today and where it can be in the future.”

“There’s a fervent dedication to Clark University that’s very heartening for an advancement professional. That passion is what you’re looking for,” he says. “People are willing to speak up with their opinions about the institution. I like the fact that you don’t have to guess what people are thinking — it helps me as we strengthen the advancement organization, because we know where to focus for the future.”

Expanding the resource base will require collaboration among all the University’s stakeholders, inspired by that Clark fervency.

“It’s going to take everyone — faculty, alumni, parents, friends — to build the type of advancement organization that Clark deserves,” he says. “Having those partnerships is incredibly important for our ultimate success.”

Building Clark resources is ‘going to take everyone’
LEEP Fellows find their own vistas

The LEEP Fellows initiative this summer gave more than 100 Clark students the opportunity to flex their research muscles, build businesses, search for enlightenment, and even trek more than halfway across the country. The results included an expansion of their knowledge, a deepening of their spirit, and a few blisters.

West meets East

In a LEEP talk he gave this fall, Jules Ochoa ’16 shared how Tibetan Buddhism can benefit Western thought, and divulged how forgiveness can relieve stress in everyday life.

Ochoa did fine, since he had good teachers. The senior biology major from Austin, Texas, spent several weeks of his summer in India, studying with Tibetan monks. The trip was organized through Emory University’s Tibetan Mind/Body Sciences Summer Abroad Program.

“Among the many things I got from this trip is a great sense of spirituality and understanding of life,” Ochoa says. “These are invaluable to me and will influence me for the rest of my life. I see these experiences as guiding my study outside of school, as far as the books I read, clubs I create or become a part of.”

Ochoa also plans to integrate what he learned into his career, which he envisions will be in health care. His LEEP Project provided him with “deep, meaningful, and intellectually stimulating conversations” with others — conversations, he says, that “stretched his thoughts and values.” He also had the chance to speak with monks and spiritual leaders in India, including the Dalai Lama and Chinese political prisoner Palden Gyatso. “I was challenged a lot more than I could have ever predicted,” he says.

And after spending a considerable amount of time in a spiritual culture composed of people he describes as humble and courteous, Ochoa says, “it made coming back to the States a bit of a rude awakening since our culture is fairly opposite to that.”

Ochoa has his sights set on forming a student meditation group and sharing tips on how people in India cultivate forgiveness and compassion in their lives.

“There seems to be an interest in meditation on campus, but there is no outlet for people to learn and explore it,” he says. “I plan to create the group as kind of an open-source environment where I will bring the Tibetan meditation practices that I know, and others will bring the meditation practices they know as well.”

Fueling her research

Nuzhat Tabassum Tani ’17 spent her summer working in Professor Arshad Kudrolli’s Complex Matter and Nonlinear Physics Laboratory, assisting with his research in “Particle Sedimentation in Clay Suspensions.” The study is funded by the Petroleum Research Fund, an endowed fund managed by the American Chemical Society that supports fundamental research directly related to petroleum or fossil fuels.

Tani recorded the behavior of different granular particles — called hydrogels — at varying states and temperatures. She observed and analyzed the properties of granular materials in solid, liquid and gaseous states, and examined the patterns that are created when these particles are stimulated. High-resolution imaging was used to capture the movements of the granular fluids as they were disturbed, and a laser was used to examine how the hydrogels shifted around an object that was being dragged in water.

Kudrolli welcomes and encourages undergraduates to participate in research projects in his laboratory. “This provides a wonderful opportunity for students to explore their creativity and to investigate interesting problems that do not always have obvious and neat solutions,” he says.

Post-doctoral researcher Xavier Clotet Fons, Ph.D., helped Tani set up the experimental apparatus, and also assisted in teaching her the computer programs used to compile and synthesize the data resulting from these experiments.

To share her research findings, Tani prepared a PowerPoint slide for the Physics Welcome held on Sept. 2 and will do poster presentations at Fall Fest and Academic Spree Day. She also will speak to undergraduate physics majors about her work in the Kudrolli laboratory at the Summer 2016 Physics Research Experience Information Session.

Tani participated in the 13th Northeast Granular Materials Workshop, which was hosted at Clark University on June 12. This workshop is aimed at bringing together researchers and students in the Northeast to discuss their work and to explore collaborations.

Tani appreciated the opportunity to spend her summer alongside skilled researchers, and hopes to continue to work with Kudrolli in the future.

“I feel very lucky to have a mentor like him,” she says.
Ted’s excellent adventure

Clark senior Ted Randich didn’t head to a classroom, lab or library to conduct research for his LEEP Project. Instead, he ventured into the great outdoors, dodging bears, snakes and mosquitos, braving rain and wind, while trekking the 2,189-mile Appalachian Trail.

A geography major who says he’s only referred to two cities — Newington, Conn., and Worcester — as “home,” Randich set out alone to hike the trail between March and August, carrying 40 pounds of gear over 10 miles of mountainous terrain every day.

“It was definitely difficult to adjust to the hiking lifestyle,” Randich says. “Some things that were difficult surprised me — like boredom. I never thought I would get bored being in the woods, but some sections in particular were monotonous.”

Randich found other things to be far easier, however, like socializing with fellow thru-hikers. “I did not think that I would make the strong connections with other people that I did,” he says.

Randich (who took the trail name of “Scribbles”) blogged about his trip for The Greater Worcester Land Trust (tedatgwlt.blogspot.com).

Now that he’s back on campus, Randich plans to delve deep into his project and conduct dialogue discussions about “space.”

“Just based on my first week back at Clark, I think it’s apparent that pretty much every experience I have now will be subconsciously reflected on my five months on the trail. I’ve already had opportunities to apply things I learned on the trail, such as patience and persistence, to real life,” he wrote in his blog.

Randich says he’s absorbed even more about his trail experience since his return. “Something will happen here that reminds me of a moment in Tennessee where something else happened, and the intersection of those two experiences illuminates a new idea. It’s actually pretty fun, never knowing when you’re going to find out something else you learned but never fully understood.”

For now, Randich says he’s happy to be listening to WCUW, playing vintage baseball, and watching the Yankees on TV. After he’s hiked 2,000 miles, who would begrudge him those small pleasures?
(From right) Bhumika Regmi ’14, M.S.P.C. ’15, Preeti Bhardwaj, M.B.A. ’15, and Pabitra Neupane gathered with the Clark community on April 30 for a candlelight vigil in honor of the earthquake victims.
MONTHS HAVE PASSED since an earthquake and aftershocks claimed the lives of thousands in the small Himalayan nation of Nepal. As the country struggles toward recovery, many members of the Clark University community are continuing with relief efforts, drawing on deep connections as well as caring hearts.

In a message to the campus community shortly after the 7.8-magnitude, April 25 quake, President David Angel wrote: “Clark University has extensive ties to the region through our students, alumni and faculty. Through these ties we know many who have suffered loss. The tragedy in Nepal reminds us that the world we know can change in an instant. At times like these we can act compassionately by remembering the importance of our extended relationships and exercising our responsibility to respond to the needs of others.”

Angel said financial support is urgently needed, and that need will continue for months and even years. He noted that members of the Clark community were organizing to send assistance to the area and other initiatives were in the works.

On April 30, President Angel and several faculty and administrators gathered with dozens of Clark students for a candlelight vigil on the campus square.

In two short months, nearly 200 people contributed more than $12,800 to “Clarkies for Nepal,” an online fundraising campaign organized by Wabun Nembang, M.B.A. ’15, who is from Kathmandu, and several fellow students. The group, which also hosted a yard sale that raised $1,200, coordinated a shipment of items to a village in Gorkha. Nembang reported on the effort and included pictures on his Facebook page. “Nothing more satisfying than seeing immediate results of what you have worked for,” he wrote. “[W]e are a solid community of hard-working Nepalese from Clark University trying to send more relief funds to rural areas in Nepal.”

Nembang also credited the guidance of William Fisher, Clark’s associate provost, dean of graduate studies and professor in the International Development, Community and Environment Department (IDCE), and Jude Fernando, IDCE associate professor. Each is expert in humanitarian assistance and international development and is helping the student coordinators formulate sustainable actions and long-view strategies for recovery in Nepal.

Aakriti Pandey, a master’s degree student in International Development and Social Change, will be working with Fernando to organize the sustainable support mechanism for Nepal in the education sector. She has been coordinating efforts with different nonprofits run by her friends in Nepal and the Nepalese military, where she served as a captain for nearly 10 years.

“This isn’t the first time and won’t be the last time Clark students have stepped up.” Fisher observed. For example, Clarkies quickly rallied to provide material and knowledge resources in response to the Dec. 26, 2004, Indian Ocean tsunami and the Jan. 10, 2010, earthquake in Haiti. Clark-guided efforts in these and other areas continue and, with each experience, Clark faculty and students gain deeper knowledge and understanding, becoming better educated and more effective humanitarians and agents for meaningful relief.

“It’s part of the educational experience here, with a heavily internationalized student body that is connected around the world. If not for Clark’s longstanding, on-the-ground connections, we wouldn’t be able to act as quickly or as effectively,” Fisher said.

Plans are underway, Fisher said, to establish an ongoing fund at Clark to help students prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises around the world that could be the result of climate change, natural and man-made disaster. The fund would help defray air travel costs and on-the-ground expenses, for example. “We’re building upon the experience and knowledge of students as well as alums and faculty before them, taking a long, broad vision — honing our ability to leverage our connections and to have an impact,” he said.

Fisher pointed with pride to the “instant” student-led response to assisting with Nepal relief. Forty-plus students, in the midst of finals week, immediately gathered to set efforts in motion. This outpouring of activity — for Nepal and in the wake of other crises — has always included students of many national backgrounds and academic disciplines, he noted.

It is estimated that 9,000 people died in the Nepal quake and its aftermath. As recently as mid-July, the U.N. reported “more than 2.8 million people remain in urgent need of lifesaving humanitarian assistance in Nepal, especially in the district worst hit by the twin earthquakes east of the capital, Kathmandu, where monsoon-triggered heavy downpours, floods and landslides will soon exacerbate their needs.” A post-disaster needs assessment by the World Bank Group estimated the cost for Nepal’s recovery to be $6.7 billion and suggested “that an additional 3 percent of the population has been pushed into poverty as a direct result of the earthquakes.”

This fall, Fisher is spending four months in Nepal, where he will conduct research on the resiliency of communities in disasters and the roles of nongovernmental organizations.

The Clark community’s commitment, connections and know-how lead to long-term Clark engagement, Fisher said. “We prepare students here to be capable of sustainable, and meaningful, responses — to learn while also making a difference in others’ lives and well-being. This is built into our educational structure for both undergraduates and graduates.”

Beyond the vigil: Clark works toward Nepal’s recovery
In July 2013, Bart Lloyd ’76 took a year’s sabbatical from his job as general counsel at Preservation of Affordable Housing in Boston, but not to travel or write a book. Instead, he and his wife relocated to Chicago so that Lloyd could volunteer at North Lawndale College Prep, a charter school serving students in one of the city’s roughest neighborhoods.

Lloyd’s affiliation with North Lawndale has led to Clark University’s participation in the Phoenix Pact, a nationally recognized scholarship program that makes it possible for the school’s low-income students to attend select four-year colleges without having to pay anything out-of-pocket for tuition, fees, room and board.

His year spent at North Lawndale doing teaching and administrative work opened Lloyd’s eyes to the good work being done there under difficult circumstances. He refers to the “invisible backpack” of daily challenges the students carry that makes their progress hard — but at the same time more remarkable: poverty, broken families, the temptations of the street, the threat of violence, and, for some, homelessness.

“There’s ‘code switching’ that goes on, where these kids with ties on walk to school past other kids on the corner talking at them,” he says. “Once they’re in school, they have to transition from hard-shelled kids to the soft-as-grape learners that some of them are. It’s a real challenge.”

A persistent hurdle for North Lawndale graduates was that while they could secure enough financial aid and scholarships to cover tuition, other costs like room and board, books and fees, were beyond their reach — even a gap of $2,000 to $3,000 was enough to squelch their college careers. As one North Lawndale administrator noted, for these kids a couple thousand dollars may as well be a billion. Moreover, some colleges cost less money but do not have the supports that these students often need to succeed.

Enter the Phoenix Pact, the $18 million scholarship program North Lawndale College Prep created through private fundraising. The pact is three-pronged: Students commit to graduate with a B average or better and attend a college with a track record of successfully graduating minority students; partner colleges commit to keeping total loan costs manageable and to ensuring that 50 percent or more of their minority students earn a degree; and the Phoenix Pact Fund pledges to cover any financial gap remaining between the cost of attendance and available financial aid.

When Lloyd returned to Boston, former Clark trustee Kathy Dunham ’67, with whom he works, suggested he approach Don Honeman, Clark’s dean of admissions and financial aid, to gauge the University’s interest in working with North Lawndale. Honeman, who handles student recruitment in Chicago, advised North Lawndale principal and founder John Horan and chief operating officer Christopher Kelly on key components of the program, particularly how needs-based financial aid interfaces with these types of scholarships. The Phoenix Pact now has 20 participating colleges and universities; Clark was the first university from the East Coast to sign on.

“Don gave us clear insight throughout the process,” Kelly says. “He advised us on how we should be talking to the colleges about this program; specifically, the things that colleges care about. He said if we want the program to be effective, we need to be mindful of that audience.”

The numbers tell a tale of remarkable success. North Lawndale College Prep, drawing randomly by lottery from a community in which less than 50 percent of residents have graduated high school, sends 85 percent of its students to college. Of those, 80 percent graduate or are still in school after five years.

As Lloyd notes: “The great thing about the Phoenix Pact is that it addresses what is often a silent tragedy: that after succeeding at the herculean task of getting kids ready for and into college, so much of the work can be undone, for want of small sums, by choosing colleges that don’t have a track record of success with economically challenged students. This program takes the issue of those small sums off the table and promotes better choices.”

More than 40 North Lawndale graduates received Phoenix Pact scholarships in its inaugural year, and it’s expected that eventually as many as 100 graduates will earn scholarships annually.

The Phoenix Pact has some powerful supporters. The program earned the endorsement of Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education and a founding member of North Lawndale College Prep when it opened in 1998. Duncan attended the Phoenix Pact’s May 29 launch ceremony, whose guests included Honeman.

“NLCP is taking kids from an absolutely desperate neighborhood, getting them into college, and getting them through college,” Lloyd says. “I’m thrilled Clark wants to be a part of this.”
The Board of Trustees of Clark University recently announced its new leadership team that includes Steven Swain, Richard M. Freeland and Robert J. Stevenish. The team will focus on advancing a long-term ambitious strategy to amplify the University’s mission and elevate its profile on the national stage. By tapping into the business and higher education expertise of its members, the board leadership team will center its efforts on enhancing Clark’s reputation as a global leader in liberal education and a destination of choice for academically talented and engaged students.

“Clark is a tremendous institution, and our board intends to build upon the school’s recent gains in admissions and rankings, as well as its nationally recognized work in community development and advances in liberal education, to attract highly qualified students who seek to challenge the status quo,” said Board Chair Swain. “I look forward to working with my fellow trustees, our tenacious president, David Angel, and distinguished faculty to build upon the success our university has achieved in the past few years.”

The board will increase its focus on areas that reflect the goals and imperatives for Clark University, including increased visibility, resource development, and improved educational and career outcomes for graduates.

Swain, a 1989 graduate of Clark, who joined the University’s Board of Trustees in 2009, is a co-founder and managing partner of the growth equity investment firm Centana Growth Partners. He is joined by Vice Chair Freeland, the recently retired Commissioner of Higher Education for Massachusetts and President Emeritus at Northeastern University; Vice Chair Stevenish, the retired president and chief operating officer of Modell’s Sporting Goods; and board Secretary Linda R. Savitsky, owner of LRS Consulting, Inc., and the former executive director of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators.

Freeland is known for a brand of visionary thinking and strategic planning that spurred robust growth at Northeastern, both in student numbers and prestige. He is also a national educational leader who will help ensure the success of Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP), Clark’s pioneering model of higher education that fuses a rigorous liberal education with world and workplace experiences to prepare students for successful careers and purposeful lives.

Stevenish has decades of experience in senior management, board leadership and consulting positions, and will apply his past success in finance and business operations to ensure Clark is a high-performing organization that is well-governed, efficient, and effective.

Savitsky, a 1970 Clark alumna, brings a deep background in nonprofit finance and accounting. She was the chief financial officer for three Connecticut municipalities and served many years as the director of municipal finance services for Connecticut.

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So what’s happening on Main Street these days?

Clark University’s Alumni and Student Engagement Center continues to rise just across from the main gate in anticipation of a spring 2016 opening. The Clark and Worcester communities have welcomed the project, which will help drive the University’s LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice) efforts, provide alumni with spaces to reconnect and engage with their alma mater, and become a major component in creating a city gateway in the Main South neighborhood.

The building was photographed on Oct. 6. Soon enough it will fulfill the promise captured in the accompanying artist’s rendering.

See time-lapse photos at clarku.edu/newbuilding.
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.

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Check out the photos online at clarku.edu/reunion-photos