Where is the nation headed on the big issues facing us? Six Clark professors offer context, perspective and some reasons for optimism.
Courtney conducted her fellowship through PROJECT HEALTHCARE, founded by Bellevue’s Director of Emergency Services Dr. Lewis Goldfrank ’63 (left) to expose students to the rhythms and realities of a city emergency room and to begin shaping doctors whose skills are matched by their compassion.

A GOOD DOCTOR NEEDS GOOD TEACHERS

MOST PEOPLE WILL DO ANYTHING TO STAY OUT OF THE EMERGENCY ROOM. COURTNEY PHARR ’17 IS DETERMINED TO FIND HER WAY IN.

The Clark University premed student spent her summer as a patient advocate inside the busy ER at New York’s Bellevue Hospital. The fellowship was a critical step on Courtney’s journey toward a career in medicine, one that she’s making with some powerful Clark allies by her side.

Her Clark professors gave Courtney the academic foundation to take on Bellevue. She cites the impact of Professor Mark Turnbull, who helped her conquer difficult concepts in organic chemistry, and who galvanizes his students to achieve excellence every day.

Your gift strengthens the link between a Clark University education and the professional opportunities it can provide — from the classroom to the emergency room, from professors to alumni, from Worcester to the world.

“Professor Turnbull pushed me to be a better student by holding me to an extremely high standard.”

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Letters to the editor are welcome.
Dear Alumni, Families and Friends,

This past summer included Jeffrey Selingo’s new book “There is Life after College: What Parents and Students Should Know About Navigating School to Prepare for the Jobs of Tomorrow.” Selingo’s main thesis is that a paradigm shift is underway in our economy that influences how students transition from college to career. College graduates face a conundrum. Students are correctly being encouraged to seek an education that promotes lifelong learning in an economy where many of the jobs of the present are not those of the future. At the same time, students are asked to “add value” immediately in their first jobs following graduation. Increasingly rare are the organizations that are willing to wait for a college graduate to build up skills “on the job.” Universities must weigh how best to meet both the long-term educational needs of our students, and how to ensure an effective launch into their first post-college careers.

The core issues raised here are ones that Clark University has been engaged with for many years. First, we have clarity on the educational outcomes we seek for our graduates. Our LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice) model identifies the skills and capabilities students need to flourish in the economy of the future, and to be highly competitive in the economy of today. The great news is that a liberal education does not require students to “trade off” across these two priorities. The capacity to think critically, to engage in rigorous analysis, to approach complex problems in new and creative ways, and to work effectively as part of diverse and global teams serves both purposes. Selingo highlights six such skills: curiosity, creativity, grit, digital awareness, contextual thinking and humility.

Mindful of these changes in the economy, almost all colleges have expanded their commitment to internships, prospects for off-campus research, entrepreneurship and student career advising. Where Clark differs is that we deeply and comprehensively integrate the building of skills and capabilities into our curriculum, into course pedagogy, and into every aspect of the college experience. For us, extending learning beyond the classroom is not an add-on but a carefully designed sequence of progressively more challenging opportunities embedded in the curriculum for students. This developmental trajectory is then facilitated by a nationally recognized advising model that guides and challenges students from arrival through graduation.

The penultimate chapter in Selingo’s book is titled “How Employers Hire” and focuses specifically on the transition from college to career and graduate school. This fall, Clark University is launching our Networked Communities initiative. Networked Communities bring together current students with alumni, parents and other supporters of Clark who provide mentorship, résumé review, job shadowing, internships, career and graduate school advice, and placement opportunities. Each Networked Community focuses on a specific sector of the economy and is guided by alumni and faculty co-chairs knowledgeable about this sector. This year we are launching Networked Communities in the following areas: Biology and Biosciences, the Creative Arts, Health, Law and Regulatory Affairs, Markets and Business, and Psychology. More will follow in other areas.

Since our students seek opportunities across the country and around the world, our Networked Communities will facilitate connections through a digital platform, as well as through in-person events and meetings. Alumni, parents and other Clark friends can sign up online to serve as mentors in their professions. Students will connect with these mentors for support in their college-to-career transitions. In addition to these networking activities, the platform will include profiles of alumni active in these career fields, faculty research and other materials relevant to the skills and capabilities students will need to flourish beyond Clark.

Our Networked Communities initiative will coordinate closely with the work of the LEEP Center at Clark University. It is important that as students engage with alumni and others they are fully prepared for the expectations of the workplace. The LEEP Center is putting in place innovative programming to ensure a successful networking experience for our students and their alumni mentors.

As I travel around the country, one of the consistent themes I hear is the willingness of alumni, parents and others to support current Clark students. I invite you now to join one or more of our Networked Communities by emailing Alumni and Friends Engagement at alumni@clarku.edu. You will find the connection to current students an immensely rewarding experience that will significantly advance their success and that of Clark.

Sincerely,

David P. Angel
President
United we stand. Don’t we?

By the time you read this the presidential election will be over.

I suspect most of you join me in wishing a less-than-fond farewell to the grinding run-up to Decision 2016, which refused to let us up for air until Nov. 8.

While planning this issue of CLARK magazine, we’d considered doing a pre-election piece about people’s attitudes toward Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, but abandoned the idea because the focus was too narrow, the shelf life too brief.

Instead, we’re taking a broader view. Well before the election, I asked six Clark professors to assess some of the contentious issues that were amplified during the campaign — issues like the racial divide, transgender rights, immigration and the makeup of the Supreme Court. These subjects were a source of debate and discontent, but do they signify a permanent national polarization? The great pleasure of talking to Clark historians and political scientists is that they hold the long view. They are learned about the past, dispassionately examine the present, and consider the future in reasonable context. Even when the topics were grim I felt buoyed after each conversation.

As I read Anne Gibson’s story about the life of Goldie Michelson, M.A. ’36 — all 114 years of it — I found myself wondering what Goldie would make of this election. She lived during the administrations of 19 U.S. presidents, beginning with Teddy Roosevelt, who spoke at Clark’s commencement in 1905 — one year after she and her family arrived in Worcester from her native Russia. I was fortunate to have interviewed Goldie in 2012, never expecting I was chatting with a woman who one day would reach a historic milestone as the nation’s oldest person. When President Obama sent his congratulations on her 110th birthday, she did what any good American would do: She wrote him a thank-you note.

Were there moments during the presidential campaign when you felt like you’d fallen into some sort of alternative reality? Dr. Fred Kron ’75 knows that feeling. He’s created a virtual-reality training program that helps physicians learn how to interact with patients responsibly and with sensitivity to build a trusting, empathic relationship. As both a doctor and cancer survivor, Dr. Kron has been on both sides of difficult medical conversations, and he’s acutely aware that better preparation is needed before entering into one of these life-altering exchanges. What’s fascinating is that his own training for launching his digital platform involved both “Star Trek” and “The Smurfs.” That may sound less like virtual reality than surreality, but once you read his story you’ll discover how it all makes perfect sense.

Deborah Dwork has devoted herself to chronicling one of the darkest realities in human history, the Holocaust. Her scholarship and drive — as well as a serendipitous conversation on a bus ride from Warsaw to Auschwitz — led to the creation of the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies nearly 20 years ago. Newly stepped down as active director, Dwork reflects on her career and on the center’s transformative academic mission.

Finally, some people “walk the walk” when it comes to living life in accordance with their principles. Leah Penniman ’02, M.A.T. ’03, and Jonah Vitale-Wolff ’02 fit that bill perfectly. The couple owns and operates Soul Fire Farm outside of Albany, N.Y., and have dedicated themselves to bringing social awareness to the practice, and art, of working the land. Their efforts include nurturing a new generation of “activist farmers” to carry forward the lessons taking root at Soul Fire.

// Please email me at jkeogh@clarku.edu with your comments, suggestions, letters to the editor and, most importantly, your story ideas. All are welcome.
When her father pulled up to Clark University for the first time, Robin Cohen ’06, M.P.A. ’07, refused to get out of the car. The high school junior found the campus too small, the neighborhood too gritty, and instantly determined there was no way the university she’d read about in “Colleges That Change Lives” could ever change hers.

She was wrong. And she’s happy to admit it. “I was not a great student in high school,” Robin recalls, “but Clark saw in me a great learner.” She forged abiding friendships and mentorships with dormmates and classmates, deans and professors, presidents and cafeteria workers. Her bond with Clark has remained strong over the years, with Robin eager to volunteer her time and expertise to keep this a vital institution. At Reunion 2016 she was presented with the Young Alumni Award, which recognized her professional and civic accomplishments, and her continued advocacy for Clark University.

As the associate director of annual giving for Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, Robin is particularly attuned to two truths: A gift of any size can change lives, and you are never too young to make an enduring contribution. To that end, Robin has made Clark University a beneficiary of her 403B retirement savings account. While retirement is on the distant horizon for her, Robin is forward-thinking — she’s aligned her long-term giving plans with the University’s educational vision.

The woman once unwilling to leave the car is now committed to keeping the Clark mission at full throttle.

To begin discussing your philanthropic vision for Clark, call 508-793-7593 or visit clarku.giftplans.org.
CUPS correction
In the spring issue of CLARK, our wonderful alumni magazine, on page 52 in the article about Professor Schroeder, the author states, “While at Clark he started the Clark University Players Society (CUPS)…”

I don’t think so.
If my failing memory isn’t playing tricks on me (again), I was, in 1951, president of that great organization, which had been in existence for many years. The year before, under the direction of Professor Robert Illingworth, Jack Lilley ’50, our talented stage manager, assembled a team of CUPS members to build a three-story set of the Globe Theatre, which was used for a number of years for the annual productions of Shakespearian dramas.

Jim Edwards replaced Dr. Illingworth as faculty adviser the following year and I believe my roommate, Ed Petrell ’52, took over as president.

CUPS had been a major organization on the Clark scene for some time. We had many good performances and great times.

Keep up the good work with our magazine. It’s a great way to stay connected.

Charlie Jacobs ’52
Vero Beach, Fla.

Economic vision
I find the new version of the alumni magazine to be outstanding. In particular I found the article about Jay Ash ’83 (“Mass. Appeal,” Spring 2016 issue) by Jeremy Shulkin ’07, M.A.T. ’08, to be outstanding.

As a graduate of Clark and having been involved in economic development for 50 years, I can relate to many of the same issues that Mr. Shulkin describes.

My involvement has been in the public and private sectors in a number of leadership roles, including the development of Columbia, Md., the Denver Tech Center, the redevelopment of Stapleton International Airport, the Colorado Economic Commission and as an elected county councilman in Howard County, Md.

I believe Clark University has had important influences on the way we address economic development. To me that term is too limiting in that it is often only used as the justification to create jobs or new tax revenues. I prefer the term “economic vitality,” which I have used in recent years to provoke consideration of efforts intended to produce outcomes that have a much broader vision for the community. Clark seems to embrace the broader concept as noted in the Melissa Lynch ’95, M.S.P.C. ’15, article “The CDP Effect” (Spring 2016).

Keep up the good work.

Dick Anderson ’58
Broomfield, Colo.
Sigmund Freud on the move

Probably not many remember it, but about 1960 an interesting thing happened at Clark University involving a small 1957 statue of Sigmund Freud that normally resided in Jonas Clark Hall. One morning, people were amazed to find that Freud had mysteriously taken up residence at the dining hall in the new student union (a building since replaced by the Higgins University Center).

But how could this have happened? It’s a somewhat long story, since it involved gaining access to the dining hall, the doors of which were always locked when meals were not being served. It’s obvious that Freud didn’t walk there by himself, and he certainly didn’t have a key to the dining hall door.

In those days many students would arrive at the dining hall early and line up in front of the locked door. On one occasion, as they waited, it was found that the key to Room 203 in the new men’s dormitory (now called Wright Hall) would open the door to the dining hall. News of this spread, and a small group of students eventually approached the residents of Room 203 asking to borrow their key.

Since this happened about 55 years ago, it’s perhaps safe for all involved to reveal, as much as possible, those involved in the prank. It so happens that the residents of Room 203 were Joseph “Jay” Saladini and myself, and although we abetted the crime by loaning our key, neither of us helped to transport Herr Freud to the dining hall, and we never used our key to personally “break in to” the dining hall. Much time has passed, and I’ve forgotten who the real pranksters were.

David A. Crouse ’62
Bangor, Maine
CLARK FRIENDS’ HIDDEN PAPER TRAIL

Harles Kelley was so passionate about railroads he rarely stopped talking about them. John Larned treasured his membership in Deutscher Verein, a group that celebrated German culture. Francis Baldwin one day would chair the biology department at the University of Southern California. Clinton Mackinnon was an absent-minded genius who misplaced his pipe, shoes and books so often the administration had him build a bulletin board advertising all his lost possessions.

There isn’t much more about these classmates in the Clark University records. But we do know that on May 8, 1908, at 9:19 p.m., the four men signed their names on a piece of University stationery, dated it, and folded it neatly inside a small QBoid Tobacco tin. They then managed to hide the tin inside a newel post at the end of a banister in Jonas Clark Hall and walked away. (Or they may have run, depending on who else was prowling JCH that night.)

The cache sat undisturbed for more than a century until March, when Physical Plant employee John Clemente uncovered it while working on the post. The tin and paper now reside in the Clark Archives, as do the yearbooks and other sources that supply nuggets of information about the four friends (Baldwin, whose photo was unavailable, was Class of 1906, Larned 1908, and Kelley and Mackinnon 1909).

What motivated these Clark men to leave behind this miniature time capsule carrying only their signatures and the date and time when they were scribbled? Posternity, most likely, and maybe the whiff of adventure and a chance to have a bit of fun.

In this era of oversharing, we may struggle to understand the modesty of their presentation. But when we tweet or blog or track one another via GPS, isn’t our essential message the same one that Charles, John, Francis and Clinton were communicating those many years ago?

We are here.
The Pokémon GO craze that swept the nation this spring spared no one, including Clark University. Players used the app to find the game’s virtual characters “hidden” at various locations on campus, including Jonas Clark Hall. While stories emerged across the U.S. about Pokémon GO-obessed pedestrians wandering into traffic, walking into lampposts, even poking around Arlington National Cemetery, the activity at Clark remained blissfully low-key. At least one Clarkie saw a positive outcome. M.B.A. student Alexander Turgeon ’16 blogged that local businesses could seize the “Poképrofit” model to drive customers through their doors using the game’s geolocation-based marketing. His comments were picked up for an article about the viral sensation that appeared on NJPen.com.

A new page

Clark students still lug backpacks bulging with textbooks around campus, but when it comes to purchasing those books, there’s no heavy lifting involved. As of this May, students are buying their textbooks exclusively online. The decision to move in this direction was made in response to the increasing costs of textbooks, the continuing decline in textbook sales at Clark’s bookstore, and the growing trend of students purchasing books online. The virtual store gives Clark students more affordable options to buy new, used and digital books, and also provides rental options, according to Paul Wykes, chief university budget officer. Though the former Main Street bookstore is closed, Clark-themed apparel and other items, as well as an assortment of school supplies and books written by faculty, are available in the Campus Store located in the new Alumni and Student Engagement Center. Visit campusstore.clarku.edu.

Pokémonia hits Clark

On May 11, Mott Linn, head of collection management at Clark University’s Robert H. Goddard Library, delivered a keynote talk on the “Father of Modern Rocketry” to an audience deeply attuned to the results of the Clark physicist’s groundbreaking research: NASA historians and archival employees. Linn spoke about Robert Goddard at the annual NASA History Program Review at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., where participants shared reviews of historical and archival activities throughout NASA. Clark exhibits Goddard artifacts and maintains his official papers, diaries, news clippings and notebooks (pictured).
Clark’s Fiat Lux seal represents many things — thirst for knowledge, devotion to the truth, a values-driven educational mission, and, at least for one night, dessert. In April, Arrien Schiltkamp ’78, in partnership with Clark Admissions, held a reception at his New York City home to welcome recently admitted members of the Class of 2020 and their families. The sugar cookies frosted with the Fiat Lux seal offered a sweet conclusion to the evening.

**STANLEY’S RETURN**

Stanley Gutridge departed the Clark University campus in May 1945 as an aspiring accountant. He returned on Oct. 6, 2016, as a celebrity. The grandson of a freed slave and the first African-American elected president of the men’s student body, Gutridge was the star attraction at the Community Fireside Chat in Dana Commons hosted by the Department of History and the Africana studies concentration. Gutridge, 99, shared recollections of Worcester, his family, and the institutional racism he encountered as he struggled to launch his accounting career. He counseled the students in the audience to understand that they don’t hold a monopoly on facing tough times. “Ever since Adam and Eve there have been troubles,” he said. “You’re living in the same world, and you are the ones who must make your own way.” Stanley Gutridge was profiled in the Spring 2016 issue of CLARK magazine.
Clarkies had eagerly anticipated the release of “The Sea of Trees,” the Gus Van Sant-directed tear-jerker that brought Matthew McConaughey to campus for a day of filming in September 2014. But the movie endured a rough reception at last year’s Cannes Film Festival, where it was greeted by boos and critical derision (Variety critic Justin Chang called it “dramatically stillborn,” “commercially unpromising” and a “cultural insult,” and then he really got mean). The movie, about a suicidal physics professor’s trek into a legendary forest at the base of Mount Fuji, was shelved until Aug. 26, when it opened to weak box office and savage reviews. No matter. We were in it to catch glimpses of McConaughey wandering around the Sackler Sciences Center and brooding inside the office of Professor Chuck Agosta, who was recruited to offer the actor tips on how to behave in a physics lab. For that alone, we’ll cut it some slack.

Fellowship of the fungal

Here at Clark, we have a thing for fungus — in both the scientific and culinary sense. Biology professors Dave Hibbett and John Gibbons, in partnership with a team of international researchers, are studying how the shiitake mushroom (Lentinula edodes) helps us understand the genetic diversity, evolution and global spread of a species. The researchers earned support from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Joint Genome Institute, which is providing services like DNA and RNA sequencing, bioinformatics and other analytical work to unlock the information encoded in shiitake genomes. Gibbons’ study of koji also has been cited in, of all places, The Boston Globe’s Food and Dining page, where the white mold was touted as the flavor of the moment in local cuisine.

COYWOLF CONUNDRUM

Two Clark researchers insist the eastern coyote is not only misunderstood, but misnamed. Jonathan Way and William Lynn, research scientists with the George Perkins Marsh Institute, propose the eastern coyote be redubbed “coywolf,” given the generations of interbreeding that have resulted in a unique species that is 60 percent coyote, 30 percent wolf and 10 percent dog. Way and Lynn have registered the name Canis oriens (literally “eastern canid”) with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, which lists and rates species from across the globe. If recognized, the coywolf would fall under the aegis of the Endangered Species Act, a status it currently does not enjoy.
Marc and Garry’s happy days

The July 19 death of writer-director-actor Garry Marshall, who launched Julia Roberts’ career with “Pretty Woman” and gave the TV universe “Happy Days,” inspired remembrances from across the country, including one very special reminiscence about his connection to a Clark alumnus. The Worcester Telegram & Gazette published a piece detailing Marshall’s longtime friendship with Marc Smith ’55, who served as Marshall’s staff sergeant during the Korean War from 1956 to 1957 and who would later go on to co-found Worcester Foothills Theatre with his wife, Susan, an adjunct faculty member at Clark. Marc Smith, who passed away in 2011, was chief writer for the Armed Forces Korean Network radio and television programming, Susan told the T&G. One of the programs was a weekly radio broadcast about Korean customs and culture, on which Marc put Garry to work. Marshall would later recall, “He was a good friend, even though my work was often silly and crazy to make people laugh and his was serious and dramatic to make people think.”

Embracing the SENSE OF OTHERNESS is the most IMPORTANT LESSON I learned at Clark.

—THANA FAROQ ’13, STREET PHOTOGRAPHER IN YEMEN
Olivia’s noteworthy career

IT WAS JUST LIKE ANY OTHER open-mic night until 12-year-old Olivia Schwartz performed her first original song, “The Spark,” a cappella at an Italian restaurant in Loveland, Ohio. When she left the stage, she was met by three guys in cowboy boots and country hats who introduced her to the Nashville Songwriters Association International, and invited her to attend their local meetings in Cincinnati.

“I remember that night because my mom and I left, and we were like, ‘This is so cool!’ But we didn’t even know what it meant,” Schwartz says. Ultimately it meant the beginning of her journey as a singer-songwriter.

Seven years later, Schwartz, who performs as Olivia Frances, is now a Clark sophomore majoring in environmental studies and minoring in music. She released a music video last spring to accompany her new song, “Great Blue,” off her second studio album, “Evergreen,” and toured in Nashville and several other cities this summer before returning to Worcester in late August.

Schwartz wrote “Great Blue” and the rest of the album during a gap year spent in Nashville after graduating from a Cincinnati high school. During that time, she recorded at Studio 19, where Taylor Swift, Bruce Springsteen and Carrie Underwood have recorded albums, and performed at venues like the Bluebird Café and the Commodore Grille — singled out as hosting some of the best open-mic and songwriters’ nights in Nashville.

At the end of her gap year, Schwartz went on her #SingleSteps tour, releasing a song each month for seven months, and performing eight shows in four states. “It was a lot of work,” she says about her experience, but “I loved being on the road and loved playing in places I’d never been.” She hopes to engage her academic and musical passions by “having an environmental platform as an artist.”

“Honestly, I can’t see myself doing anything else and falling as much in love with it as I would a singing career.”

HONORING WINSTON

Several family members of the late Winston “Tony” Napier, professor of English at Clark from 1995 until his death in 2008, came to campus in July to deliver a gift establishing the Winston Napier Endowed Memorial Fund. The fund supports the E. Franklin Frazier Chair of African-American Literature, Theory and Culture, previously held by Napier and today held by English Professor Esther Jones, for teaching and research and the expansion of other institutional efforts such as the new Africana studies program, which Jones is directing.
WHERE IS THE NATION HEADED ON THE BIG ISSUES FACING US? SIX CLARK PROFESSORS OFFER CONTEXT, PERSPECTIVE AND SOME REASONS FOR OPTIMISM

AMERICA’S CLIMATE CHANGE

HIS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION exposed and amplified some of the deepest divisions in our country — whether by culture or class, geography or political party, faith in science or belief in the divine. And while honest consideration of these topics was, and continues to be, critically important, the discussions surrounding them too often supply more heat than light, with clear and rigorous analysis at a premium. In the months leading up to the election, we asked our Clark experts to assess six issues that have crystallized themselves in the American conversation as sources of contention and debate. They note that how we proceed on matters of immigration, gender and sexuality, race, and our military presence in the Middle East, among others, will shape and define our national identity, and may challenge us for generations.

BY JIM KEOGH | ILLUSTRATIONS BY KOTRYNA ZUKAUSKAITE
WHO IS ‘US’?

SECURE THE BORDER. Build a wall. Deportations over amnesty.

They were prevailing themes in Donald Trump’s campaign for presidency, but the sentiments behind them are hardly new to the national conversation. They tapped into anxieties that have recurred throughout U.S. history, and in this election cycle found a strident voice in the candidate.

“Us and them. Who should be included in our society? It’s a quintessential American debate, and we see it resurface over time clearly and explicitly,” says Heather Silber Mohamed, professor of political science.

In her forthcoming book, “The New Americans,” Mohamed examines major developments in U.S. immigration policy over the last 50 years, with particular emphasis on the 2006 Latino immigration marches. That year, millions of Latinos took to the streets to protest the expansive and restrictive immigration reform bill that had been passed by the House of Representatives.

A legislative aide in Congress for six years before pursuing an academic career, Silber Mohamed points to her own family’s immigrant past as source of motivation for her studies. Her father is a native of Cuba who often recalled his experience growing up there before his family moved to Miami.

In her book, Silber Mohamed subverts several popular notions, among them that Latinos are a monolithic block that views immigration through a singular lens. In fact, country of origin often informs opinion in starkly different terms, she says. For instance, Cuban exiles, who enjoy distinct legal status, are typically less interested in immigration reform issues than are Mexicans living in the U.S. Additionally, she notes, Latinos surveyed after the protests were more likely to see themselves as American than those interviewed before the protests took place.

“These findings counter existing research, which assumes that in contexts of political threat, minority groups will embrace an alternative identity, rejecting that of the majority group (i.e., American),” Silber writes in the advance materials for her book. “My findings point to the power of political events and frames to shape an individual’s sense of belonging in society.”

Immigration policy continues to be a hot-button issue. In June, the Supreme Court’s 4-4 vote kept in place an injunction blocking President Obama’s plan to prevent five million undocumented immigrants from deportation. As the presidential campaign wound down, Trump softened his hardline stances to appeal to a wider constituency but threatened to alienate some of his most devout followers.

Silber Mohamed is now at work on a new project, conducting data analysis on how photographs in national magazines depict Latino immigrants. Her aim is to determine if the choice of images exposes biases that are consistent with expectations about the immigrant population. Among her early findings are that major national news magazines disproportionately use images of Latinos, and Latino men in particular, when addressing the subject of immigration, connecting to a “threat narrative” that frequently surrounds the immigration debate.

She’s now curious to see where immigration policy will head under a fresh administration, and what the new Americans will have to say about it.

POLITICS AS UNUSUAL

HEN A MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL team is performing poorly, the fans often insist (loudly) the time has come to “blow it up.” Out with the deadwood, in with fresh blood.

The same sentiment was reflected in this year’s presidential campaign, where voters’ disdain for the political status quo led to the emergence of Bernie Sanders on the left and Donald Trump on the right. Anyone deemed an outsider to the Washington power structure had instant cachet.

“It’s created this odd scenario where if you went out and asked people, ‘Should the Republican party be stronger? Should the Democratic party be stronger?’ Most people would say, ‘No. I hate them,’” says Rob Boatright, professor of political science.

Yet nobody seems to have figured out how to rebuild the thing once you’ve detonated it.

This isn’t the first time the two major parties have been at each other’s throats, he says, but the ideological gap between them has never been wider. “At this point, we have to ask if it’s really about ideology, or is it something cultural? Does one side hate the other for reasons that aren’t political?”

Boatright, who is sought by the media for his political insights and who has written books on campaign finance and congressional primaries, says the fragmented nature of Washington means “politicians have no ability to do the basic types of things we took for granted a few decades ago,” namely governing the country through collaboration and compromise rather than through winner-takes-all standoffs.

Current laws have only added to this atomization. The McCain-Feingold law was meant to curb campaign-finance abuses by abolishing the ability of politicians to raise significant sums of money for party-building activities, but it also created a vacuum that fringe candidates are rushing to fill. Meanwhile, Citizens United has not only removed many constraints on fundraising but led to the rise of untethered special interest groups — “boutique PACs” Boatright calls them — that “can say anything, do anything, and then they go away. They don’t suffer
the consequences of damaging the political system because they themselves aren’t harmed by it.”

A system has evolved “where you have drive-by attacks by organizations that pop up out of nowhere and put a lot of money into ‘getting’ somebody. Everybody in Congress is looking over their shoulder asking, ‘Is someone going to do that to me?’”

Boatright cites a growing “neoplasmatist” movement that wants to improve respect for, and strengthen, the political parties to provide more electoral stability. They seek to boost the ability of each party to raise money and coordinate with candidates directly, rather than surrender those functions to outside groups. “But this is at odds with what the public sees as the real problem, so it’s hard to imagine,” he says.

The Sanders and Trump campaigns amplified the fact that “big chunks of the U.S. feel left behind,” most notably in parts of the country where the economy continues to lag, Boatright says. Because those voices are demanding the fuse be lit on politics-as-usual, we may be in for a new kind of boom.

**JUDGMENT DAYS**

The death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia in February set in motion a whirl of events that ended in stalemate when the Republican-led Senate refused to hold a hearing on President Obama’s nomination of Judge Merrick Garland to fill the vacancy. It was not an entirely unexpected outcome, given the congressional gridlock that has come to characterize the Capitol Hill partisan wars.

But to Mark Miller, professor of political science and a Supreme Court expert, the court may be shaped less by the sudden departure of one member than by the age and health of those still sitting on it. “The new president could have three or four nominees,” he says, noting that, in addition to the void left by Scalia’s sudden passing, justices Ruth Bader Ginsberg (83), Anthony Kennedy (80) and Stephen Breyer (78) are approaching an age when the prospect of retirement, impairment or even death becomes less remote. “They may go on for a long time, but they may not. The stakes are very high, because this president will shape the Supreme Court for the next generation.”

Miller describes a “three-branch election,” with people tying their votes for president to their votes in the Senate races in the hopes of getting a Supreme Court justice they favor. As currently constituted, the court is made up of four reliable liberal members, three reliably conservative justices, and Justice Kennedy, who typically votes with the conservatives except on issues such as gay rights and, recently, affirmative action, Miller says.

A 4-4 tie on the Supreme Court has allowed lower court rulings to stand in a number of high-profile cases. In June, the Court’s split affirmed a lower court decision upholding an injunction blocking Obama’s immigration plan to keep up to five million unauthorized immigrants from deportation. In March, another 4-4 decision allowed public employees who prefer not to join unions be required to pay some union fees for bargaining activities.

The prospect of a tie also means the court has punted on several major cases, Miller says, such as contraception coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

“There is a long list of potentially explosive issues that could bubble up to the Supreme Court at any time,” Miller says. “The court is in a holding pattern. They don’t seem to want a lot of 4-4 ties, so they’ve been avoiding cases on technical grounds whenever possible.”

Miller brings a historian’s perspective to the vagaries of the Supreme Court. He notes that Congress and the court have long enjoyed periods of great cooperation and also engaged in high conflict.

Still, the American people tend to place more trust in their judges than their politicians. Miller points to recent polls that give the Supreme Court a 65 percent favorability rating, compared to 12 percent for Congress. Americans have an “amazing reservoir” of respect and support of the Supreme Court, he says.

Like many, Miller will be keenly monitoring the selection process for a new justice, and gauging the ramifications of that choice.
HISTORY’S LESSONS

USMANE POWER-GREENE had just eased through the toll booth from the Mass Pike onto I-290 when the police lights came on.

“I don’t even remember what the police officer said. He just wanted to check my ID, look in the car. I explained to him I was a Clark professor who was returning from a New York field trip with my students. Then he let me go. If you’re black and driving a minivan, and there’s a black person in the front seat next to you, you’re subject to being stopped and checked for no reason. It’s bizarre, and it’s a regular part of black life in 2016.”

As a professor whose scholarship is steeped in African-American history and culture, Power-Greene says it’s reasonable to be cynical about matters of legal justice. Yet at the same time, he’s heartened to witness the “creative confrontation” taking place across the country to try and alter the status quo on a number of issues, like the long-term damage to the black community from mass incarceration.

“I’m very optimistic because people are doing something; people want to talk about this,” he says. “Public discourse, to me, is a chance to make some changes that really affect people’s lives in dramatic ways.”

Power-Greene says social movements generally emerge every 40 or 50 years, and it can be difficult to untangle the reasons why a particular moment is ripe for action while another is not. He notes that the 2014 police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., galvanized a movement in a way that the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, while controversial, had not. When the tipping point is reached, he says, protests often repeat the patterns and methods of the past. “I don’t know why people are up in arms about activists storming podiums and taking the microphone. That was standard practice in the ’60s. How many things were stormed then, or in the early ’70s? To say this is unprecedented is ridiculous.”

American history is scarred by the ways that “breaches in the racial code” were dealt with, from lynchings to urban rioting, Power-Greene says. White flight from the cities resulted in a loss of interaction between whites and blacks and has been replaced with enhanced police presence. He recalls returning to his birthplace, Harlem, in 2010 and seeing a crane-like structure looming over a neighborhood where police kept watch from above. “It was like police surveilling a war-torn place; an occupied state sort of thing,” he says. “Most white people would never see this because the segregation is so thick that many are not even going into those areas anymore.”

The ubiquity of cellphone video has helped substantiate the long-unheard complaints that abuses are occurring regularly on America’s streets. “Technology has forced those in power to own up to corrupt behavior and lies,” he says. “The question is: What are we going to do about it as a society?”

FRACTURED GLOBE

IN THE 1990s, with bipartisan agreement, the United States embraced globalization — free trade, sweeping modernization, the belief that technology would raise the standard of living for all.

But a funny thing happened on the way to nirvana. “Globalization was not quite what it was cracked up to be,” says Doug Little, professor of history. “There was certainly an exaggerated sense of the upside, and a failure to recognize the downside.

“The truth is, some of us have lived better, and some of us have not. And the have-nots are royally pissed off.”

The anger of those left behind helped fuel the political rise of Donald Trump and Britain’s “Brexit” from the European Union, and has been a flashpoint in the U.S. war against terrorism, which Little examines in his recent book, “Us Versus Them.” The “Red Threat” of the Cold War, he says, has been supplanted by the “Green Threat” represented by ISIS and other radical Islamic factions.

Little, who has traveled in Jordan and Israel, says the United States’ interventions in the Middle East are viewed by many there as lethal and by others as bumbling — he makes the comparison to the nearsighted cartoon character Mr. Magoo, who trips over the furniture and breaks the china.

“American hubris is at play here,” he says. “We won the Cold War, and we’re the sole remaining superpower. We’ve said, ‘Here is the template for accomplishing your goals — free markets, free elections, free enterprise — and we’ll force feed it to you.’

While Little sees no immediate end in sight to the struggle against foreign terrorism, he thinks the U.S. no longer needs such a substantial military presence in the Middle East. The more intense our involvement, the greater resentment it breeds. “The neighborhood,” he says, “belongs to the peoples of the Middle East.”

“It sounds corny, but what needs to happen is that we need to develop greater empathy,” Little continues. “There is not that much difference between us and them and what we basically want out of life — we don’t want to worry about being blown up; we don’t want to worry about our kids not coming home from
In Orlando’s Shadow

On June 12, 2016, Omar Mateen walked into Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Fla., and opened fire, killing 49 people and injuring 53 more. It was the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history, and the flood of outrage and grief that followed was commensurate with the magnitude of the savagery.

Abbie Goldberg also noticed something missing from the national response: a lack of homophobic sentiment that usually emerges from some pockets when LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, queer) victims are involved.

“Things would have been very different if this had occurred even five or 10 years ago,” says the professor of psychology, who lost a friend in the shooting. “There were isolated evangelical pastors saying these victims deserved it, but they were few and far between. People across the political spectrum focused their anger on the perpetrator rather than the victims; on the act of terror itself. They responded with a recognition of this thread of humanity, which I think speaks to where we are as a country and as a society.”

Goldberg’s research into issues surrounding gender, sexual orientation, and lesbian/gay-parent families has helped shape the dialogue about the evolving diversity of modern American society. She has seen progress in the “recognition of gender and sexual fluidity,” particularly among young people, and greater awareness and acceptance of all kinds of families. LGBTQ people — especially transgender people — are more visible and accepted than ever, and same-sex marriage, still freshly legalized across the country, continues to be woven into the American fabric.

But challenges persist.

Marriage equality, Goldberg says, is an important issue for many LGBTQ people, but not everyone will, or wants to, marry. “A lot of political energy and money went into that fight, but there are a lot of queer people who live their lives outside the confines of marriage,” she notes. The larger fight, Goldberg says, is against prejudice in society, and systemic discrimination, such as discrimination in employment, education and housing that may be religiously driven.

“At the same time LGBTQ people are gaining legal protections from discrimination, those who oppose LGBTQ rights are deploying federal and state laws meant to protect religious liberties to try to justify firing LGBTQ people from their jobs, or kicking LGBTQ tenants out of their homes, or refusing to serve LGBTQ customers,” she says.

“While it is important to protect religious liberty in our country, people should not be able to harm others in the name of practicing their religion. Our courts, legislatures, and other democratic institutions will need to find the right balance.”

Goldberg is currently researching issues affecting trans and gender-non-conforming students. She’s conducting a nationwide survey to determine the kinds of policies and procedures in place at colleges and universities, and whether they are perceived as accepting and inclusive. For instance, what is the process for changing a student’s name in university records? Are spaces set aside for trans students? Are trans speakers welcome?

She points out the ironies in her career, back to the days when granting agencies required her research to be contextualized within wider trends. Same-sex couples couldn’t be studied in their own right; they needed to be compared to straight couples, Goldberg was told. Early in her career she couldn’t use the word “gay” in a grant application and expect to receive funding.

That the federal government now recognizes the validity of studying LGBTQ issues is a clear sign of progress, Goldberg says. “I’m hopeful we’ll continue to move in the direction where basic rights are not being violated.”
Leah Penniman and Jonah Vitale-Wolff’s farm feeds the inner-city poor, but the educational seeds they plant bear even greater fruit.

BY ALAN WECHSLER
In the summer of 2014, Leah Penniman ’02, M.A.T. ’03, and her husband, Jonah Vitale-Wolff ’02, invited 20 aspiring black and Latino farmers to spend a week at their upstate New York property. Participants arrived at Soul Fire Farm from nearby cities, and as far away as Florida and California, to “restructure the narrative,” as one person put it, of minority-owned farming in America. Their experience included hands-on training, workshops and shared meals. The weather didn’t always cooperate — several days featured heavy rain and even hail. But amid the hard labor and lectures on crop cultivation, the Soul Fire crew made sure everyone had fun. They invoked the names of hip-hop artists Mos Def and Wu-Tang Clan to help the participants remember different types of soil chemistries. The week included Thai massage, yoga and improvisational dance. There was a healing drum circle and an impromptu after-dinner dance party, along with songs and poetry.

And in the end, a new crop of farmers took root.

Heir ranks are still small in number.

Today, nearly all farms in the country are owned by white citizens, and Soul Fire Farm seeks to change that. “Our black ancestors were forced, tricked, and scared off of land until 6.5 million of them migrated to the urban North in hopes of a better future,” wrote Penniman in an article for Yes! Magazine.

In 1910, at the height of black land ownership, 14 percent of farm acreage in this country was owned by blacks. Today, it’s less than 1 percent, while Hispanic farms number around 3 percent, according to recent census figures. Yet, Penniman notes, Hispanic farm workers across the country grow about 85 percent of our food on land they don’t own, often in substandard conditions.

Penniman and Vitale-Wolff want to see those ownership numbers rise. Through summer-long internships, week and day programs, and by growing for local “food desert” communities, Soul Fire Farm is bringing social justice to the farming world.

“The message that white America has given black people becomes part of your own self-image,” Penniman says. “The healing is to correct that with reality — that black and brown people are brilliant and capable and hard-working, and our lives matter.”

While Penniman may not have been born with a protest sign in her hands, it wasn’t long after that she took part in her first march.

“She was on my back, in a baby carrier, going to demonstrations,” says her mother, Adele Smith-Penniman, a retired Unitarian minister and longtime activist. “She kind of grew up in the movement.”

In the summer of 1965, when the elder Penniman was 18, the New England native joined 500 other college students in Atlanta. There, they were trained to fan out across the South to help register black voters. “All of the giants of the movement were there,” she recalls, including Dr. Martin Luther King.

Later, Smith-Penniman marched with Gloria Steinem down Fifth Avenue in New York City as part of a “Women of the World Unite” demonstration — the only black woman holding up the banner.

It was in this atmosphere that Leah grew up in the quiet Central Massachusetts town of Ashburnham. As a teenager, she founded a local chapter of Food Not Bombs to gather food donations from local stores and restaurants and prepare free meals in a Unitarian church. Later, she joined The Food Project, which grows food for Boston homeless shelters and low-income communities. This was years before the term “food desert” was coined.

“I just completely fell in love with farming, and never stopped,” she says.

Penniman graduated as her high school
valedictorian and received a full scholarship to attend Clark, where she majored in environmental science and international development as an undergraduate and then earned a master’s degree in teaching. For a year, she lived in Dismas House, a Worcester halfway house where college students assist paroled prisoners re-entering society.

“I took full advantage of every opportunity that was offered to do authentic, community-based learning,” Penniman says. “I went after every fellowship, every research assistant position that I could.”

That attitude led her to Professor Richard Ford, who ran Clark’s international development program. Ford brought his Participatory Rural Appraisal program to dozens of villages in developing countries, empowering residents to build roads, improve the water supply and get better access to farm fields. He had recently worked in a small village in Ghana, and invited Penniman to go there to research the program’s success. For four months, she lived in a simple, one-room earthen structure in the rural village of Oborpa-Djerkiti, learning the Krobo language, teaching children and meeting with the village women to support their goals of creating a new market and school.

“Basic mobilization is started by women, because the men aren’t going to do it,” Ford says. “The women are the backbone of the community. It was great for Leah to get into that situation.”

“I was in way over my head,” Penniman confesses. “But I think I made a modest contribution.”

Much of her time at Clark, and in Worcester after graduation, was spent in the Main South neighborhood where she helped create a number of programs, some that still exist today. Worcester Roots began as a soil remediation project, where volunteers used plants, such as geraniums, to remove lead from the soil of contaminated yards. Another organization, YouthGROW, introduced gardening and farming to low-income youths. The Worcester Global Action Network staged anti-war protests and urged the Clark administration to divest from companies involved in sweatshop labor and military-industrial interests.
Many of these initiatives had one thing in common—a fellow Clark student named Jonah Vitale-Wolff.

He was a Hartford, Conn., native, his mother, a midwife, and father, a pediatrician. A central tenet of the family’s life was the Hebrew expression Tikkun olam, which means “repairing the world.” During and after college, he worked on organic farms in New Zealand, Spain and Central America, and apprenticed at a farm in California.

They met when Leah borrowed a book about Gandhi from Jonah’s suitemate. The two began meeting early in the morning to practice yoga. Later they hiked a section of the Appalachian Trail together. There was no romance at first, but couplehood seemed inevitable to those around them.

“All of my friends said we were the last ones to know,” Vitale-Wolff remembers.

They married a few months after graduating in 2002, in a ceremony officiated by both Leah’s mother and Jonah’s uncle, a rabbi. The food was potluck.

They soon moved to Collective-a-Go-Go, a land trust and urban commune on the edge of Worcester, where members shared bicycles and tools to grow food on the property’s six acres. Worcester Roots co-director Matt Feinstein ’03, a former Collective resident, remembers Penniman chopping wood with her newborn daughter Nashima in a belly pouch—the house’s only heat source was a wood stove.

“She inspired me and lots of other students. They continue to inspire us,” says Feinstein. He is purchasing a piece of land with his partner to create a farm of his own.

After several years of post-graduate activism, teaching and communal living in Worcester, Leah and Jonah moved their young family, which now included infant son Emet, to Albany, N.Y., in July 2005. Jonah started a construction company, Hudson Valley Natural Building, and Leah founded the Harriet Tubman Democratic High School, an extension of the independent inner-city Free School. It opened in September 2005 with 40 students and three teachers, with Penniman as director.

They lived in Albany’s South End, a low-income neighborhood in this capital city of 100,000 people. There, they found it was easier to acquire weapons and drugs than healthy food, and they decided to take action. In 2007, they purchased 72 acres of woods and fields in the rural hill town of Grafton, about 45 minutes from Albany. Soul Fire Farm was born.

It would take four years to get the desolate property ready for farming. But by 2010, Vitale-Wolff had designed and built an energy-efficient house for the family. The building was framed without nails and insulated...
with dried straw bales sealed with lime and clay. That year, the family left Albany to live at Soul Fire full time and bring the bounty back to the Albany community.

Vitale-Wolff devoted most of his energies to the farm, while Penniman split her time between Soul Fire and teaching. She won a coveted position at Tech Valley High School, where she taught science and took students on missions to Haiti. In 2014, she won a Fulbright fellowship to study indigenous farming practices in Oaxaca, Mexico. The family lived in Mexico for nearly half a year, and later adopted some of the thousand-year-old practices they observed for use at Soul Fire.

Earlier this year, Penniman left Tech Valley High for a part-time teaching job closer to home so she could spend more time on the farm.

Today, the family, plus interns and about a hundred volunteers, grows dozens of types of fruits and vegetables that are distributed to 80 families in poor urban neighborhoods in New York’s Capital Region.

The number of programs at Soul Fire continues to expand. This past summer, the farm hosted three sessions of the Black and Latinx Farmers Immersion Program, plus the group Undoing Racism. The latter was to help white leaders — nonprofit directors, for instance — recognize policies that might be racist without them even realizing it. Other activities include an alternative sentencing program for troubled youths, and community days where volunteers can come and work the land.

Penniman estimates Soul Fire Farm programs have reached more than 5,500 youths and adults over the past five years, with up to 93 percent of participants staying involved with gardening or farming.

“We’re not about getting people out to farms,” she says. “We’re about training the next generation of activist farmers.”

On a sunny day in early August, Soul Fire Farm had some special visitors — 32 teenagers from Worcester: black, white, Hispanic and Asian. They were members of YouthGROW, the low-income farming program that Leah and Jonah formed 15 years earlier. It was the first time an entire YouthGROW team had visited Soul Fire.

On this trip, Penniman wasted no time. Minutes after arrival, participants were sitting in a circle, chanting: “They try to cut us down/but we gonna be all right!”

Instead of lecturing, she used games to teach. In one, she asked everyone to get up and move if they knew someone with diabetes, someone who lacked clean water or access to healthy food, someone whose ancestors had lost their land. Leah and Jonah then split the group to conduct tours. Their son Emet, now 11, did much of the talking.

Later, the teens formed groups and acted out historical anecdotes on such topics as the advent of sharecropping and the historical racism of USDA farm loans.

“I never paid attention to the label of a food package,” said David Peal, 16, a YouthGROW member. Working on a farm, he said, would “change the way I eat.”

Five hours after the group arrived, the teens boarded a yellow school bus headed home. Before the sound of crunching gravel had faded away, Leah Penniman was already on the way to her office to make a phone call. The day was far from over, and there was plenty more to be done at Soul Fire Farm.
Dr. Fred Kron ’75 delivers strong medicine for physicians’ ailing bedside manners

BY MELISSA LYNCH ’95, M.S.P.C. ’15
photography by narayan mahon
OBIN, YOU HAVE LEUKEMIA,” he
informs the johnny-clad woman. She sputters
her disbelief, but his response is not comforting.
“I think you need some time to yourself — I’m
going to step out now.”

She angrily rebukes him, then demands to
leave the hospital.

“I’m sorry to hear that, but it’s your
choice,” the doctor says. The uncomfortable
exchange ends, but Robin doesn’t exit the
room. Instead, she fades to black, her image
disappearing from the computer screen that
sits on a desk facing the physician.

Robin is a virtual human, programmed to
see and hear the doctor, and to respond with
a span of emotions. The doctor is in training
to improve his ability to communicate vital
information and reassure a patient who has
been staggered by a difficult diagnosis.

As the session concludes, the doctor
receives a diagnosis of his own: He needs
more work.

MPathic-VR is a computer training program
designed to build trust and empathy in the
doctor-patient relationship — the brainchild
of Dr. Fred Kron ’75, who has been on both
sides of these uncomfortable conversations.

When he was 16, his mother passed away
after a battle with lung cancer. He also has
survived two bouts with cancer, including
one immediately following his graduation
from Clark. As a patient, he learned how
discouraging it can be when your doctor
seems to ignore your concerns.

Kron first realized how little value is placed
on doctor-patient interactions when he was a
medical student in the late 1970s.

“Professional skills like communication and
the ability to observe, understand, and reflect
on a situation are the foundation of medical
practice,” Kron says. If communication training
isn’t done right in the earliest stages “it’s not
going to be done after you have your medical
degree, and it’s certainly not going to be done
after postgraduate [specialty] training Generally,
Nobody looks over their shoulders again.”

Studies have shown that the very first piece
of the doctor-patient meeting — “the patient
interview” — is the most important part of
any patient’s visit, Kron says. What a doctor
learns in the interview is crucial to everything
that follows. “The physical exam, the tests
you order, the conclusions you draw are all
based on developing trust and building a
rapport with a person, who then may reveal
to you their authentic reason for the visit, or
complicating issues or problems,” he explains.
Good communication also enables the
physician to appreciate a patient’s diversity,
background, fears, even hopes and dreams,
“so you can treat the patient as a person, with
kindness and respect.”

An incomplete patient history or simply a
lack of personal connection can lead to an
unsatisfactory doctor-patient relationship, or
worse. Poor communication is consistently
a top contributor to the medical errors that
result in about 400,000 deaths and up to eight
million cases of “preventable harm” per year,
according to a 2016 study by Johns Hopkins
researchers, published in the British Medical
Journal.

Medical schools, hospital groups and even
health insurers want to improve the status quo
for a very practical reason, Kron says. Physician
communication drives patient satisfaction. “If
the doctor communicates well with a patient,
that patient will give you top marks in a survey.
And what does that mean to a health care
organization? It gets higher reimbursements.
Further, poor doctor-patient communication
is the single best predictor of malpractice
lawsuits.”
For many years, major foundations and
national certifying bodies have pushed for
better communication training for doctors.
Although training requirements are now in
place, the methods currently used have not
been successful. “The challenge is to develop
a novel method that provides learners with the
‘why’ of learning — as in, why do I have to
know this stuff? — and that will actually change
people’s behaviors in practice,” Kron says.

Enter Robin.

Robin is one of the three virtual human
caracters created by Kron and his writing
partner, D.C. Fontana, perhaps best known as
the author of a dozen scripts for the original
“Star Trek” series and for “Star Trek: the
Next Generation.” The Robin scenario lets
users work on breaking bad news. The other
two characters are Delmy (Robin’s mother),
from El Salvador, whose old-world values
illustrate the need for cultural sensitivity; and
Nicole, an oncology nurse, whose discovery
of an intern’s blunder provides training in
resolving interpersonal conflicts.

“We’re trying to give students the ability to
gain experience in safe, virtual environments,
with ‘conversational agents’ that look like
people and with the ability to interact using
the same range of verbal and nonverbal
behaviors you would expect in conversation
with another human,” Kron says.

MPathic-VR, a product of Kron’s company
Medical Cyberworlds Inc., is a real-time,
“bidirectional” system where the computer
is able to determine the user’s cognitive
strategy and read facial expressions and body
language. The on-screen characters react in
real time, according to the doctor’s behavior
in various situations. The program interprets
the doctor’s performance based on “grading”
criteria on many user inputs.

Robin and her fellow MPathic-VR characters
underscore the importance of learning to talk

Live actors perform the various hospital scenarios, which are converted into virtual reality modules.
with and understand different types of people through realistic interactions, reflection and deliberate practice, a departure from traditional medical school communication training via lectures and workshops and “standardized patients,” people who have been trained to portray certain types of patient roles.

A doctor once told Kron that he learned more about working with patients and colleagues by watching the TV comedy “Scrubs” than he did in all four years of medical school. Kron wasn’t surprised: The “Scrubs” narrative allows viewers to engage with the characters and care about them. That’s why he and Fontana created a story arc for their training system, writing and evaluating it as if they were developing a television program — only instead of episodes, they created a series of richly drawn characters and thematically linked modules, each designed to highlight a different learning competency.

Medical Cyberworlds recently completed a trial with 421 second-year students at three medical schools. The students who went through the MPathic program were tested against a control group of students who had received traditional training.

“We proved with statistical significance that on global communication, the MPathic group did better,” Kron says. “What the students learned in doing the program stayed with them, and it was incorporated into their manner of communication. The most pronounced effect was in nonverbal communication — and that is the hardest thing to train.”

The MPathic group also reported that they appreciated the lessons more and had a better understanding of why the knowledge was valuable. Kron summarizes the findings in simple terms: “It works.”

How does a physician in Madison, Wis., recruit a “Star Trek” writer to generate characters and stories for an interactive medical student training tool? It helps to be a part of the “Star Trek” universe. Since the late 1980s, Kron has been a television script writer with credits that range from “The Smurfs” to “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” which Fontana helped launch.

While doing an Air Force residency in radiology, Kron began questioning whether he wanted to stay in medicine. A friend encouraged him to pursue something that he really wanted to do: write for television.

Kron finally decided to complete training in family medicine, and was accepted into residency at the University of Michigan. When he became a resident again in his 40s he quickly realized that while technology had improved, one significant aspect of the profession had not. “People still didn’t know how to talk to others, and still had no clue about why it was important.”

Kron began considering the possibility of using simulation and game-based technology to shape situations that register as authentic with both students and accomplished physicians. By interacting in these situations learners would develop a “toolbox of skills” that they could use in practice.

To engineer realistic “virtual humans” he consulted prominent psychologist Paul Ekman, a pioneer in the study of emotions and their relation to facial expressions.

Ekman told Kron that when he served on the faculty at the University of California San Francisco Medical School, he was denied a chance to lecture to medical students. Finally,
he was given one hour to lecture students on recognizing patients’ nonverbal behavior and facial expressions. “That’s one hour out of four years of medical school,” Kron stresses.

Ekman joined a core group of people to work with Kron — professionals from medicine, entertainment, high-tech psychology and simulation. Interestingly, each had tales to share about medical interactions gone wrong.

“That’s not unusual,” Kron says. “All I have to do is tell someone what I do. If I say, ‘I’m developing a program to help doctors talk with greater kindness and empathy to patients, and show them greater respect. What do you think about that?’ — a story will pop up.”

Like the one about a doctor who wouldn’t prescribe palliative care for a dying friend because it would be a waste of time. Or the surgeon who blithely dismissed a patient’s anxiety about a procedure. Or the patient who woke from exploratory surgery to be brusquely told by his doctor that one of his testicles had been cancerous and was removed. The doctor then walked away without a word of explanation or comfort for his stunned patient.

Kron is now considering marketing the MPathic-VR system for use in fields other than medicine.

“The strongest suggestion we get is that it can be a tool to look at how people act differently according to race or gender,’’ Kron says, noting that implicit biases create problems in medicine and many other areas of society. At the end of each scenario, the system provides an after-action review. “You see yourself in conversation and receive feedback based on what the system sees you doing. The computer is set up to look for specific things in an unbiased way, and you can’t cheat it or argue with it. It asks you to reflect on your performance then go back and try again.”

Kron credits former Clark professors Ed Trachtenberg, Rudy Nunnenmacher and John Reynolds for nurturing his ability to reflect on his actions. “They really made me stop and think about who I was, what I was doing, and took an interest in me personally,” he says. “Years later, a lot of the things they said came home and I began to understand them. It was tremendously helpful.”

Also helpful was an on-campus job at Physical Plant. One of his supervisors was “a real gentleman, a great guy. As a student, I didn’t appreciate it, but looking back he taught me about self-sufficiency, learning how to do even such basic things as cleaning up after myself. I think of him every time I scrub a floor, every time I polish and dust, every time I wring out a mop.”

His own experience, Kron says, is just one example of how Clark students learn to develop creative, innovative ways of solving problems. And that’s not only because of the University’s excellent professors, he adds — it’s the “Clark milieu” that challenges students to use knowledge in the pursuit of self-actualization and altruistic goals.

Those who have used the MPathic-VR program report that its dramatic situations give them a low-stakes way to practice handling high-stakes conversations, Kron says.

“It brings the students into the encounter so they are empathetically engaged with the patients. The story is also important: They want to complete a module to discover what happens next.”

The beginning, middle and end are written, but Kron isn’t revealing any spoilers about Robin’s fate.

He will say that no matter how many times she expresses fear or anger, or threatens to walk out, there will be an opportunity for the doctor to help Robin understand she has an ally. Done right, the message is as simple as two words: I care.
a goldie age

WHEN SHE PASSED AWAY THIS SUMMER, CLARK’S OLDEST ALUMNA HAD LIVED NEARLY 114 YEARS. IN MANY WAYS, HER HISTORY IS OUR HISTORY

BY ANNE GIBSON, PH.D. ’95

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CLIFF ALEJANDRO
Above all else, Goldie Michelson relished a good walk.

HE WALKED FOR HEALTH. SHE WALKED TO THINK. She walked because she hated driving. One of her greatest joys, she once recalled, was the day she sold her car.

Her devotion to forward momentum never ceased. Well into her 90s, she was walking a few miles a day in her Worcester neighborhood. In the winter, she’d march up and down the stairs of her house. And when she grew too old to climb, she crossed the floor of her living room every hour or so with the assistance of a health aide.

Goldie only stopped walking when her legs insisted, “No more.” She died on July 8, 2016, at the age of 113 years and 335 days, the oldest person in the United States, the oldest Jew in the world, and surely the oldest Clark University graduate (M.A. ’36) there has ever been. Her life spanned all but 15 years of this institution’s 129-year history.

Yet while her body has been stilled, her story continues to evolve through the generous donations she made to Clark and in the many lives that intersected with hers. For these reasons, it’s worth taking one more walk with Goldie.

Two-year-old Goldie Corash, her mother and two brothers emigrated from Russia’s Pale of Settlement to Worcester in 1904. They joined her father, Max Corash, who’d come to the U.S. six months earlier and opened a dry goods store in the city’s Water Street section, home to a thriving Jewish immigrant community.

The Corashes lived a comfortable and relatively privileged life, thanks to their work ethic. Goldie would acknowledge her good fortune, and its attendant responsibilities, in an interview published in the 2001 Worcester Foundation for Biomedical Research annual report, in which she recalled her father’s words: “He always said that this country had been so good to him; that those of us who are lucky should look out for those who have less.”

Goldie threw herself into the theater while attending Worcester’s schools, whether it was acting, finding costumes or working the lights. Her zest for people was noted early. Goldie’s senior-year profile in Worcester’s Classical High School 1919 yearbook described “little Goldfish” as “witty, clever and jolly, and so agreeable that wherever she goes she has a host of friends. … She has an inexhaustible store of jokes which could make the coldest person laugh.”

Her yearbook from the Women’s College (later Pembroke College) of Brown University, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in sociology in 1924, depicted a similar persona: “Not a blonde, as her name would suggest, nor from New York, as her style suggests, nor does she vamp professors as her eyes suggest. In more ways than one, Goldie suggests one thing, and does another. Could anyone else dance so unceasingly, step out so often, yet be the pride of her professors’ hearts? No, say we emphatically. Goldie’s ambition lies in the field of social service work.”

After graduation, she returned to Worcester and secured a $25-a-week job at Worcester State Hospital. When she informed her father about her newfound employment, he took $25 from his pocket and told Goldie that he would pay his “little girl” the same sum if she didn’t accept the position.

“My father was old-fashioned in that respect,” Goldie told CLARK alumni magazine in 2012. “He was not happy that the job was at the state hospital, and that it was mostly men working there. He didn’t think it was a proper place for a girl.” Goldie eventually turned down the job, and her father’s money.

One night during her first summer out of school, her brother Harry Corash ’21 brought home a friend for dinner.
David Michelson had been working in Worcester and was scheduled to return to his home state of New Jersey the next day. Then he met Goldie.

“He said when he saw me walk down the stairs he had to get to a phone because his plans had changed,” Goldie recalled in the 2012 interview. “He knew he wasn’t going home.”

In 1926, Goldie became the first bride to walk down the aisle at Worcester's just-built Temple Emanuel with her new husband. That same year, Clark’s own Robert Goddard ushered in the Space Age with the launch of his liquid-fueled rocket. The next year, Babe Ruth hit a staggering 60 home runs, Charles Lindbergh flew solo across the Atlantic in the Spirit of St. Louis, and “The Jazz Singer,” Hollywood’s first feature-length “talkie,” was released.

Daughter Renee was born in 1931, and in September 1935 Goldie re-entered Clark (she’d earlier taken sociology courses there) to complete her master’s degree, the same month in which Adolph Hitler enacted the Nuremberg Laws in Germany that excluded German Jews from citizenship in the Reich. Her thesis would be titled “A Citizenship Survey of Worcester Jewry,” which examined why Jewish immigrants were reluctant to pursue U.S. citizenship.

She would not be the last in her family to attend Clark University. Seventy-seven years after Goldie earned her degree, her great-granddaughter, Deanna Minsky ’13, graduated from Clark.

Goldie’s compassion for others drove her to volunteer with numerous community service agencies, helping those who needed a hand. She had her personal tragedies — her beloved mother was killed in a car accident — and she experienced the sadness that went with outliving her brothers and longtime friends. And, as a life member of the women’s Zionist organization Hadassah, she was not one to ignore the horrors that beset Jews in other parts of the world.

Nonetheless, Goldie lived life with appreciation and optimism, gratitude and energy, personal discipline and curiosity. Rabbi Seth Bernstein, who served at Worcester’s Temple Emanuel Sinai from 1986 to 2011, visited Goldie regularly from the time she was in her mid-80s to just a few years before she died. He recalls Goldie once asking him, “Rabbi, have you ever seen a cherry blossom like those on my tree? It’s the most beautiful cherry tree in the world.”

“Talk about carpe diem. That was one woman who seized every day,” Bernstein says. “She only saw the joy in it.”

Goldie had a gift for turning strangers into friends, says Sima Kustanovich, a concert pianist who has been with Clark’s music program for many years. A Russian Jew who, with her husband and son, moved from Leningrad to Worcester in 1979, Kustanovich was among the many immigrants whom Goldie took under her wing. “She was
the first person who spoke to me in English, even though I didn’t know it at all,” Kustanovich told Chabad.org. “She did amazing things to help me many times in my life. Our close relationship was more than friendship — she was like family to me.”

Natalie Palley, who teaches English as a Second Language at Clark’s American Language and Culture Institute, shared a friendship with Goldie for more than 20 years. They often lunched at Goldie’s home to exchange news about what was going on in their own and their families’ lives.

The two women first met at a morning Midrash (Bible-study group) led by Rabbi Bernstein. On that day, Palley had brought along her toddler, and the little boy was busily playing when Palley drew him aside to meet Goldie. “He just stared at her, and then a long rush of drool came out of his mouth,” Palley recalls. “Goldie beamed back at him, saying ‘I’m in love.’”

Goldie’s passion for theater manifested itself in the regular pilgrimages she and David made to New York City for Broadway marathons — seeing as many as four plays in a single weekend. She became a well-known actress, director and teacher in the Worcester area, bringing theater to children and adults in schools, clubs and area nursing homes. Goldie and David even retrofitted their basement into a theater — complete with stage and footlights — where she taught neighborhood children the elements of drama and music, and how to perform without fear and anxiety. The laundry room doubled as a dressing room, with a star on the door, of course.

When she had trouble finding performance venues, Clark offered her unfettered access to Daniels Theater in Atwood Hall.

“I can’t remember when I wasn’t coaching a play,” she once said. “That’s when I was happiest — when I had my hands on a production.”

Toward the end of her life, Paul Martin ’66 helped Goldie with small household projects and drove her where her legs couldn’t take her. The two spent many hours chatting, especially when he transported Goldie to and from her daughter’s and granddaughter’s homes in Maine. On those trips, she would sit beside him in the passenger seat and they would chat the entire time.

“We always had things to talk about,” he says. “Sometimes when I’d stop by she’d say, ‘Paul, you got a minute?’ and she’d start reciting Shakespeare. It was unbelievable the way she was reciting this stuff.”

Martin was not the only person to marvel at Goldie’s powers of recall. Bernstein tells how she was filmed for a course at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. When the videographer asked her to quote something from a play, she asked which one. “Hamlet,” he replied. “Well, what act? What scene?” Goldie asked. She then launched into a soliloquy, Bernstein remembers, “and the guy’s jaw just dropped.”

Tom Dolan ’62, M.A.Ed. ’63, a longtime fixture in the Clark administration, figures he knew Goldie for about 45 years, having met her through her brother Harry, with whom Dolan enjoyed frequent tennis matches (Harry endowed Clark’s Corash Tennis Courts). Dolan describes Goldie as a “Renaissance person. She was au courant on any subject — didn’t make any difference what you wanted to talk about.”

Her intellectual curiosity was fueled by the smorgasbord of political, social, economic, artistic and technological developments in the 20th century, surely one of the most rapidly changing epochs in human history. Her long life gave her the opportunity to ponder and respond to not just the beginning or end of important events, but entire cycles of change: the rise and fall of Germany (twice) and of the Soviet Union; the entire span of Chairman Mao’s reign in China; World Wars I and II, and wars in Vietnam, Korea and the Persian Gulf; the struggles over apartheid in South Africa and the turmoil of our own civil rights movement.

A play about Goldie’s life in the 1920s and ’30s might depict her as an emerging adult against a backdrop of the Jazz Age, Prohibition, the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl and FDR’s New Deal. She saw, in 1920, women in the U.S. gain the right to vote in federal elections. And a year later across the Atlantic — while Goldie was pursuing her bachelor’s degree and acting with the Komians, an all-women’s theater

“Talk about carpe diem. That was one woman who seized every day. She only saw the joy in it.”
group at Pembroke College — Michael Collins signed the Anglo-Irish Treaty creating the Irish Free State.

Goldie witnessed the dawn of the nuclear age and the digital age, and, in between, the Age of Aquarius. Though she passed away before the election of a new president, she could have compared the administrations of 19 U.S. presidents who held office during her lifetime, from Theodore Roosevelt to Barack Obama.

Not surprisingly, some of Goldie's most special philanthropic bequests married her love of theater with her devotion to Clark.

She endowed the David and Goldie Michelson Drama Fund, which supports many Clark theater initiatives.

“I cannot tell you how important this fund is to Clark's theater program,” says Professor Gino DiIorio ’83, program director for theater arts since 2000. “It's allowed our program to grow and thrive. We use it to support guest artists, classes, workshops — I can't list all the things we've used it for.”

“Goldie would always come to shows and watch students work. She never wanted a big deal to be made for her,” he says. “Goldie was that kind of benefactor, the kind of person who enjoyed watching students thrive on their own. Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote: ‘An institution is the lengthened shadow of one man.’ Clark's theater program is the lengthened shadow of one very special woman, Goldie Michelson.”

In 2009, Goldie made a generous gift to refurbish and rebuild the Little Center, including its black box performance space, which was renamed Michelson Theater. The marquee bearing her name provides visibility to the theater and announces current productions.

Goldie’s remarkable achievement of living past the century mark began to attract notice when she was about 108 and still going strong. Maine’s Senator Susan Collins sent her an American flag that had flown over the White House, which Goldie proudly displayed in her living room. And after qualifying as a supercentenarian at the age of 110, she received a photograph and congratulatory letter from President Obama (she sent him a thank-you note).

For two brief months this spring and summer, when she was officially the oldest person in the United States, media outlets from around the world flocked to publicize Goldie’s story. She died quietly at home, two floors above her basement theater — the final step on her wonderful walk.

“It never occurred to me that I would live this long,” Goldie once told an interviewer. “I just went on and on, and I’ve loved it.”
Debórah Dwork’s work with oral histories led her to create a center that transformed Holocaust and genocide studies. After 20 years at the helm, she’s charting a new path.

By Jim Keogh
Photography by Matt Furman
Debórah Dwork photographed at the Tower of Faces in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.
The bus rumbled along the road from Warsaw to Auschwitz, a three-hour trip connecting grim reminders of the Nazis’ murderous campaign against Jews during World War II.

The passengers were participants in a multi-day conference convened by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous in July 1993.

During the ride, David Strassler, M.B.A. ’11, a member of the JFR board and chair of the Clark University Board of Trustees, chatted with his seatmate, a Yale University professor whose acclaimed contributions to Holocaust studies had emerged from the hundreds of oral histories she’d gathered from survivors. He complimented her on the paper she’d presented, and then asked where one would go to earn a Ph.D. in Holocaust history. The woman’s answer stunned him: Such a place did not exist. No institution offered a doctorate specializing in Holocaust history.

When he returned to the United States, Strassler approached then-Clark President Richard Traina with an offer: He and his brother Robert would be willing to raise money for a center devoted to Holocaust studies if the faculty approved and if it met the University’s academic mandate. By coincidence, their efforts leveraged those of another set of brothers, Sidney and Ralph Rose, who proposed establishing a chair in Jewish studies at Clark to honor family members murdered in Poland during the war. Traina asked if they would refocus their gift to create the nation’s first fully endowed chair in Holocaust history. The Roses readily agreed.

From these serendipitous connections, the Strassler Center for Holocaust Studies was born in 1998, with the singular purpose of rooting the study of the Holocaust in academia — later expanding its mission and title to the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. And from the beginning, its chief architect, its leader, its face, and its soul was Déborah Dwork, the professor on the bus from Warsaw to Auschwitz.

“How could I not focus on the Holocaust?” Déborah Dwork is responding to an interviewer’s question about her early motivations for studying this seminal event in human history. (Her next line could very well be, “Where do I start?”)

The interview has its own purpose. On May 31, after 20 years at the helm, Dwork stepped down as director of the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Now “founding director,” her journey to envisioning an academic center began with her family. Dwork’s parents were Jewish immigrants whose home language was Yiddish. Her mother’s adoptive sister, Sara, who lived in Poland, was the only member of her family who had not been murdered by the Germans. “I thought this was how all American Jewish families were constituted,” she recalls. “One leg in the United States and the other in Europe.”

While Dwork’s father established his career as a mathematician at Harvard and, later, Princeton, her family traveled back and forth to Europe. Among the places they lived was Florence, Italy, where the young Déborah soon became friends with a Jewish classmate named Wanda. One day, she accompanied Wanda’s family to the countryside, where they visited a farmer. “It took me years before I realized that Wanda’s father had been hidden by that farmer’s family during the war,” she says. “He returned every June to check on him and just to say once again, ‘Thank you. I’m still here.’”

While working on her dissertation at University College London, Dwork had a conversation with the mother of Robert Jan van Pelt, her friend and future co-author on three books, who was visiting from the Netherlands. “Judy and I were talking, and she said, ‘Did I ever tell you how I found food during the war?’ As a young girl — malnourished
and unthreatening — Judy could forage for food without raising the Germans’ suspicions. Trash bins outside of hospitals were an excellent source for scraps, she remembered.

“I realized such stories were the stuff of family lore, not scholarly research,” Dwork says. “No historian had plumbed this kind of experience, understanding children as actors, as agents. Here was Judy going out to forage and bring back food for her family — she was on the doing end, not the receiving end.”

With Judy’s story as inspiration, Dwork embarked on the research and writing of “Children With A Star” (1991), a now-classic analysis of Jewish children’s experiences during the Holocaust that drew upon the childhood memories of hundreds of Holocaust survivors. To gather information, Dwork recorded what at the time grew to be the largest collection of child-survivor oral histories in the world; hers was a pioneering approach to a chapter in history that had been told exclusively through an adult lens. The book has been translated into many languages and was the subject of a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation documentary.

In 1986, during her first professorship at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Dwork had begun offering courses on the history of the Holocaust, a topic that periodically found its way into college curricula but which didn’t exist as a subfield of the larger discipline of history.

“I kept saying to anyone who would listen, and those who wouldn’t: ‘This is a hugely important period of history, and we’re not offering courses about it.’”

The argument for a doctoral program in Holocaust history was crystallized when the cornerstone was laid in 1988 for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. “If you go to the Italian Renaissance collection in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, you expect the curator to have a Ph.D. in art history. You even expect that curator to have specialized in Italian Renaissance art,” she says. “So here was this Holocaust museum to be built on the National Mall, and please tell me: Who was going to serve as the curators?”

Flash forward to that bus trip to Auschwitz, and the moment David Strassler turned to her and asked where a Ph.D. program in Holocaust history was offered.

“I said to him, ‘I’ve been waiting my whole life for someone to ask me that question.’”

Dwork was hired in 1996 to plan and launch a center for Holocaust studies — one that would need a building, a program and students.

She hit the ground running, forging relationships, fundraising (she reckons she has raised from $25 million to $30 million for the center over the years) and developing a plan for a doctoral stream in Holocaust history. “Yes, this was groundbreaking, but I could break that ground only because our Clark community was willing,” Dwork says.

The Center found its home in an aging Victorian at the corner of Woodland and Hawthorne streets that had served as alumni offices. Marc ’81 and Cathy ’83 Lasry donated funds for the redesign and renovation, which was undertaken by architect Julian Bonder, who designed the Center’s Rose Library at the same time.

Among the first class of Ph.D. students admitted in 1998 was Beth Cohen, who today teaches at California State, Northbridge, and is writing her second book, “Child Survivors of the Holocaust.”

“The experience of being a student of Debórah Dwork’s was stimulating, exhilarating, terrifying, and — I don’t use these words lightly — life-changing,” Cohen recalls. “Exhilarating was exposure to major thinkers in Holocaust history like Yehuda Bauer, Christopher Browning, Marion Kaplan and Atina Grossman, who came to the first scholars’ conference Debórah organized in 1999. Terrifying was the experience of presenting a paper at the second conference in October 2001 on Genocide in the 20th Century to a room full of invited scholars, including one whose work I analyzed.

“Debórah’s seminars had a demanding bibliography and writing requirement — her exacting critiques of my essays still guide my writing today.”

As the Strassler Center’s programming evolved, its reputation grew. In tandem with the work emerging from the Center, Dwork’s own scholarship — she is the author of eight books and many articles, and is in frequent demand as a speaker — made her the Center’s ambassador on an international stage. She attracted renowned scholars to the Clark campus, including Bauer, the preeminent Holocaust historian, who taught for two semesters at the Strassler Center.
“My experience in Worcester was very important,” he says. “Debórah was a person who mediated and brought things together. She’s the kind of historian I appreciate — accurate, yes, but also one who makes personal connections.”

The Strassler Center’s mandate broadened in 2001 with the gift of the Robert Aram, Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies (held today by Taner Akçam). While the Center always featured an undergraduate concentration in genocide studies, it could not claim expertise beyond the Holocaust on the doctoral level. The gift changed that. “I always wanted our bona fides to be concrete,” Dwork says. “We changed the name immediately to the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.”

When the news was announced, Dwork received a handwritten note from friend and mentor Elie Wiesel, the renowned author, scholar and Nobel Laureate whose own experience as a survivor of Hitler’s death camps informed his lifetime of activism. The note contained a single word: “Bravo.”

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum employs so many former Strassler students that she refers to it as “Strassler south.”

This larger vision was prominently displayed at the Informed Activism conference, which the Center hosted in the fall of 2011 to grapple with issues surrounding the link between mass violence and mineral extraction in Congo. An international roster of scholars, activists, political leaders and survivors analyzed chilling testimony and discussed solutions targeting the underlying causes of violence before an audience of over 1,000 who filled the Kneller Athletic Center.

This year, the Strassler Center awarded its first doctorates in comparative genocide studies — Khatchig Mouradian, the first person in the United States to earn a Ph.D. in Armenian genocide history; Ümit Kurt, also focusing on the Armenian genocide; and Sara Brown ’05 (the genocide in Rwanda), who took her first course at the Center as a sophomore and later returned to pursue her doctorate.

“Debórah was with me from start to finish, urging me on with her indefatigable guidance and unwavering faith,” says Brown, who is a lecturer at San Diego State University.

Peter Balakian, the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and Armenian genocide scholar who has spoken at the Strassler Center, calls Dwork a “great force” in comparative genocide studies. “She made so much happen, and with such grace and affirmative energy.”

Dwork quips that her Ph.D. students thrive under a number of collective titles, from “the Strassler Mafia” to “DD’s Army.” They deploy from a university whose modest size has distinct advantages, including the interdisciplinary approach that allows the Center to collaborate with scholars from psychology, history, geography and sociology to more deeply investigate and better understand acts of mass brutality. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum employs so many former Strassler students that she refers to it as “Strassler south.”

Stepping down as director required careful consideration, but Dwork made the decision with confidence in her successors, co-directors Thomas Kühne and Mary Jane Rein. Kühne holds the Strassler Chair in the Study of Holocaust History and serves as director of the Holocaust and genocide studies doctoral stream. Rein has been the Center’s executive director since 2006.

“I really believe in succession plans,” Dwork says. “Transitioning out at the right time is the responsibility of, and a gift from, the leader of the organization. If the director remains too long, the organization becomes associated with that person and not for itself. Happily, that would not have happened with the Strassler Center because, in the end, our fortunes depend on the scholarship of our students. Still, it was time to step down.”

On sabbatical until September 2017, Dwork is scarcely idle. This fall, she served as the historian of record in the Ken Burns documentary “Defying the Nazis: The Sharps’ War,” and has devoted herself to her first passion — plumbing the history of the Holocaust. When weighing the decision to relinquish her administrative duties, Dwork says she faced the question, “Budgets or books?” The latter won.

She continues in her role as Rose Professor of Holocaust History and is working with nine Ph.D. candidates.

“I’ve loved building the Center and imagining what it could be,” she says. “We had one standard — excellence — and everyone bought into that, including our donors. Indeed, fundraising gave me the opportunity to meet people whose values aligned with mine, who were generous of spirit and pocket, and who helped make this a reality.”

Perhaps it’s most appropriate to conclude with Debórah Dwork’s fellow bus passenger from 23 years ago, who has watched the journey unfold.

“I’ve done a lot of things in my life, but the founding and evolution of the Center is the thing I’m most proud of,” says David Strassler. “Debórah has been the dynamo with the smarts and the drive to make it what it is today, and that impact is seen in our graduates. They spread their knowledge as professors, as docents, as curators, so when the survivors are gone, the history is not forgotten.”
Leo Breton’s life in the gassed lane

When Leo Breton ‘85 was getting ready to apply to colleges, he already knew he was going to major in physics. His mother suggested he check out Clark University because of its links with Robert H. Goddard, “the father of modern rocketry.”

Clark was the only university to receive Breton’s application.

It’s fitting, because Breton has been called the “grandfather of mobile emissions testing.” The system he invented was used to uncover a massive scandal in the automobile industry: Volkswagen’s widespread cheating on emissions standards.

As a mechanical engineer at the Environmental Protection Agency in 1995, Breton oversaw the lab that performed emissions and fuel economy tests on automobiles. He wondered whether the simulations conducted in a controlled environment could ever match the results in real-world conditions. To find the answer, Breton would have to build his own system. So he did.

“The challenge was to measure a moving vehicle with the same accuracy” as a lab’s heavy, expensive and enormous equipment, he says. The system he came up with fits in a car’s trunk or back seat. The Real-time, On-road Vehicle Emissions Reporter, or ROVER, comprises multiple inventions, and measures exhaust flow and emissions without having to modify the vehicle.

“Exhaust flow rate is difficult to measure because it changes rapidly all the time,” Breton explains, so he designed an exhaust flow meter that hooks onto the tailpipe. He had a hunch he could adapt a liquid-measurement device to measure the vehicle exhaust flow rate in real time. It required a lot of work to adapt, but it was very successful. He holds the patents on the flow meter and system technologies, now called the Portable Emissions Measurement System (PEMS), which is available from two manufacturers. The commercial systems of today operate exactly as Breton showed in his seminal patents.

In the mid 1990s, Breton’s invention led to the discovery that some auto manufacturers and heavy-duty engine manufacturers had installed software devices the government considered “defeat devices,” which reduce the effectiveness of a car’s emissions-control system on some vehicles. The auto manufacturers paid settlements totaling over a billion dollars. One of the cases was the largest settlement ever reached under the Clean Air Act prior to the discovery of the Volkswagen defeat device.

Last year, Volkswagen admitted to selling 11 million vehicles worldwide with defeat devices to fool emissions tests. The ruse was discovered by a team of scientists from West Virginia University using Breton’s ROVER technology.

To date, Volkswagen has agreed to a $15 billion settlement with the government, but that’s just the initial cost since it doesn’t include civil penalties or the myriad class action lawsuits. A criminal case is pending, and more fines for clean air violations are likely. This should mean the end of intentional emissions cheating, Breton says. “I can’t believe anybody would go there again after this one.”

Breton has been hunting for solutions to major problems since his Clark days. During his senior year, he was tapped to figure out why the University’s new cogeneration plant was not operating at capacity. Gary Benoit, the instrumentation engineer for the Physics Department, had started setting up a system to track the flow of heat in the plant. “I finished what Gary had done, wrote the software, and got the electronics working,” Breton recalls. “It wasn’t a big feat of engineering by today’s standards but it was pretty advanced back then.”

He determined that 1 million Btu of heat was being lost through the library’s cooling tower, at a cost of about $50,000 per year, the result of faulty plumbing. The installation error was fixed the next day.

Breton went on to earn a master’s in mechanical engineering at the University of Maryland and spent two years as a research assistant before going to work at the EPA. Breton then put his engineering skills to use at two startups, working on vehicle efficiency and biofuels. He also founded Energy Innovations, developing energy-efficient technologies for appliances, HVAC systems, automotive applications and more.

Today, Breton is a technology development manager in the Vehicle Technologies Office at the Department of Energy, but he’s an inventor and physicist at heart. He just recently sold his patented design for an improved hybrid vehicle powertrain architecture to a Silicon Valley company. Breton regularly draws on the physics he learned at Clark and the confidence that experience instilled in him. “If you’re a physics major at Clark, you have to show up to class, and you can’t hide because the classes are small. You really have to know what’s going on.”
Clark’s student-athletes stay on their game

Rest? What rest? Clark student-athletes view the summer as an opportunity to keep moving, whether that means continuing to play their sports, or further their academic careers. Here are three who never stopped.

Kyle Bonicki ’18, Baseball

Bonicki played for the Wachusett Dirt Dawgs of the Futures Collegiate Baseball League. Last year, he capped one of the best individual seasons in school history when he set records in six separate categories, was named first-team all-conference and Male Student-Athlete of the Year. He then spent his summer tearing up the Futures League. He was named to the All-Star game, finished second in the league in batting average (.403), set a league record for hits in a season (75) and was third in on-base percentage (.472).

“It has been remarkable to watch Kyle over the course of the year,” said Clark’s head baseball coach J.P. Pyne. “His level of production this past spring was amazing, and for him to continue it in the Futures League is almost unbelievable.”

Haley Wilder ’18, Women’s Basketball

Clark University and the Clark Athletics Department have extended their global impact through CAST (Clark Athletics Service Learning Trip), a program started by Harris Rollinger ’13, M.P.A. ’14. Each year, Clark student-athletes go abroad to work on a community development project. This winter break, CAST traveled to the Dominican Republic to work alongside organizational partner Service for Peace to help build a badly needed computer lab in the small town of El Cidral.

Wilder played basketball in Costa Rica with Beyond Sports, competing against some of the best talent on club and national teams. In addition to playing hoops, she and her teammates held basketball clinics for children ages 5-12, teaching them the basics of the game.

While on her trip, Wilder was able to visit spots like the Arenal Volcano National Park, Baldi Hot Springs and the city of San José.

“I zip-lined down a volcanic mountain through a rainforest nearly 300 meters above the ground, saw monkeys, toucans, armadillos and sloths, and walked along miles of white-sand beaches with crystal-clear waters,” said Wilder. “As the same time I was able to create long-lasting friendships with girls from across the U.S. and give back to families who come from communities with limited resources.”

Simone McGuinness ’18, Women’s Soccer

McGuinness had an internship with Congressman Chris Van Hollen, who represents the 8th Congressional District in Maryland and was running for the open Senate seat. The psychology major from Chevy Chase, Md., did constituent work for Van Hollen. She has played varsity soccer since her first year at Clark.

“I gained an immense appreciation for the effort and devotion my congressman has for his citizens,” said McGuinness. “My complete immersion in his office provided me with invaluable insight and experience.”
Kara Fischer ’17 uncovers lost soldiers’ hidden histories

After a junior year that saw her emerge as one of the most exciting soccer players in the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference, Kara Fischer ’17 spent her summer in Hawaii. But the physical anthropology major wasn’t sunning at the beach or mastering the Pacific surf. Her mission took her into the lab to help unravel a wartime mystery.

Tell us about your summer experience.
I worked at the Defense Prisoner of War/ Missing in Action Accounting Laboratory, the largest forensic anthropology laboratory in the world. The goal of this lab is to identify soldiers who were missing in action or prisoners of war from past conflicts like World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam. I was able to work with different analysts, from forensic anthropologists to DNA analysts to archaeologists.

During my internship, the lab did a disinterment of eight sets of remains from the Punchbowl cemetery in Honolulu. There are hundreds of unidentified soldiers from the Korean War who are buried there. When the remains were brought back to the lab and removed from their caskets, I helped to clean them with soft brushes and water so they could be analyzed. In forensic anthropology, one of the major parts of analysis includes coming up with a biological profile that determines the age, sex, ancestry and stature of a set of skeletal remains. I worked with anthropologists to learn how to apply different techniques and approaches to determine this profile. Each set is unique, and it is truly amazing how much you can learn about someone by studying their bones.

I also learned a little about trauma analysis and how that can help with determining a positive identification. I worked with the DNA analyst who is in charge of cutting samples of bone to be sent for mitochondrial, Y-chromosome, and/or autosomal DNA sequencing. When I was in that part of the lab, I had to wear a surgical mask, hairnet, scrubs, and gloves. I also had to spray bleach on my gloves and hands after I touched anything to make sure that the bone samples were not contaminated.

What was the most exciting part of your trip?
It was definitely getting to work with and learn from the forensic anthropologists in the lab. I worked with skeletal elements in my forensic anthropology class that I took last semester, but it was completely different being able to actually learn from real cases. I also had an amazing time exploring the island of Oahu. There were so many beautiful hikes that I was able to do and beaches that I was able visit.

What did you learn about yourself from this?
I’ve always found anthropology and forensics very intriguing and interesting, but having the opportunity to work in a real lab has made me realize it’s what I want to pursue as a career.

How did this experience make you a better Clarkie?
It helped me to become more adaptable because I was in a completely new environment with lots of people I didn’t know. It also made me feel even more open and excited about experiences that I will have in the future.

What was your favorite part of the Hawaiian culture?
People were very friendly. I took the bus to my internship every day, and often a stranger on the bus would start a conversation with me. I also loved seeing how important family is to people there. I would go to the beach and see entire families of about 10-15 people just spending the day together.
New building home of LEEP, Networked Communities

CLARK UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT David Angel stood before the audience who had come together on Aug. 11 to celebrate the official opening of the Alumni and Student Engagement Center and helpfully offered his own headline for the event: “Reaching outward. Reaching upward.”

Over the past year, the Clark community has watched a skeleton of interlocking girders evolve into the newest addition to the 129-year-old campus, an essential component of the University’s mission to transform liberal education and a cornerstone for the Main South neighborhood.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, President Angel said the building is the culmination of a 30-year process that, symbolically and physically, signals Clark’s commitment “to reach beyond the classroom, beyond the campus, beyond the neighborhood, and out into the country and the world.”

Located across Main Street just across from the Clark gate, the four-story, 36,000-square-foot building is the locus for Clark’s model for undergraduate education, LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice). The LEEP Center now has a concentrated, centralized campus presence for its offices, which include Academic Advising, Study Abroad, Community Engagement, Career Services and the Writing Center.

The new building also will be host to programming for Networked Communities, a Clark initiative that brings together students with alumni, faculty and outside partners for career mentoring in biology and biosciences, health, creative arts, markets and business, law and regulatory affairs, and psychology. These collaborations will be critical in connecting Clark students to world and work experiences through internships, mentorship and job opportunities, while also giving alumni the chance to share advice and industry-specific knowledge to better prepare students for launch into their post-college lives and careers.

“A new building makes a statement,” said Clark Trustee Richard Freeland at the ribbon-cutting. “It
energizes the whole community and inspires us to raise the level of our game to the level of vision it represents.”

In his remarks, Mark Fuller, representing the George and Sybil Fuller Foundation, a major benefactor of the center and of other Clark initiatives over the years, recognized the University’s “deep and profound” partnership with Worcester and commitment to the neighborhood.

Jeffrey Gillooly, vice president for advancement, noted the many gifts that brought the Alumni and Student Engagement Center to fruition.

“A project of this magnitude, one with such a positive impact on Clark’s educational mission, is not possible without the generosity of our donors,” he said. “We can’t thank them enough for their commitment to Clark.”

Other notable facets of the Alumni and Student Engagement Center:

• The building boasts a full roof solar array that supplies up to 50 percent of its energy needs. An application will be made to the U.S. Green Building Council that the building be considered for LEED Platinum or Gold certification.

• The building is a key element of revitalization efforts in the Main South neighborhood, strengthening the partnership between Clark and the city. The building coincides with $1.5 million in improvements to nearby University Park, partly funded by Clark’s payment-in-lieu-of-taxes to the city, and $2 million in federally funded enhancements along Main Street — from Hawthorne Street to Beaver Street — scheduled to begin next spring.

• Members of the Clark alumni community now have dedicated space for meetings and events. In a 2014 CLARK magazine story describing the building plans, former Alumni Association president Larry Hershoff ’71 said the center “is a signal from the administration that it recognizes the critical importance of alumni to LEEP and to Clark as a whole.”

Other departments and offices located in the Alumni and Student Engagement Center are:

Dean of the College (includes dean, senior associate dean, associate dean for student academic success), Dean of Students, Registrar, Student Accounts and Cashier’s Office, Student Financial Assistance (Financial Aid), Business Manager and OneCard Office, Human Resources, General Accounting, Accounts Payable and Payroll.

The Alumni and Student Engagement Center was designed by Architerra and built by Consigli Construction.
O
NE OF THE DISTINCT PLEASURES I have as your Alumni Board president is welcoming the newest generation of Clarkies to campus at the beginning of the academic year. It’s hard to believe that the Class of 2020 began their Clark journey just a few months ago, and I am pleased to welcome them into the greater Clark community. I hope you have the opportunity to meet these remarkable and bright students over the next four years.

This past summer was filled with much activity — including the opening of our new Alumni and Student Engagement Center across Main Street — and the Alumni Association Executive Board is already hard at work with this year’s initiatives. There is much at stake in engaging you and your classmates in innovative alumni events and programming — a charge we take seriously and are fully dedicated to see come to fruition.

One such task is embarking on our new campuswide initiative — Networked Communities. Engaging alumni, parents and friends with students, faculty and staff, our goal is to provide students career exploration and professional development opportunities. Through the establishment of a digital platform for participants to engage with each other at anytime and anywhere, as well as events hosted in our new Alumni and Student Engagement Center, Networked Communities will facilitate one-on-one mentor and mentee relationships between alumni and students. Alumni will provide professional advice, feedback and share expertise as they begin their exploration and life beyond campus.

Through the development of six of these communities in the 2016-2017 academic year (Biology and Bioscience, Law and Regulatory Affairs, Health, Markets and Business, Psychology, and Creative Arts), faculty will be able to better share and enrich their understanding of these complex subjects, while students will receive additional hands-on and in-depth understanding from our alumni. I look forward to sharing more about this exciting new initiative over the coming months, and hope you will join me and others as we support this important work.

As you may have noticed, the Alumni Association is bringing even more alumni events to your neighborhood, with over 50 engagement events planned for the coming year. We invite you to participate in one or more of these events. Catch up with classmates and meet new friends — the opportunities to engage with Clark are endless.

Stay tuned for more event information and additional ways to become involved with your Clark University.

INGRID BUSSON-HALL ’96
President, Alumni Board
1947

H. MARTIN DERANIAN, who died on Sept. 26 (see page 58), published “Hagop Bogigian: Armenian American Pioneer and Philanthropist,” a biography of his great-uncle. His previous publications include “Worcester Is America: The Story of Worcester’s Armenians,” “Miracle Man of the Western Front: Dr. Varaztad H. Kazanjian, Pioneer Plastic Surgeon;” and “President Calvin Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug.” The story of Dr. Deranian’s mother’s escape during the Armenian Genocide was chronicled in the fall 2013 issue of the CLARK alumni magazine.

1958

STEPHEN “STEVE” SIEGEL recently completed his 96th half marathon, in addition to the 30 marathons he has completed since 1978. He writes that he has run more than 31,000 miles in the past 38 years.

1961

SANDRA MELTZER ’61, P ’90, is a docent for Preservation Worcester and enjoys leading historical tours for students of all ages and visitors to the Worcester area. She writes, “I take many wonderful courses at WISE, Worcester Institute for Senior Education at Assumption College, and serve on its board as recording secretary. The Worcester area has an abundance of conservation land and I enjoy hiking in the woods, as well as exploring Worcester on foot.”

1968

JUDITH PLASKOW is co-author, with Carol R Christ, of “Goddess and God in the World: Conversations in Embodied Theology.” The book first describes the authors’ spiritual journeys from childhood to the present day, then presents an interweaving dialogue that challenges each other’s perspectives and responds to questions about religious choices and the role of Goddess and God.

RAISE A GLASS TO STEVE

When longtime wine critic Steve Heimoff ’69 announced his retirement in August, commenters flooded his blog with well wishes. A few, however, were skeptical. “You can no more leave wine than you can leave the Gambino family,” joked one admirer.

Not so, Heimoff insists. After years of writing for Wine Enthusiast and Wine Spectator, among other publications, he has indeed drawn from his last glass as a professional. His 70th birthday supplied Heimoff the ultimate motivation to move into a new phase in his life, one more attuned to the rhythms of relaxation than to the hamster wheel of a busy career.

“Turning 70, in case you haven’t had the experience, is psychologically impactful,” he wrote in his blog. “When I turned 40, 50, 60, it didn’t change how I felt about myself. My health was wonderful; I’ve always been in the top one percent of my age cohort when it comes to fitness. But seventy? You can’t make believe any more that you’re not old.”

Heimoff came to Clark from his hometown of the Bronx, largely because he wanted to get out of New York and also because he was a “snow freak.” He helped organize some of the campus’ biggest rock concerts, including the Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix and James Taylor. He also opened a campus coffee shop, Heimoff’s Hair, which was named by his friends in honor of Steve’s long blond locks.

After earning a master’s degree at the San Francisco State University and then working in a corporate job, Heimoff decided that he would shape a career that married his newfound passion for wine and his love of writing. He immersed himself “in a serious course of self-education in all aspects of wine appreciation,” and by the late 1980s he was stringing for Wine Spectator. He would go on to become the West Coast editor of Wine Enthusiast magazine and wrote the books “A Wine Journey Along the Russian River” and “New Classic Winemakers of California.”

Throughout his career, Heimoff opined deeply and elegantly about the esthetics and business practices of the wine industry, earning a devoted readership that followed him to the blog he launched in 2008. Trends have come and gone in that time, but the biggest is the explosion of wine’s popularity. “When I started, nobody drank wine. It was an underground thing,” he says. Heimoff credits the baby boomers for replacing the frozen TV dinners and Coca-Cola of their youth “not just with good wine but with good food. The boomers made it happen.”

The Oakland-based Heimoff concluded his career as director of wine communications and education at Jackson Family Wines. His decision to leave was made thoughtfully since he’d lost much of his life savings to fraudulent investor Bernie Madoff and was forced to rebuild his retirement income.

His passion now is with his blog (SteveHeimoff.com). The consummate critic, he’s unafraid to cut loose about whatever moves him, especially modern politics.

“I do understand I might lose a lot of readers,” he says with a laugh. “I’ll miss them. But I may gain some, too.

“I’m very ambitious with this blog,” he continues. “I wanted to be an important wine writer and I made that happen. Now I’d like to have an influential political blog, and I’ll work as hard as I can to make that happen, too.”
The final chapter discusses the common ground that underlies their theological differences. Judith is professor emerita of religious studies at Manhattan College. Her writing and research have centered on feminist theology since she was in graduate school. She co-founded the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, and her book “Standing Again at Sinai: Judaism from a Feminist Perspective” brought 20 years of feminist theological reflection to bear on the transformation of Judaism. She is also the author of “The Coming of Lilith” and co-editor of “Heterosexism in Contemporary World Religion.”

1970

**KENT P. LJUNQUIST**, professor of literature in the Humanities and Arts Department at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, received the WPI Board of Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Teaching. The award recognizes faculty members for excellence in teaching coupled with outstanding professional contributions. Ljunquist teaches the works of Edgar Allan Poe and other authors of supernatural fiction, surveys the broad spectrum of American literature, and introduces students to realism and regional authors. Described as a master teacher, he uses patience, kindness, and wit “to ease even the most reluctant participants into provocative classroom discussions,” his citation noted. Ljunquist earned a master’s degree in English at the University of Connecticut in 1972, and a doctorate in English at Duke University in 1975.

1971

**STEVE KOLBUSZOWSKI COLBURN** lives with his wife Betty in Portland, Ore., which he calls “very Clarkish.” He writes, “Most of my post-Clark life has revolved around music and movies. I am fortunate enough to be happily working at a company that makes wonderful speakers for home theaters and music listening rooms. On a great day I get paid to listen to music and watch movies on world-class systems.” Steve hopes to catch up with his classmates very soon.

1972

**WILLIAM M. SIEGEL** wrote an article, “Jazz and the Politics of Identity: The Legacy of Jim Pepper,” which appears in the new collection, “Indigenous Pop: Native American Music from Jazz to Hip Hop” (University of Arizona Press, March 2016). The book also includes chapters on Buffy Sainte-Marie, Robbie Robertson, Joy Harjo, Link Wray, Redbone, Mildred Bailey, Jesse Ed Davis, and others. “For more info, or just to say ‘hey,’ you can reach me at siegel713@gmail.com,” he writes.

1973

**JO-ANN DELLA GIUSTINA, J.D., PH.D.,** has been promoted to full professor at Bridgewater State University. A former Cook County assistant public defender, she teaches in the Criminal Justice Department. She published a book, “Why Women Are Beaten and Killed,” published by Mellen Press. She also teaches and volunteers at Old Colony Correction Center.

1974

**NEAL MEYERSON** retired from the federal government on Jan. 2, 2016. He worked for the
such as after disasters and pandemic spread. During times of extraordinary medical demand, to supplement the existing health care workforce charged by the Office of the Assistant Secretary Reserve Corps is a national volunteer organization, based in Washington, D.C. The Medical Reserve Corps is a national volunteer organization, charged by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Office of the Surgeon General, to provide trained personnel for Preparedness and Response and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Office of the Surgeon General, to provide trained personnel to supplement the existing health care workforce during times of extraordinary medical demand, such as after disasters and pandemic spread.

1977
MICHAEL GURNICK is chair of the Medical Reserve Corps Advisory Workgroup, which is a workforce development and policy committee of the National Association of County and City Health Officials based in Washington, D.C. The Medical Reserve Corps is a national volunteer organization, charged by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Office of the Surgeon General, to provide trained personnel to supplement the existing health care workforce during times of extraordinary medical demand, such as after disasters and pandemic spread.

1978
JAMES DEMPSEY, M.A. ’78, published “The Tortured Life of Scofield Taylor” and robust sales have earned it a paperback printing. Dempsey chronicles the colorful, troubled life of the editor and publisher of The Dial, the influential literary magazine that published the works of William Butler Yeats, T. S. Eliot, William Carlos Williams, E.E. Cummings, and Marianne Moore, among many other great modern writers of the 20th century.

1981
ADAM M. TUCHMAN has retired after 32 years of service as a contracting officer with the federal government. His retirement plans include taking adult education classes, lots of reading and foreign travel.

1983
AMY J. BROMBERG GOLDSMITH ’83, P ’14, P ’16, was recently hired as the membership coordinator of Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve in New Hope, Pa. She and her family have been members of the Preserve for many years, and Amy is excited to be on the staff of this nonprofit that showcases the extraordinary diversity of plants native to Pennsylvania and the Delaware Valley region on its 134 acres. She encourages visitors to the Bucks County area to stop by to hike, watch a large variety of birds, and enjoy this beautiful setting that includes many endangered plants and flowers. Amy is supremely proud of her two daughters.

WALKING DOWN LEXINGTON AVENUE IN NEW YORK RECENTLY, JOHN WINKLEMAN ’77 noticed a familiar piece of art hanging in a storefront window. Looking more closely, he realized why: he had drawn it.

The pen-and-ink drawing was part of a series Winkleman created for Our Town, a community newspaper covering the East Side of the city. The art accompanied profiles of longstanding family-run businesses written to celebrate the paper’s 45th anniversary. At a reception held at Mount Sinai Hospital, where Winkleman is a trustee, the art was displayed and then presented — signed by the artist — to the business owners.

On his blog, Winkleman describes himself as a “habitual illustrator.” For years, he illustrated the “Crime Watch” column for the Our Town group of neighborhood newspapers that cover different areas of the city. He also illustrated two children’s books, “Firehouse” and “Police Patrol,” written by his wife, Katherine.

He has drawn practically all of the buildings on Clark’s campus. Those drawings are now housed in the University’s Archives and Special Collections.

For his senior thesis at Clark, where he double-majored in studio art and history, Winkleman opened and operated the first art gallery on campus, in what was then called Little Commons. He also worked closely with art professors Don Krueger and Mary Melville to move the art studios from the basement of Goddard Library to Little Commons. Following graduation he stayed on for a year as a Presidential Fellow, assisting Melville with selection of the sculptor and siting of the Robert Goddard memorial in Atwood Plaza.

After a few years in New York City, where he directed the Greenwich House Music School, he returned to campus to serve as the executive assistant to President Mortimer Appley and the Board of Trustees. He particularly enjoyed working with longtime trustee Alice Higgins, whom he considers a mentor alongside Krueger and Melville. “She was one of a kind — absolutely remarkable. She really understood students and defused many a crisis in her tenure,” he says.

Winkleman also helped plan the Robert Goddard Centennial celebrations, raising money for fellowships, and assisted with organizing the University’s own 100-year anniversary celebration. He participated in the planning of the Sackler Sciences Center and served on the committee that chose Richard P. Traina to succeed Appley as president.

When he’s not drawing, Winkleman is president of Winkleman Company, a public relations and marketing firm. The bulk of his work is with not-for-profits, he says, handling anything from branding to crisis control for organizations in fields as varied as elder care, behavioral health, and culture. “It’s been a joy,” he says.

Winkleman also is a full-time instructor at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, where he teaches marketing. His students act as consulting groups to fix bad marketing campaigns or create “off the wall marketing” plans of their own. A consulting workshop program allows students to examine and fashion solutions for real-world problems.

He directs a hospital simulation model, which serves as a capstone for graduate students. Over two and a half days, individual groups — which include invited hospital administrators — “run” a hospital in a major city that has to find ways to weather a financial crisis.

“Executives make the same mistakes students do,” he notes, “but they all walk out knowing how to work as a team.”
Devra and Sara, who are recent Clark grads doing many wonderful things to make a difference in our world.

RONALD “RON” WOLFSON ’84 ran the Great Wall Marathon in China in May. In addition to running up and down the Wall for about five miles, participants weave through four villages and over long, steep hills. The temperature rose to 88 degrees during the run, but Ron completed it in 6:48. “It was everything that I hoped it would be — challenging, exhilarating, a true immersion into historic China,” he writes. “Running the GWM had been a dream of mine for 15 years, ever since I saw an advertisement for it in Running Times Magazine.” A high school history teacher, Ron has been teaching about Chinese history and culture for nearly 30 years and taught at the Shanghai University of Technology from 1991 to 1992. Prior to the GWM he had completed 17 marathons and nearly 300 road races.

ERIKA SANGER is executive director of the Museum Association of New York. She previously spent 12 years as the director of education at the Albany Institute of History and Art, where she developed programs for adults, children, schools and families, focusing on object-based learning and digital initiatives. She has held positions at renowned institutions including the International Center of Photography, the Jewish Museum, New York Historical Society, Brooklyn Museum of Art, and the Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, N.C. She was director of development at Penland School of Crafts in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, and has also developed program assessments with Harvard University’s Project Zero, the N.C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching, and with the education department at the University at Albany. Erika earned a master’s degree from New York University’s Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development.

SEAN MCDONALD ’82 and his best friend, Pam Simmons, visited the Mohawk Trail on Route 2 in Massachusetts in October 2015.

Four Clark friends — HETTY FRIEDMAN ’74, SANDY ASKIN ’74, LINDA FREEDMAN ’74, M.A.ED. ’76, and ANNA (RUSSELL) BUTLER ’70 — recently spent 10 days traveling around the highlands of Guatemala on Hetty’s “Guatemala Experience” tour. They visited fair trade artisan cooperatives and met with NGOs working on family support, school sponsorships, and contraceptive health and education, and had a great time on Lake Atitlan.

1984
ERIKA SANGER is executive director of the Museum Association of New York. She previously spent 12 years as the director of education at the Albany Institute of History and Art, where she developed programs for adults, children, schools and families, focusing on object-based learning and digital initiatives. She has held positions at renowned institutions including the International Center of Photography, the Jewish Museum, New York Historical Society, Brooklyn Museum of Art, and the Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, N.C. She was director of development at Penland School of Crafts in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, and has also developed program assessments with Harvard University’s Project Zero, the N.C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching, and with the education department at the University at Albany. Erika earned a master’s degree from New York University’s Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development.

1985
MICHAEL ROSENZWEIG, senior instructor of biological sciences for the College of Science at Virginia Tech, has received the university’s 2016 Sporn Award for Teaching Introductory Subjects. Since 1998 he has taught Principles of Biology 1105 and 1106, one of the department’s most challenging teaching assignments because of large class size. In 2009 he developed an online version of both courses for students who could not commute to Blacksburg, which he teaches during the summer sessions. More recently, Michael was a member of a team tasked with redesigning the courses to incorporate cutting-edge teaching pedagogy and active classroom styles. He also has received the Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research’s “Thank a Teacher” Award.
recognition every year since 2007, as well as the University Alumni Outreach Award in 2014. Michael received his master’s and doctoral degrees from Virginia Tech.

**1987**

**MELISSA PORDY** is group director at Media Northern America Marketing at Tiffany & Co. Brand Innovators named her to its “Women to Watch Class of 2015,” a list of 50 future leaders of the brand marketing industry who are shaping trends and the way companies communicate with consumers. Melissa previously was assistant vice president of advertising for Cartier North America Inc. and director of media investment solutions for Cheil Communications.

**1988**

**ADAM W. COHEN** was recently detailed from the United States Department of Justice and appointed a senior advisor in the Executive Office of the President at the White House.

**FAITH HAINES KOLB** is vice president of biometrics for Veristat, a full-service clinical research organization. She leads the biostatistics and programming teams, as well as the data management and data standards groups. Faith most recently was the worldwide head of data and biostatistics for PAREXEL’s Early Phase Group; prior to that, she was the senior director of clinical operations and data management for Prometrika. She spent several years at Averion International as chief technical officer during a period of multiple acquisitions and rapid international growth. Faith is an active member of numerous clinical and data management associations, and speaker at industry conferences.

**1990**

**JULIE R. (ANDERSON) ALEXANDRIN** married her Clark roommate, **RENATE HIMMELMAYER**, on July 3, 2015. They had a small ceremony on the family farm in Virginia. Julie writes that the marriage was not something either thought would happen when they lived together 28 years ago.

**1991**

**ROGER ZIEGLER** has published his first novel, a young adult magical adventure called “Hannah Grace and The Dragon Codex, Book 1” (available at rogerziegler.com or Amazon.com). In it, an 11-year-old girl and her karate besties must rescue an ancient book of power before Big Evil uses it to take over the universe. Roger writes, “I was inspired to write it for my daughter after my wife’s battle with cancer. It’s a thrill ride mash up of action, Native American mythology, fun, and mystery school wisdom meant to tell a great story while encouraging readers to discover their brilliance within. It’s getting great response and has been called ‘The DaVinci Code’ for kids.” Roger’s previous book, “Pee On It and Walk Away,” was an Amazon best-seller.

**1992**

**JEREMY COHEN** has opened a new law practice, Boston Dog Lawyers, at the Cummings Center in Beverly, Mass. The practice focuses on legal issues surrounding canines, including defending dog-bite cases. He earned his J.D. from Suffolk University Law School and began his career in the insurance industry, rising from a claims adjuster to manager of global claims on behalf of The General Electric Company. In 2007 he opened a law firm that grew to 25 employees. He sold that firm in 2014 and began concentrating on representing dogs and their owners. The practice handles cases involving pet custody, dangerous dog complaints and wrongful pet death. Through his work he seeks to elevate the legal status of our pets as more than mere property and strives to establish case law precedent for future generations of lawyers. Jeremy and Boston Dog Lawyers have been profiled in the Boston Herald and Salem Daily News and he has been a guest on several national radio shows.

**STEFANO TIJERINA** is an adjunct assistant professor of political science at the University of Maine and recently became program director at the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, a regional progressive NGO that serves as a catalyst for other NGOs working in the areas of human rights, environmentalism, and social justice. His blog, The Glocal (glocal.bangordailynews.com), educates the public about the impact of globalization on local communities. Stefano writes, “These were the values and intellectual approaches that I gained from my experience at Clark University. Very few academic institutions in the 1980s, that I know, would have developed an awareness of
globalization in a period of time when neoliberalism was taking off. Linking academic work with community work is also something that I have always pursued as a banker in my early career and now as an academic, and this was something that was taught to me at Clark University. Clark’s effective holistic approach to education is constantly reflected in the humanitarian work carried out by Clarkies across the globe."

1993

RICHARD T. HOWARTH, ED.D., recently was recognized by the Worcester Public Schools for organizing TEDxNorthHighSchool. In 2015 he was named Worcester Public School Teacher of the Year.

1996

SWARNA BASU is the associate dean of arts and sciences at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa. He started his three-year term in July 2016, and was also promoted to the rank of full professor of chemistry. Swarna and his wife, Pavithra Vivekanand, who is an assistant professor of biology at Susquehanna, live in Selinsgrove with their children, Joaquin, 8, and Aneire, 5.

SARA SCHWEIGER is a staff writer for the Cherokee Media Group of S&A Cherokee, an integrated communications company. Her role includes covering the United States and Canadian used car industries and the auto finance business. Sara has a background in copy editing and reporting, and previously worked at daily newspapers in Burlington, Vt., and Springfield, Mass. Most recently, she worked at the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, reporting on education. Sara earned her master’s degree in journalism from Emerson College.

STAY connected

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

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

Please let us know what you’re up to!
Cary, N.C., with her husband and 9-year-old daughter.

2001

CARY COHEN joined Blanca Commercial Real Estate in Miami as executive vice president, and is overseeing the continued expansion of the firm’s investment sales practice group. Cohen draws on 15 years of experience, leading the disposition of more than 10 million square feet of property throughout his career. Prior to joining Blanca, Cohen led the Florida operations for the Asset Solutions Group of Flagler Real Estate Services, where he focused on the disposition of commercial real estate. He is a founding member of the Young Professionals benefiting Easter Seals, a graduate of the 2013 Leadership Miami class, and a member of the steering committee for P.A.T.C.H.E.S., a charity benefiting children with complex medical issues. He also serves the Salvation Army and Miami Rescue Mission.

SHAKÉ SULIKYAN, immediate past president of the Clark University Alumni Association, is executive director of ValleyCare Charitable Foundation in Livermore, Calif., which raises funds and supports the work of Stanford Health Care — ValleyCare. She joined ValleyCare from Harvard Medical School, where she was the senior director of annual giving. Previously, she served as director of annual giving and alumni relations at Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill, Mass., and earlier in the development offices of Simmons College and Associated Early Care and Education, Inc., both in Boston. Shaké is a member of the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance’s Program, the Bay Area Regional Council and serves as a volunteer with Valley Children’s Museum. Shaké lives in Livermore with her husband, James Curtis, and their son Victor, 4.

2004

SHANA RETHERFORD JOHNSON and David Johnson welcomed their second child, Mio Leeba Johnson, on April 7, 2015, in Washington, D.C. Mio joins her 10-year-old big brother, Ward.

2006

ALEXANDRA KELLY ’06 is manager of adult programming and outreach services at the New York Public Library. She presented in Kosovo as part of the National Library of Kosovo’s Library Week in April. The theme of the week was...
“Documenting Kosovo’s Reality,” and oral histories were a focus. Alex discussed NYPL’s Community Oral History Project, and how it has contributed to the library’s role as a community center.

### 2007

**STEPHANIE PARENT, M.A. ’07.** recently participated in an educational trip to Antarctica to explore the frozen continent and learn about the effects of climate change. More than 4,000 people applied for the 100 available spots on the expedition, which was organized by the 2041 Foundation. Stephanie lives in Sacramento, Calif., and is an air quality specialist with the California Air Resources Board.

**COURTNEY CROTEAU WRIGLEY ’07, M.A. ’08,** and her husband, James Wrigley, welcomed their daughter Evelyn Jean to the world on Dec. 31, 2015. Courtney works for New Hampshire Listens, a civic engagement initiative of the Carsey School of Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire, coordinating a deliberative dialogue initiative in the communities of Coös County, the state’s northernmost region. The family lives in North Conway, N.H.

### 2013

**COURTNEY LITTLE** is a producer, general manager and theater practitioner, and is currently the producing associate at Premiere Stages, the professional theater in residence at Kean University in Union, N.J. She oversees the theater’s education initiatives, including in-school and community residencies and the professional internship program. She previously worked for Richards/Climan, Inc., where she assisted on many Broadway productions including “Fiddler on the Roof,” “China Doll,” and “Dames at Sea.” As the office administrator at Olympus Theatricals, she worked on the Broadway and National Tour productions of “Love Letters.” Her freelance producing credits include the Off-Broadway production of Dean Paynor’s “Together We Are Making A Poem in Honor of Life.” Courtney has also worked in various capacities for New York Stage & Film, McCarthe Theatre Center, Barrington Stage Company and Mousetrap Theatre Projects in London.

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<td>TIFFANY M. JOSLYN ’04</td>
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A packed Kneller remembers player-coach Patrick Oroszko ’03

The June 10 Celebration of Life for Patrick Oroszko ’03 left a gym full of Clarkies seeing red — lots of it.

Family members, friends, former teammates, and co-workers arrived at the Kneller Athletic Center decked out in red T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies and neckties in honor of Patrick, the onetime Clark basketball captain, assistant coach, and director of graduate student recruitment, who passed away on June 5 after a seven-month battle with esophageal cancer. For that morning, the bleachers were a sea of scarlet.

Officiated by assistant coach Michael Burlas, the ceremony produced equal measures laughter and tears as those closest to Patrick stepped to the microphone to recall his love for his wife, Courtney Oroszko ’03, and their young children, Allison and Ryan, his loyalty to friends, his passion for Clark basketball, and the joy he could find in a good joke, a beer with his buddies, a country song, or a professional wrestling match. A rack of basketballs had been rolled onto the court, and all the numbers on the Clark scoreboards were set at 25, Patrick’s jersey number.

“At times like these, the idea of a team being a family is very, very real. Just look around,” said Patrick’s older brother, Chris Oroszko ’00.

The testimonials from the Clark basketball community — head coach Paul W. Phillips, former teammates John Ginnity ’01 and Sean Fleming ’03, and former player Nick Da Prato ’14 — brought to life Patrick’s days as a talented player and dedicated coach. Very early in Patrick’s playing career, Phillips took note of his star forward’s lack of footspeed and handed him the nickname Turtle, which was embraced by his friends and teammates. Throughout the June 10 event a light-up turtle sculpture rested on the podium in his honor.

Fleming recounted the added dimensions of the nickname: “Pat was deliberate, never in a rush,” he said. “His calm and collected demeanor was something I always admired. He was able to live in the moment and fully appreciate all the blessings the world provided him.”

Fleming said Patrick exhibited an uncommon spirit in his final days, never showing self-pity and urging his friends always to remain connected with one another. “His turtle shell was unbreakable, and he put life in a new perspective for all of us. “His spirit will forever linger in this gym.”

Courtney Oroszko was the morning’s final speaker. She met Pat during their first year at Clark in 1999. “In the past years, Pat grew from a classmate, to a friend, to my best friend,” she said. “He gave me my best years.”

He was “born to be a father” to their children, who adored him, she said. “And while he was such an amazing parent in his life, I know he will continue to be an amazing parent in his death. If there is one thing I am confident of, and I know that Pat was, too, it’s that the amazing legacy of people that Pat has left behind will never let the kids not know, or forget, who their father was.”

Burlas concluded the ceremony with a reading of the poem “The Dash” by Linda Ellis, which urges people to live life to the fullest. The crowd then observed 25 seconds of silence as the shot clock ticked down and the final buzzer echoed throughout the Kneller.

Christopher C. Astolfi ’94

Christopher Caterson Astolfi ’94, pictured with his daughter, Julia, passed away suddenly in Indianapolis on May 21. A history major at Clark, Christopher went on to earn his M.B.A. in international management at St. Leo University. At the time of his death he was manager of international supply chain at Medxcel in Indianapolis. In addition to Julia, he leaves his wife, Iris; brother, Andrew ’91; sister, Maggie; and his parents, Professor Doug Astolfi, former dean of the college at Clark, and Betsy Astolfi.
Forever his mother’s son

MARTIN DERANIAN, D.D.S., lived two lives. He was a husband and father, a U.S. Navy veteran, a passionate Clark alumnus, and a dentist who was so accomplished in his field that a list of his professional and humanitarian awards, citations, and memberships would consume this entire page. He practiced dentistry in his downtown Worcester office into his 90s, in part because his most devoted patients could not conceive of trusting anyone else with their teeth.

His other life was inspired by what one admirer described as a “controlled rage” that drove him to lay bare for the world, time and again, the devastation of the Armenian genocide of 1915 and the resilience of its survivors. Backed by dogged research and written with an elegant clarity, the books he produced chronicled the Armenian experience. His volumes included “Hussenig: The Origin, History, and Destruction of an Armenian Town” (1994), “Worcester is America: The Story of Worcester’s Armenians, The Early Years” (1995), and “President Calvin Coolidge & The Armenian Orphan Rug” (2013), among others.

His motivation was intensely personal. Dr. Deranian made it his mission to recall the terrors of the genocide through the story of his mother, Varter. In the biography he wrote of her, “The Wailing Well,” Deranian recounted the murder of Varter’s first husband by Turkish soldiers, her deportation, the death of her seven children in the desert, and her later emigration to the United States, where she remarried and gave birth to Martin. Varter’s experience also was captured in “Deported/a dream play” by Joyce Van Dyke.

“The wrath of time is upon us,” Dr. Deranian told CLARK alumni magazine in 2013. “The survivors of the Armenian genocide are virtually gone, and my generation, who had direct contact with survivors, is getting old. So there has been the pressure of time to do what I can, and I think I’ve done that.

“There is no vocabulary to describe what happened during this genocide; there is no lexicon. If I captured my mother’s story, traumatic as it was, I felt I should do that. I didn’t want to end my time on earth without addressing this issue.”

Dr. H. Martin Deranian ’47 died on Sept. 26.

A woman ahead of her time

BARBARA NORRIS ANDERSEN ’46 arrived on the Clark University campus in 1942 as one of the first women admitted to the undergraduate student body. She played basketball for the legendary coach M. Hazel Hughes in the Women’s Gym tucked in the basement of Jonas Clark Hall. The gym wasn’t especially hospitable — the women were forced to dribble around the pillars that held up the ceiling.

Barbara, who passed away on Sept. 21, thrived at Clark, becoming the first woman elected freshman class president and captain of the women’s basketball team, and she was editor of The Scarlet. She also met the love of her life, Roy Andersen ’43, at her first Clark dinner, where he was working the steam line. (Her first words to him: “No potatoes, please.”) The two married in her sophomore year, endured the sinking of Roy’s ship during his wartime service in the Navy, and later returned to Worcester when Roy was hired to reestablish Clark’s Physics Department. They raised three children and enjoyed four grandchildren. Roy passed away in 2014.

A dynamic leader in the development of programs in support of those society had forgotten, Barbara was the force behind the now national standards of respite and residential care for the developmentally and physically challenged. She also was a warrior for adoptee, reproductive and LGBT rights.

Barbara became the first woman Rotary Club president in Massachusetts, served as president of the Children’s Friend Society and the Clark University Faculty Club, and was honored as the Massachusetts representative for the State Office for Children. She founded the Worcester Area Association for Retarded Citizens, which supported families and their disabled children throughout the transition into a successful future. Through WAARC and her strong community connections, Barbara established the innovative Camp Joy, which provided equestrian, music, art, drama, carpentry, gardening and cooking classes for disabled children.

A lifelong lover of theater, Barbara performed in Clark, community and summer stock productions. One of her summer stock co-stars was Katharine Hepburn, who requested that Barbara never upstage her again.

Though struggling with illness, Barbara persevered for one last campus visit, returning in May to watch her granddaughter, Kirsten Walsh ’16, graduate from her beloved Clark University.
Sometimes, a name change is simply window dressing. New title, same product.

Not so for Clark’s School of Professional Studies, where a shift in name is signaling substantive changes.

For decades, the program was known as the College of Professional and Continuing Education (more familiarly, COPACE), where thousands of Clark alumni earned master’s degrees in professional communication, public administration and information technology. Under the leadership of John Chetro-Szivos, associate dean of professional studies and online education, the School of Professional Studies has enhanced its academic rigor and is building a more welcoming community for its students.

No stranger to Clark, Chetro-Szivos, a former longtime communication professor at Fitchburg State University, began teaching at COPACE in 1999. Traditionally, the program has attracted a blend of mid-career professionals, international students and Clark students pursuing a fifth-year accelerated bachelor’s/master’s degree. He’s recruited seven new instructors — a mix of academics and “high-performing professionals” — and instituted an extensive faculty evaluation process. Innovative courses cover emerging fields like cybersecurity and interpersonal neurobiology. The goal with all the changes is to improve the students’ experience.

“People come to school to transform themselves,” he says. “What we’re doing is answering the question: How does SPS support their transformation and become a better organization?”

One goal has been that students from China, Russia and India, who are the major international cohort in the School of Professional Studies, remain a connected, integral part of the wider community while at Clark. The SPS team has put together a roster of opportunities to introduce students from abroad to various facets of American culture and society. Community Table is a friendly forum for conversations and demonstrations on a wide range of subjects, from presidential politics to baseball to local cuisine. A “buddy” program links international students with American students and Clark staffers to help them navigate their new surroundings; other initiatives connect students to the events and offerings of Worcester, Boston and beyond. Clark is even coordinating a sort of show-and-tell with the managers of a local supermarket and pharmacy to educate students about the products that may be unfamiliar to them.

“Like good hosts, we’re anticipating their needs and working to address them,” Chetro-Szivos says. He’s also keen on shaping a more inclusive and fulfilling experience for fifth-year students, who can feel they are in a limbo period between their undergraduate years and the launch of their careers.

Strategic partnerships will be critical to the health of the School of Professional Studies. Chetro-Szivos has entered into an agreement with the Massachusetts Human Services Providers Council, which has brought 22 council employees to campus this semester for courses in areas like budgeting, leadership and change management. The programs align with the SPS public administration track. “We had 20 people [from the council] last fall and six became students in the M.P.A. program,” Chetro-Szivos says. “It’s a great recruitment tool.”

Efforts are also under way to reestablish a partnership with the city of Worcester to provide courses to municipal employees.

Another initiative, the “high-impact community,” links two courses — for instance, grant writing and project management — whose students and faculty collaborate on a project that addresses a local issue.

More is in the offing. Chetro-Szivos hopes next year to establish the Gateway Program, which will supply international students who have low English proficiency with specialized instruction in subjects like applied grammar, managing the American classroom and interpersonal skills.

He’s also looking at the feasibility of new degrees, including one in higher education administration.

“I’ve always admired and appreciated Clark, and I have a lot of respect for the people here,” Chetro-Szivos says. “Right now at SPS there is a lot of excitement. We plan to keep that going.”

An SPS student poses a question during a Community Table event about presidential politics. (Right) John Chetro-Szivos.
CLARK UNDERGRADUATES conduct research and participate in fieldwork across the world, which helps prepare them for launch into graduate school or a career. Those defining experiences can occur right on campus or thousands of miles away — in a physics lab, along a legendary railway, even on the floor of the United Nations.

Drilling deep
If you feel the earth move beneath your feet, it may not always be the doing of Mother Nature.

Physics majors Nicolay Ionkin ’18 (above left) and Nathan Fitzpatrick ’18 worked with Professor Arshad Kudrolli to fine-tune a mathematical model that captures the development of erosion underground. Their research, part of a summer LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice) project, eventually could help scientists better understand the effects of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, particularly its contribution to seismic activity.

Fitzpatrick and Ionkin tested and refined the mathematical model and physics principles behind the research. Eventually, the findings could help scientists better understand subsurface erosion and not only help curb human-induced earth tremors but also identify sinkholes, landslides, aquifers and dam breaks.

Kudrolli says his students tried to solve these complex problems “in simplified, two-dimensional form.” In their simulation, they used two glass plates, with a gap in between to mimic the sedimentary rock layers, like those visible in the Grand Canyon. In the gap, they placed glass beads, representing the rocks and particles that erode and channelize as water is pumped through.

The students regularly introduced slight tweaks to the experiment, testing the models that captured the changes in water flow, porosity and erosion.

“We’ve gained real research experience in the lab,” Fitzpatrick says. “That’s something you can never take for granted.”

Mission-driven
There are few places Dea Dodi ’17 likes to be more than in the United
Nations building in New York. You could say she’s been working her way there since the tender age of 12 when she first asked her parents what the term “political science” meant.

Fast forward nine years, and Dodi, a political science and economics major at Clark, not only worked as an adviser for the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations and attaché to the Ambassador of Albania this summer, she also worked with Human Rights Watch (HRW) in the Middle East and Northern Africa division in Washington, D.C.

During her first week at the UN, Dodi represented Albania in an Economic and Social Council committee meeting and attended two Security Council meetings, including one where she heard Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power address the delegates. Dodi became a regular attendee of Security Council meetings and chronicled her work on her blog “Mission Deconstruct.”

At HRW, Dodi helped fulfill the organization’s mission, which she says is “to investigate and shed light on human rights abuses throughout the world, and sensitize states and leaders to respect human rights and adhere to standards of international law.” She produced reports, worked with direct interviews from people on the ground, and collaborated with other organizations to “validate the experiences of victims, recognize where the abuse is happening and help influence reform” on her focused coverage areas — Iraq, Jordan, Oman and Morocco.

Dodi is channeling her international relations experience into Clark’s Model United Nations program. The award-winning delegate of the traveling team has been a member since her first year. She also founded the Clark International Affairs Society and is a Presidential Scholar.

“Sometimes, traditional problems require non-traditional ideas and thought in order to be effectively and efficiently tackled,” she says, “Clark inspires that critically minded culture by teaching students how to deconstruct whatever subject matter they care about to its atomic parts.”

In Tolstoy’s backyard
Combine 7,000 miles of Trans-Siberian Railway travel with 3,000 pages of Russian literature, and you’ll arrive at Aviv Hilbig-Bokaer’s LEEP project.

Hilbig-Bokaer ’17 spent about 17 days in early June on his journey from St. Petersburg, Russia, to Vladivostock, Russia, reading from Leo Tolstoy’s “Anna Karenina,” Vladimir Nabokov’s “Despair” and Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s “The House of the Dead.” His selections were linked to places along the route where he stopped to explore archives, libraries and museums in an effort to understand the connections between Russia and its literary canon. The comparative literature and international development and social change major read nine books on his literary odyssey.

Hilbig-Bokaer’s interest in Russian literature began in spring 2015 when he took Professor Olga Litvak’s Russian Literature and Philosophy class and found himself drawn to how the authors “approach incredibly daunting philosophical questions.”

He kept a blog, “Avivonatrain,” throughout his trip and described what it was like to visit sites he only previously had read about. Tolstoy’s estate, Yasnaya Polyana, provoked a wave of emotion in particular.

“I don’t consider myself to be a very outwardly emotional person, but as soon as I stepped onto the ground of Yasnaya Polyana, I was struck with an overwhelming sense of joy that moved me to tears,” he writes.

After visiting dozens of other sites, he noted how the country seemed to be filled with contradictions.

“I have never been to a country where the political history is so present in everyday life. While cities like Moscow and St. Petersburg have all the comforts of a Western city, most other places I visited seemed to still be struggling with crumbling Soviet infrastructure and bureaucracy,” he says.

“The train would pass by military bases, which made it seem like you were in the richest country on earth, and then moments later pass through shantytowns of shacks built out of tin and old wood.”

Hilbig-Bokaer says his research experience gave him a fresh perspective on working with literature and allowed him to fan an intellectual flame as unruly and intriguing as Russia itself.
Sheree Marlowe leads Clark diversity/inclusion efforts

Sheree Marlowe was a high school senior with a 3.8 GPA, who held membership and leadership positions in six academic clubs, and competed on the varsity basketball and track teams when a guidance counselor advised her to limit her higher-education ambitions to state or community colleges. She didn't have a shot at gaining admission to her top three choices, the counselor insisted.

“I remember going home and telling my mother that this person had looked at me, looked at my race, and assumed I wasn’t getting accepted to any of those colleges,” she says. Instead, she was accepted to all three and went on to earn her bachelor’s degree at the University of California, Berkeley, and, later, her juris doctor at Golden Gate University School of Law.

Today, Marlowe is passionate about eliminating the individual and structural barriers that may prevent someone from reaching their full potential. As Clark University’s first full-time chief officer of diversity and inclusion, she’s cultivating a campus environment that allows students, faculty and staff to recognize and appreciate difference while maximizing their Clark experience.

Marlowe arrived in June from the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she held the post of campus diversity officer for staff and students. Prior to that, she was diversity and inclusion program manager at the University of California, San Francisco.

She began her career as an attorney for an Oakland law firm, specializing in civil rights litigation and employment law, where she represented clients who were subjected to discrimination in the workplace. Earlier, she’d clerked for the District Attorney’s office and practiced criminal defense in the broader Bay Area.

As a lawyer, she did admirable work, building cases and taking them to court. But it wasn’t enough at that juncture of her professional life, and she left the firm in 2010, joining a nonprofit while investigating a new career in the field of diversity in higher education. Eight months spent as a volunteer in the diversity office at the University of California, San Francisco, convinced her this was the area where she wanted to apply her talents.

Marlowe reports directly to the president as a member of the senior leadership team. She’s responsible for the advancement and implementation of a strategic vision and initiatives that demonstrate the University’s commitment to maintaining a welcoming, inclusive environment for all. This means collaborating with senior leaders, deans, department chairs, faculty, staff, student groups and other key campus and community partners to meet the University’s goals of equity, diversity and compliance. Marlowe also oversees Clark’s compliance with Title IX, and coordinates campuswide efforts to address sexual misconduct in all its forms.

“Diversity is messy. It’s hard work, so it’s important how you prioritize,” Marlowe acknowledges. “When groups are being impacted — in their academics, their sense of safety, their sense of belonging — let’s figure out a model of success for them, and for other groups as well, and start creating a track record of real change.”

Marlowe believes in “data-driven results based on strategy, while still valuing the lived experience. It’s not okay to just do a bunch of things that look good on a website. You need to be intentional about why you’re doing what you’re doing, and you need metrics since you’ll be putting into place initiatives that will have impact years down the line.”

Clark was an attractive destination for someone in her field, Marlowe says. The University’s students are engaged and vocal, and unafraid to challenge the status quo. That vision for change is supported by an administration that has been refreshingly upfront about past shortfalls in the area of diversity and inclusion.

“I was very impressed they were willing to be that courageous,” Marlowe says. “I read the 2012 Diversity Task Force Report, and I read the Academic and Financial Plan. Everyone is honest about the challenges; they are intentional about wanting systemic, institutional change.”

Marlowe is developing a number of initiatives, including the creation of the President’s Diversity Advisory Council involving faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members. She also plans, next spring, to launch a two-year Diversity and Inclusion Certificate Program for faculty and staff, comprising nine 3-hour classes on various diversity-related topics (the program, which she led for Santa Cruz, earned a national award). Among the topics that may be covered are LGBTQ issues in the workplace, the experience of the military veteran on campus, class differences, race in America, microaggressions, and issues facing individuals with disabilities.

Marlowe also will conduct a “campus climate survey” next fall to generate data that will shape planning efforts and “informed action.” Transparency and openness are critical to the process, she says, as is widespread participation.

“Diversity is not led by one office,” she says. “It’s essential that it be a shared sense of responsibility based on the university mission and strategic direction.”
New programs debut

The Department of Visual and Performing Arts has launched a new major in media, culture and the arts (MCA), directed by Hugh Manon, associate professor of screen studies. MCAs focus on media history, theory and production in equal measure encourages students to engage in research and creative work that transcends or eradicates traditional boundaries between media. MCA majors commit to rigorous engagement with both hands-on practice and written scholarship in at least two of the following areas already offered as majors through the V&PA: art history, music, screen studies, studio art and theatre arts.

In addition to V&PA faculty, the program will draw on a selection of faculty from other areas like language, literature and culture, sociology, English and psychology. Sample courses include Experimental Production Workshop: Glitch Aesthetics, Motion Graphics, Gender and Representation, Soundtracks, and The Image and the Word.

The new concentration in Africana studies is designed to help students understand the lives of people of African ancestry, both in Africa and around the world, but especially Sub-Saharan Africa, the United States and Caribbean. Students will be able to choose from an array of courses such as African Art and Architecture, Africa’s Development in Global Context, Black Political Literary Movements, Francophone Literature and Film, and The Atlantic World, in order to develop a cultural, historical, political, social and geographical awareness of the ways people of African descent have lived, worked and fought for self-definition.

Esther Jones, assistant professor of English and E. Franklin Frazier Chair of African-American Literature, serves as the concentration’s inaugural director.

Africana studies will join four other concentrations (peace studies, Latin American and Latino studies, Holocaust and genocide studies, and race and ethnic relations) and two majors (Asian studies, and women’s and gender studies) under the umbrella of Clark’s new Center for Gender, Race and Area Studies, located in Dana Commons.

SWITCHING ON THE LIGHTS

Mark Turnbull, professor of chemistry, received the New England Association of Chemistry Teachers’ John A. Timm Award, which recognizes “an individual who has made exceptional contributions to the education of young people in chemistry.” The award was made at the organization’s summer conference. His favorite part of the job, Turnbull says, is “watching the headlights go on” — that moment when a student masters a particularly vexing problem. “Something happens,” he says. “Suddenly, the student says, ‘Oh. Why didn’t you tell me it was that easy?’” Outside of the classroom, he and Chris Landee, professor of physics, conduct research in molecular magnetism.
AFTER DECADES spent in hibernation, The Monadnock was revived in 2014 at the request and with the support of several longtime alumni. The newsletter, published by the Clark University Geographical Society, was launched in 1927, and was resurrected to link the storied past of the Graduate School of Geography with its robust present through profiles, stories and detailed research updates.

One special person sharing in that legacy is Wallace E. “Mac” McIntyre, M.A. ’47, Ph.D. ’51, who is pictured with his classmates in old issues of The Monadnock (the men all crisply dressed in jackets and ties, of course). Mac never forgot his appreciation and affection for Clark, and this fall made a $1 million gift to the Graduate School of Geography. The majority of the donation, reflected in The Wallace E. McIntyre, M.A. ’47, Ph.D. ’51, and Margaret P. McIntyre Endowed Fund for Graduate Students in Geography, will provide student scholarship assistance.

It is the perfect match of man and gift. Better than most, Wallace McIntyre knows the value of a dollar to a struggling student.

As a young boy, Mac moved from rural Illinois to a mining town in Arizona, where his ailing father “took the cure” for his tuberculosis. This was in the 1920s, when the West was still kissed with a streak of wildness. The night a gunfight broke out at a local establishment, one of the gunmen fled the scene, burst through the front door of the McIntyres’ house and continued his getaway out the back door.

Arizona’s dry, hot air failed to do its medicinal job, and the McIntyres moved back to the family farm in Illinois, where Mac’s dad’s lungs finally gave out. His mother later remarried, but the family lost everything during the Great Depression.

Mac’s mother always urged her son to pursue his education, convinced it was his only chance for a consequential life. She took part-time accounting work, washed people’s laundry, cleaned houses — whatever was necessary to send him to college.

He earned his degree from Illinois State University, but World War II interrupted any plans for further education. Mac spent two years in the Coastal Artillery before arriving at Clark on the G.I. Bill (he learned of the University’s preeminence in the field by perusing geography journals). His passion was economic geography, and he would write his dissertation on the hydroelectric power industry in Niagara Falls, his wife Peggy’s hometown.

“He was a great companion on long rides,” recalls his son, Dr. William McIntyre. “He would point out mountains and tell you why they were in certain locations, and why they were certain colors. He’d grown up on a farm and the study of the earth just seemed to resonate with him.”

Mac had a thirst for two things: an academic career and international travel. He fulfilled both goals, first becoming a professor at Illinois State University, then teaching at the University of the Philippines on a Fulbright fellowship, and in Frankfurt, Germany, through an armed services extension program. But he spent most of his career working for the Central Intelligence Agency, traveling to the Middle East, Turkey and other far-flung locations before retiring in 1980.

He rarely discussed the details of his CIA job, though he profiled other countries’ geographical details and natural resources to determine how these nations might evolve over time, particularly economically. “It wasn’t about espionage,” Dr. McIntyre says. “He was trying to appraise what a country would become.”

Now 98 years old, Wallace McIntyre remains living proof that his mother was right about the value of a good education. His gift is Mac’s thank-you to the institution that supplied a poor farm boy access to a life he otherwise never would have experienced.

“My father used to say that if it wasn’t for Clark he would have been stuck teaching in a one-room schoolhouse,” his son says. “It’s hard for us now to imagine how desperate those times were. Clark gave him an avenue to realize his dreams and ambitions. It opened up the world for him.”
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