From Iraq to Afghanistan to U.S. veterans’ clinics, psychologist Maj. Clifford Trott ’87 heals the hidden wounds of war.
Sigmund Freud got a snowy makeover this past winter. Unfortunately, a good thaw wiped away the white Mohawk.
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EIGHT GREAT WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED TO CLARK

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CLARK alumni magazine was printed on Opus Web manufactured by Sappi Fine Paper North America with FSC Chain of Custody Certification. Over 80 percent of the energy used to manufacture Opus Web comes from renewable sources and as a result Sappi has one of the lowest carbon footprints of North American coated paper suppliers.

Printed in USA by Dynagraf Inc. using 100 percent renewable electricity.

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

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

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

At Clark University we are passionate advocates for liberal education. By liberal education we mean a transformative educational experience marked by broad knowledge, rigor of analysis, critical thinking, transferable skills, and engagement with the world locally and globally. Liberal education enables and empowers graduates for success in career, life, and citizenship. Here in the United States, we are in the midst of a national conversation about ways to improve college readiness, strengthen higher education, and increase college completion rates. You can be assured that through our work on liberal education, Clark will be an influential force in these discussions.

As I connect with alumni across the country and abroad, I’m continually impressed by the level and variety of accomplishments that you, our graduates, have displayed. You have crafted successful careers; provided pioneering leadership for new organizations, businesses and industries; conducted groundbreaking scientific and social research; and confronted significant local and global problems in your post-graduate lives. You’ve greeted the world beyond Clark with passion and purpose, and the world is fortunate to have you working on its behalf. I am encouraged by the many alumni I speak with who forcefully re-affirm the lasting value of the liberal education afforded by their time at Clark University. Going forward, Clark will be doing more to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of alumni, whether in the world of finance, health care, business, education, research, or the arts.

The liberal education our alumni have received here at Clark is noteworthy. Indeed, a strong liberal education has never been more important for our graduates as they enter a world that in some essential ways is scarcely comparable to the one many of us stepped into with our diplomas in hand. Consider the demand for instantaneous action that new technology thrusts on us, the velocity with which industry is bred from innovation (Facebook comes to mind); consider our domestic political polarity and global economic instability. All point to a compelling need to provide liberal education that is more thorough in its presentation and nimble in its execution. The world our students enter demands graduates who, in the simplest terms, can both think and do at the highest levels—in the evolving universe of liberal education there is no longer room for either/or.

In response, our mission is expanding and deepening. We are in the process of preparing the Clark University Academic and Financial Plan to be presented to the Board of Trustees this spring. The document will chart a course for Clark over the next five years as we work to become the model of a small liberal arts-based research university by producing research and scholarship that connects to issues of major social concern on a national and international scale. We will be adopting the tenets of Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP), which melds the benefits of liberal education with a broader set of capacities that will enable our graduates to be thought leaders and change makers as they pursue lives of accomplishment and consequence.

Over the past months I have met with many Clark graduates and shared with them my commitment to deepening and broadening our engagement with alumni, family, friends, and other supporters of the university. Many helpful suggestions are emerging as to ways in which you are willing to help further the mission of the university and promote the success of our students. I have also listened carefully to the priority we must place on elevating the visibility and reputation of Clark University across the country and around the world. Your sense of Clark today will directly inform our strategic planning work going forward.

We intend to do even more. Your involvement will not be incidental to the success of Clark and our students, it will be critical. We will be asking you to help shape the future of the institution, engage with our research initiatives, share your knowledge and experience as mentors for students, and help provide networks of support and opportunity for our undergraduate and graduate students. We will be engaging you with more formality and specificity as we proceed, but I am extending an invitation to you to join us in this effort. As we move forward together to advance Clark University, I will be calling on alumni, families, and friends to support Clark financially as well. Please respond with your commitment to support Clark every year through the Clark Fund at whatever level is comfortable for you.

The Class of 2010 demonstrated the collective power of individual actions. Last May when 60 percent of the class contributed to their senior class gift, which they allocated to scholarship, Clark trustees responded by giving a full annual scholarship in honor of the class’s record-setting participation rate. Like many alumni, families, and friends, the graduating seniors recognized the importance of giving back and of supporting Clark for future generations of students.

How important is the work that we do here at Clark? I recall the legacy of the late Jack Adam, an insurance executive whose $14.2 million gift to Clark last year will help support Clark’s efforts to merge world-class scholarship with determined practice in high school education. Mr. Adam was a true believer in the power of a superior education to propel the individual, and the society composed of those individuals, to greatness. Our goal is nothing less.

If you are returning to Clark for Reunion Weekend, I hope you’ll stop to talk with me. I’d very much enjoy hearing your ideas about these developments. And if you won’t be in Worcester that weekend, I hope we’ll be able to meet at a welcome reception in a city near you.

Sincerely,

David P. Angel
President
A different breed of soldier

Nantucket in late December.
Cold.
Windy.
Snowy.
A perfect day for a photo shoot.

When photographer Steve King and I met Cliff Trott ’87, the subject of this issue’s cover story, on the Nantucket docks three days before Christmas we saw more seagulls than people. The island bustles in the summer, but in winter the population dwindles to a hardy corps of year-round islanders and a handful of carpenters and painters who ferry over from Hyannis to work on the homes of wealthy summer residents.

Trott’s Nantucket roots run deep — his family’s presence on the island dates to the 1600s. He easily could have remained and lived a good life in a place where everybody knows his name, and he theirs.

Of course, we hadn’t come to Nantucket to photograph Trott because he stayed. Instead he went a world away, to Iraq and Afghanistan, where he put himself in harm’s way as a brigade psychologist to help soldiers grapple with the mental and emotional strains of war.

Major Trott posed for us on a windswept beach and in a snowy field. Despite the bone-chilling temps and sometimes odd requests — “Just turn your face a few degrees to the right” — he remained a good sport throughout, and treated us to a tour of the island, including a few childhood haunts.

It was on the island that, while still a high school student, Trott spotted a poster hanging on a wall in his guidance counselor’s office. The poster depicted a split peapod swelling with multi-colored peas, no one pea the exact color of any other. The poster’s text read: “Clark University: Categorizing people isn’t something you can do here.”

Trott was intrigued. He did some research, and learned about Clark’s strong reputation in psychology, a subject he wanted to study in college. The fact that Clark was the only place in the United States where Sigmund Freud had delivered a lecture simply capped the deal. A Clarkie was born.

We got the idea to do a story on Cliff Trott from a class note that appeared in the last Clark magazine describing his Army Reserves and National Guard service. The military may not be the most obvious career path for Clark grads (coincidentally, Steve King’s brother, Brian King ’91, is a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps), and the University has fostered a complex response to the notion of war. During World War II the campus emptied of men as they shipped overseas to fight in the European and Pacific theaters. The unintended, though ultimately fortuitous, consequence was that women were able to gain a toehold in the formerly all-male institution and made their mark everywhere, from the classroom to the basketball court to The Scarlet newsroom.

Clark students took to the streets to protest the Vietnam War in the ’60s and ’70s. Retired history professor George Billias told me of visiting the jail after a mass arrest of Clarkies, and one of his cell-bound students balefully informing him she would probably need an extension for turning in her research paper.

Cliff Trott entered the military because he saw a need for his services that took him far beyond the natural beauty and historical charm of his hometown, replacing comfort and safety with risk and uncertainty. And today, he continues to counsel veterans at a Vermont hospital, helping heal war’s unseen wounds. Through this singular commitment, he has introduced yet another color to the Clark peapod.

// Please e-mail me at jkeogh@clarku.edu with your comments, suggestions, letters to the editor and, most importantly, your story ideas. All are welcome.
In 2009, alumni participation was at 17%. In 2010, we reached 18%.

The goal for alumni participation is 25% by 2012. With your help, we can do it.

**Here’s how it works.**

- If you didn’t give last fiscal year (June 1, 2009 - May 31, 2010), your gift will be matched dollar for dollar, up to $2,000.
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**Meeting challenges.**

It’s what we do at Clark.
Reaction to CLARK magazine’s return

Congratulations on the new Clark University alumni magazine. It is gorgeous. A major improvement. Keep up the good work.

Alan J. Wabrek ’59, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.
Avon, Conn.

The Internet is not my thing. I mostly rely on printed publications or an occasional phone call to satisfy my interest in Clark, so I was anxiously awaiting the new magazine.

As I was reading Jim Keogh’s essay introducing himself, he felt he had “found” the Clark Mystique. So as I read through the remainder of the magazine, I made notes about how the stories reflected it, and tried to clarify my own understanding of it. Here are a few of the things that struck me:

On page 20 D’Army Bailey ’65 said, “... my thinking was supposed to adjust to [Southern University], along with my politics and my outlook on the world.” His reception at Clark was, well, Clark-like.

Then on page 27 regarding the story on women athletes, Linda Moulton refers to “Challenge Convention. Change Our World” as a new slogan. Yet she notes that the women athletes “... did just that during a time when challenging was not conventional.” Well, not conventional, but typically Clark-like.

In the article on Jackie Pfannenstiell ’69 on page 33 there’s a quote from Mary Ellen Krober, “... the Economics Department welcomed us without reservation.” This is almost the same quote as made by Mass. Secretary of Education Paul Reville on page 57 when he talks about the University Park Campus School: “Clark actually does it and does it with relatively little celebration.” Or, it could be said, in a Clark-like fashion.

And I could go on and on. The story of Richie Kendrick on page 56 says, “He defined and exemplified the Clark Mystique in the best of ways.” I thought to myself, “Well, his story is possibly unusual, definitely exceptional, but not unexpected.” And that’s what I want to convey: that when Clark people, Clark stories, Clark events come together, they may be, in their particulars, unusual, exceptional, admirable, inspirational, or even mundane, but not unexpected. Because they reflect the Clark Mystique, but they are not the Clark Mystique.

Often people are told to “think outside the box.” I’m inclined to believe that at Clark the box has permeable edges. At Clark there isn’t necessarily an “inside” or an “outside.” It flows in, or out, or in again. Not only does the box include the high achievers reflected in magazine articles, but also an alum waitress who lives a peaceful, quiet life in Nebraska. Or an alum who is a paramedic in L.A. Or COPACE graduates who are the backbone of some of the departments at the school. And the Clark Mystique shimmers in moments of kindness, of intellectual pursuit, of passion toward ideals, of rational argument, and of restraint when needed to let the passions cool among competing arguments. The Clark Mystique appears when reason and compassion combine to nurture people’s souls, their natures, their ambitions, their dreams, their intellect, their consciences, and lets people define their lives in their own ways.


Betty Singer ’71
Wayne, N.J.

In Clark’s Fall 2010 alumni magazine I read the lament, “Oh, the disrespect” (page 11). The comment referred to the omission from a Time magazine article of Clark’s important role in supporting the work of Gregory Pincus, developer of the Pill.

Does Clark’s PR office truly expect reporters to get everything right, and to credit all of Clark’s contributions where it is due? When I attended graduate school at Cornell, there were busy offices with hurried people rushing around, whose sole mission was to get ahead of such articles, and to make sure that Cornell got every ounce of the publicity it deserved.

How about establishing relationships with Time and dozens of other magazines by calling every few months? Perhaps the press would then be more likely to do fact-checking with Clark before writing about anything that could conceivably have involved Clark. Would it have been too much to anticipate the 50th anniversary of the Pill, and send press releases out beforehand?

Finally, the story tells a captive audience of Clark alumni a tale which many knew already. Is this the best Clark’s PR force can do?

Where I live, in South Florida, the only people who have heard of Clark are alumni and transplants from Massachusetts.

David L. Ransen ’75, Ph.D.
Delray Beach, Fla.

Both my husband and I are Clarkies (2005 undergrad). I can’t tell you how much we enjoyed the most recent edition of the CLARK alumni magazine. The new format and content are fantastic. In true Clarkie form, I am very pleased that it is even printed on recycled paper. As an alum, it is often hard to find the time and space in life to feel connected to the past, present and future of our alma mater. We have the passion of “Challenging Convention and Changing Our World,” but in a world that is very much invested in keeping the status quo sometimes you forget where you fit in. In reading the great articles, I felt a strong sense of connection to the greatness in Clark’s past (D’Army Bailey’s activism and the history of women’s sports rocked!), present (Who knew we were greening the fleet or that Dr. Turnbull was passionate about Iron Man?), as well as the future (Wright Hall looks

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In your own words, how does the Clark Mystique manifest itself in the stories and articles featured in the magazine?

Describe a specific example from the magazine that reflects the Clark Mystique.

Explain how the new format and content of the magazine contribute to its success.

Discuss the impact of the magazine on Clark’s alumni community and its potential for growth.

How does the magazine address the issue of Clark’s role in supporting the work of Gregory Pincus, developer of the Pill?

Analyse the effectiveness of Clark’s PR office in communicating with journalists about its contributions.

Reflect on the potential for Clark to establish stronger relationships with magazines and media outlets.
amazing!). Kudos on a job well done and please continue to fascinate and encourage us through this publication.

**Nichole Persing ’05**
Baltimore, Md.

The newly revamped CLARK magazine (Fall 2010 issue) that arrived in our home is classy looking, substantive but not dull, handsomely designed, and filled with a lively variety of features. In short, the magazine has instant gravitas. Congratulations and thanks.

**Gus Bauman ’71**
Silver Spring, Md.

Today I got my first copy of the CLARK alumni magazine. It looks terrific and reads well. My daughter graduated from Clark in May and I have a son (a high school senior) whom I am nagging about his soon-to-be-due college applications. After I read the entire magazine, I passed it on to my son, who flipped through it and said, “Maybe I will apply to Clark.” Congratulations. Mission accomplished.

**Carol Band**
Arlington, Mass.

I recently received the new and improved CLARK alumni magazine. It was wonderful to read. I learned about events and history of the school that will stay with me for a lifetime and that I will proudly share with others. In addition, the layout and photography are amazing. Thank you for a great magazine.

**Portia M. York ’89**
Charlotte, N.C.

I was delighted to read about the arc of D’Army Bailey’s life and to see how he’d been honored. I was one of the liberal, political students on campus marching on Washington over the Vietnam War and for civil rights. Still, I was slightly uncomfortable with D’Army’s rhetoric, fearing violence. But, I appreciate how we all played our parts in the evolution of civil rights in this country and was pleased to see Clark award an honorary doctorate to Mr. Bailey. It reminded me of Bob Dylan’s prophetic lyric “the times they are a-changin’.”

I now live in greater Berkeley where I sing regularly with Con Alma, a six-member pop/jazz combo. I was recently cast as Jeanette, a Broadway babe of age and attitude who helps the fellows put on their show in “The Full Monty.” My private practice in psychotherapy continues. Never a shrink, I continue to help resolve conflicts, ground and expand folks to live into their greatest potential.

**Nancy Helman Shneiderman ’66**
Berkeley, Calif.
Physics for breakfast

RESEARCH FINDINGS by Professor and Department of Physics Chair Arshad Kudrolli and his team in the Complex Matter and Nonlinear Physics Laboratory often appear in prestigious scientific journals. But what happens when mainstream media share his work with the general public? Think Cheerios, Christmas stockings, and sandcastles.


Kudrolli’s busy lab conducts experiments with granular shapes and dynamics (hence the sandcastle analogies), ciliary flow and synchronization, crumpling, self-assembly, erosion geomorphology, and population dynamics in bacterial colonies. His work is funded by the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, and Petroleum Research Fund.

Continued media attention is certain for Kudrolli and other Clark scientists and students, who now have access to a newly acquired micro-focus X-ray-computed tomography system, purchased with a NSF Major Research Instrumentation Award. Testing of plastics, metals, geologic and organic matter and more with the instrument will enable a new series of transformative research, according to Kudrolli.

“The X-ray instrument significantly impacts undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral student training at Clark, besides being available as a research and diagnostic tool for the scientific, medical and engineering community in Worcester and neighboring areas,” Kudrolli says.

Kudrolli, who is an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow and American Physical Society Fellow, leads the Active Matter Group at Clark and is part of the NanoWorcester Group that comprises faculty members within the Colleges of Worcester Consortium who share interests in research and teaching related to nanoscience or nanotechnology. Kudrolli helped organize the first NanoWorcester Symposium in February, which featured talks by Davis Baird, provost and vice president for academic affairs, and Sergio Granados-Focil, assistant professor of chemistry. Heather Wiatrowski, assistant professor of biology, also is a Nano-Worcester member.
Green light for REDD

Graduate School of Geography Professor J. Ronald Eastman, director of Clark Labs and the IDRISI Project at Clark, and IDRISI development research analyst Stefano Crema traveled to Cancun in December to unveil new geographic information system tools during the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change 16th Conference of the Parties — better known as COP16.

A landmark global agreement was struck at COP16 in support of REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) projects, which aim to enhance and motivate developing nations’ efforts to reduce forest carbon emissions.

Working round-the-clock in the months leading up to the conference, Eastman’s team implemented new digital map analysis tools for IDRISI geological information system software that include “a procedure for estimating forest greenhouse gas emissions that is of special importance for the planning and management of individual REDD projects,” as well as a national-level REDD planning tool called OSIRIS.

The addition of such tools has been a collaborative effort, with substantial scientific input and funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and Conservation International. The tool for estimating greenhouse gas emissions is based on a methodology developed by the World Bank’s BioCarbon Fund, and it will be adapted to accommodate new or additional standards as they emerge, Eastman says.

Clark earns CASE awards

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) named Clark University a winner in five marketing and communications categories in the 2011 CASE District I Communications Awards. Competing against colleges and universities from all the New England states and part of Canada, Clark was one of District I’s most awarded schools, and the top winner for a school its size. Clark earned the most awards among colleges in Central Massachusetts.

Clark received a gold award for its 2010-2011 recruitment poster, which features a student posed upside-down urging prospective undergraduates to “see things differently” at Clark, where the motto is “Challenge Convention. Change Our World.”

Clark received silver awards for @Clark, the University’s alumni e-newsletter, and for “The President’s Report, 2000-2010,” a celebration and retrospective of the tenure of outgoing president John Bassett.

The University also earned bronze awards for its admissions recruiting package, and for its campaign/fundraising materials for The Chairman’s Challenge.

“We’re pleased that CASE has recognized our efforts to advance the mission and reputation of Clark University,” said Paula David, vice president of marketing and communications.
New admissions center opens

Remember the adage, “You never get a second chance to make a first impression”? Clark has taken those words to heart with the opening of the John and Kay Bassett Admissions Center, located adjacent to the Admissions Office at 3 Maywood St. The facility is named in honor of former president John Bassett and his wife Kay.

The center, which opened Nov. 20, is the starting point for all campus-visit programming. On the busiest days, up to 250 visitors make their way through the space, which includes a large, open reception area with attractive furnishings and seating for up to 70 people. The presentation space features a drop-down screen for programming that can be simulcast on flat-screen TVs in the reception area.

“This facility finally gives our office a dedicated space for admissions programming and will certainly help to contribute to positive first impressions of Clark for years to come,” said Dean of Admissions Donald Honeman.

The Admissions Department has worked with the music faculty to host a couple of “Brown Bag Concerts in the Bassett.” The noontime concert series for faculty, staff and students has featured Clark faculty and student performances as well as visiting artists.

A formal dedication ceremony will be held May 21.

Clark’s rep “cools” down, and heats up

Clark is one of the nation’s coolest places to get an undergraduate education, according to the latest Peterson’s guidebook, “Cool Colleges 101.”

Clark’s two-page profile notes that its students “are no ordinary students” and goes on to say, “Clark students leave their mark around the world.” Students select Clark for “intense, rewarding research and educational opportunities and leave as leaders ready to make global changes.” The profile also highlights Clark’s master’s degree and Ph.D. programs and includes information about the renovations to Wright and Bullock halls, student activities, and the city of Worcester.

The book profiles more than 240 colleges and includes campus photos. The profiles are designed to give students an introduction to the culture and lifestyle on college campuses, including the attributes that make each school unique: culture, tradition, social life, atmosphere, architecture and environment.

**FROM THE PODIUM**

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**THEY CAME, THEY SAW, THEY DISROBED**

On Oct. 27, the Student Alumni Relations Committee sponsored a one-mile run through campus, “The Nearly Naked Mile,” a coat drive benefit event. As their “entry fee,” participants donated new or gently used coats and winter outerwear that were distributed evenly between Jeremiah’s Inn, a residential center for homeless men, and Abby’s House, a battered-women’s shelter, both in Worcester. Runners were encouraged to dress comfortably, but minimally, for the run, which not only made for an interesting visual, but also drove home the message that many people are not equipped with the proper clothing for the harsh New England weather.
Bullies not welcome

Clark has always been a place that values individuality. It should come as no surprise then, that a student organization designed to foster social acceptance and stem the tide of bullying among teens, Youth Outreach Worcester (YOW), would practically triple its membership over the past few months. The group, started in 2007 by alumnus Robert Donnelly ’10, provides “interactive workshops and dialogues to Worcester youth that challenge stereotypes by facilitating an understanding of diversity.”

This fall, more and more Clarkies were eager to don the black t-shirts that read “Ask Before You Judge, Think Before You Act” and travel to area high schools to speak to health classes about sensitive subjects. The group works with the high school population to set class rules and build trust, then it tackles topics that would typically raise eyebrows and blood pressures — cyberbullying, race relations and student violence.

The Clark students arrive in pairs and stagger visits twice a semester at both Burncoat and Doherty high schools with the help of Mary Sanginario, health administrator for the Worcester Public Schools. “They’re close to these kids in age and they do a great job,” says Sanginario. “We love having them.”

The YOW group designs its own curriculum in which the Clark students share information on name-calling and the origins of words/labels, and lead group exercises that encourage reflection, self-awareness, and open dialogue about stereotypes.

According to Theresa (Tess) Aaronson ’11, co-director of YOW, “The high school students are extremely receptive to our unusual class and conversation. When we return to do our follow-up they are usually pretty excited to talk again.

“We want students to understand and have a complete, justifiable reason for why they believe what they do. We never actively try to change minds or tell kids they are incorrect. Instead, our presenters are trained to be neutral.”

Will Lehman ’10, who has been with YOW since its inception, says the presentations have impact. “It will be increasingly important in our world for people to be able to accept and celebrate what may be different from them, and to work together to make positive change. Starting young, and starting local, is the best way to make sustained positive social change in our schools and communities.”

“...This is not a blind date.
This is a marriage.”

RICHARD FREELAND, president emeritus of Northeastern University, at the inaugural ceremony for President David Angel, noting Angel’s 23-year affiliation with Clark.
The psychology of connection

As the wider world closes in on our personal orbits thanks to technology and the media, we are becoming increasingly connected, even hyperconnected, to multiple cultures and societies. An upcoming conference at Clark will explore the dynamics underlying those connections, and how our expanding base of global knowledge and relationships intersects with our individual psyches.

The Undergraduate Psychology Committee and Psi Chi are hosting the conference “Challenging Convention: Re-conceptualizing the Relationship Between the Individual and Society” on April 20. Keynote speakers are Professor Richard A. Shweder of the University of Chicago and Professor Fathali Moghaddam of Georgetown University. Besides the keynote lectures, students will present their research in psychology and related disciplines.

As of this printing, the lectures are scheduled to be held in Tilton Hall, and the student presentations will take place in either the Higgins University Center conference rooms or The Grind.

NO THRU TRAFFIC

Ah, Downing Street.

Site of the Kneller Athletic Center, Wright Hall, and motor vehicles barreling over the hill as they make a beeline to Main Street. It’s here students and faculty members have found themselves heeding their parents’ advice to look both ways.

They won’t have to much longer, at least not on Downing’s most hazardous stretch. In September 2010, President David Angel announced that Clark had reached an agreement with the City of Worcester to pursue the closing of a short section of Downing Street, from Florence Street to Woodland Street, to create a pedestrian plaza for students, staff and neighborhood residents. Besides the safety benefits, the project will coincide with the design and construction of federally funded streetscape improvements for Maywood, Main, Downing and Beaver streets that will create a Main South “gateway” for the city.

Under this accord, Clark will make voluntary annual payments to the city of $262,000 with a 2.5 percent escalator each year over the next 20 years. The University already pays the city $112,000 yearly on tax-exempt properties, and will make an additional $150,000 annual payment over the lifetime of the agreement.

The annual payments will be applied to support the operations of the Worcester Public Library and to undertake much-needed improvements to University Park.

“This agreement continues Clark’s long record of work with the city, and deepens the University’s already strong ties with the Main South neighborhood,” President Angel said. “We’re pleased to be entering into a new phase of mutual cooperation and growth with Worcester through this win-win proposition.”

Clark is collaborating with the city on plans to begin work on Downing Street immediately after Commencement this May.
medic of the mind

FROM IRAQ TO AFGHANISTAN TO U.S. VETERANS’ CLINICS, PSYCHOLOGIST MAJOR CLIFFORD TROTT ’87 HEALS THE HIDDEN WOUNDS OF WAR

BY ANNE GIBSON, PH.D. ’95
PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVEN KING
Mortar fire and roadside bombs, landmines and sniper fire can inflict anything from a light wound to life-changing devastation. You may worry that you'll give in to the fear that nags at you, that you'll inadvertently let your buddies down in a crisis.

In the quieter hours when you want to sleep but can't, other concerns that hover in the back of your mind can creep to the fore — your kid's troubling report card, your spouse's job security, the leaking roof at home.

Then there's the shock of being in an alien culture and climate, of not knowing whom you can trust among the local population. Anxiety is compounded by physical discomforts — the weight of equipment you tote in the heat, the irregular eating and sleeping hours, the lack of privacy. It all adds up to a lot of stress, and readily available psychological support may be the key to ensuring that you have the resilience to stay in the fray, and to transition successfully back to civilian life.

Enter Dr. Clifford Trott '87, a thoughtful, soft-spoken man who has chosen to spend time in some of the most perilous places on earth. In 2002, this self-described “Clarkie liberal,” who had had no previous military aspirations, enlisted as a clinical psychologist with the U.S. Army Reserve. Since then, he has been deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, and now retains his commission as a major with the Vermont National Guard. He has come to learn the workings of the soldier's mind and has devoted his career to treating men and women for whom, even after the shooting has stopped, the battle still rages.

TIME TO GIVE BACK
On a bleak November day, over coffee and chili in a Burlington, Vt., café, Trott reveals what prompted him to turn his almost too-good-to-be-true life on end and head into harm's way.

“I had a pretty nice life,” he admits. “I grew up on a beautiful island, I went to this great school, I loved what I was doing for work. I had a great group of friends, a wonderful, supportive family and a thriving private practice. And I thought, ‘There's going to be time to give back.’”
Trott, a native of Nantucket who could be a convincing model for the L.L. Bean catalogue, wanted to use his professional skills to do something “bigger and more global” than volunteer in his local community. And, as a new homeowner, he was looking for a way to make a difference and still pay the mortgage. Then an opportunity presented itself in an unexpected place.

As Trott was exploring his options, he chanced on a profile in a magazine about the typical armed forces member. The article noted that many recruits were economically disadvantaged and often came from rural areas. They weren’t joining to kill people, but rather to take advantage of the vocational and educational opportunities that serving their country would provide. That characterization struck a chord.

“This was a disenfranchised population,” he says. “I wanted to bring my craft to people who needed that kind of help. I thought about it for a while and decided to raise my right hand, take the oath and join [the Army Reserve].”

Trott describes his entry into the Reserve as “a cultural education.” He readily admits that his stereotypes of military life clashed with many of his personal values. Nor did he have any idea what a military psychologist actually did. But he decided to take a chance on serving a group of people who resonated with him.

“It was a huge leap of faith to join this organization,” he explains. “The political infrastructure I’d either deal with or not, and I wouldn’t have to stay if it was a bad fit. I could always get out in a couple of years. That was my game plan.”

BOUNDARIES BLURRED

Engaging with out-of-the-mainstream and economically marginalized populations was nothing new for Trott. In addition to growing up in a family embedded for generations on a small island, the Clark psychology grad had spent time in rural areas while completing his Ph.D. at the University of South Dakota, and later served two years as a clinical psychologist in the town of Canaan, located near the Canadian border in Vermont’s remote Northeast Kingdom. Officially he was employed as the child and adolescent psychologist at the K-12 public school, but as the only mental health professional in the entire county, Trott soon realized that — unofficially anyway — his clients would not be limited to the school-aged population.

“In addition to children,” he recalls, “I was working with their families, and essentially anyone the town needed me to see. There were random situations, like the transient man whom nobody knew who was clearly having a psychotic episode. There was no mental health support out there at all.”

Having previously enjoyed a stint working at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Washington, D.C., and volunteering at the American Psychological Association, moving to Canaan took some adjustment, in part because of the dearth of professional colleagues. Nonetheless, there were compensations.

“To be in a place where you’re the only one in your field — it was a big transition,” he says. “But after a while I settled in and started to appreciate the beauty and nature, the humbleness and authenticity of the people who lived there. There were a lot of farm families that I worked with. They were living in poverty and were too proud to let [the farm] go. It was painful to see.”

And in a community where self-sufficiency is prized, many were uncomfortable asking for help with mental health issues. That was an obstacle Trott would later encounter in his military service.

Another challenge Trott grappled with in Canaan was the almost unavoidable blurring of personal and professional boundaries. As a psychologist, he must remain objective in order to be therapeutically effective with his clients. Those clients need to trust that the problems they confide will remain confidential. But chance encounters with patients outside the office made boundary-setting difficult, one of the reasons why, despite his roots in Nantucket, he has resisted offers to practice there.

“I’d love it, but because it’s an island, interaction happens very intensely,” he says. “You run into everyone at the libraries, store, school. Having grown up there and knowing all kinds of stuff, I think it would be a little challenging to be the psychologist who’s the ‘keeper of secrets.’ It was very challenging in Canaan. I’m all about boundaries.”

THE ‘WIZARD’ OF WAR

The nature of the job demands that soldiers be physically and mentally tough in the most adverse conditions. Only recently has the very real psychological damage that can result from serving in a war zone been
publicly acknowledged. Combat Stress Control Detachments staffed by psychology professionals and technicians are now positioned with the soldiers close to the action, within reach of officers and enlisted men and women who might need help navigating the potential emotional hazards that accompany war. Once known as shell shock or battle fatigue, combat stress reaction is now officially recognized as a normal response to an abnormal situation, and detachment members provide education about and evaluation of related symptoms.

As one of these medics of the mind, Trott deployed first to Iraq in 2004 with the 1908th Combat Stress Control Detachment, and later to Afghanistan. The detachment consisted of approximately fifty psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, mental health technicians, occupational therapists and assistants who served soldiers in Iraq's Ramadi area. Trott, accompanied by several mental health technicians, would travel to wherever he was needed.

As part of the detachment, Trott found himself serving yet another isolated and tightly knit population. Lessons learned in Canaan stood him in good stead.

Although the services Trott provided were officially sanctioned, the stigma attached to requesting mental health support had not been eradicated. Many service members worried that such a request would jeopardize their careers.

Trott believes that a military unit's commanding officer is key to creating a culture where soldiers feel it's okay to ask for help, and cites the example of a commander who openly and regularly stopped by another psychologist's office for a cup of coffee. The commander explained it to Trott this way: "My soldiers watch everything I do. If they see I'm coming in here and closing the door a couple times a week, they're going to have decreased negative perception about coming in here [themselves]. I want them to feel comfortable to come in and talk to you."

But Trott found other officers, notably those in aviation units, were less receptive, in part because a psychologist has the authority to ground an air crew. Trott, who completed training in aviation psychology between his Iraq and Afghanistan deployments, describes one such lieutenant, and his later change of heart.

"I would stop over every day, just kind of check on him," Trott recalls, noting that the lieutenant was initially unreactive to his outreach efforts. "One morning at about 3 a.m the lieutenant came rapping on my door, and said, 'I need you, I need you right now.' One of the airmen had had a really rough mission. I stayed with the soldier for about two and a half hours, just helping him sort it all out. From that point on, that lieutenant flew me wherever I wanted to go."

Reaction to Trott's role could be mixed. At one point he learned that some Marines were referring to him as "The Wizard." Although puzzled, he decided to take it as a compliment, assuming the nickname was a tribute to his professional skills.

But then a corpsman provided a more ominous explanation.

"Cause you can make people disappear, sir," the man told Trott. "Sometimes soldiers go to the psychologist and then they magically disappear."

‘A RARE BREED OF PSYCHOLOGIST’

As a member of the detachment, Trott partook of the same eating, sleeping, and recreational arrangements as his clients. He also shared the danger, whether it was riding in a convoy or being on a base that was under attack. He was never “off the clock,” because the call for his services could come at any time or place. At the gym or the chow hall, soldiers would approach him, wanting to talk. As a result, just like in Canaan, boundaries were difficult to maintain.

Trott’s habit is to engage in self-comfort practices throughout the day, such as listening to music, yoga and meditation, techniques that he says “quiet your soul and recharge your batteries.” The challenge came when circumstances didn’t accommodate those niceties, and soldiers expected Trott to set an example of how to stay cool under fire.

“They’d ask quite pointed questions like, ‘How are you dealing with it?’” he recalls. “Sometimes that’s nice, because it shares a level of personal connection and authenticity. But you also don’t have that nice little bubble that can be needed for objectivity. It’s a nice compliment that they feel comfortable about coming up and talking about whatever is going on, but you don’t have a break.”

Trott and his team were proactive, reaching out to the units in their care on a daily basis and checking in with commanders to see how things were going. That kind of rapport-building is critical if soldiers in a crisis situation need help fast. Trott’s team would learn from the commanders what a unit had been
experiencing over the past couple of days. In return, his team educated commanders about how to spot the signs and symptoms of serious psychological distress.

For two months psychologist Col. Kathy Platoni worked closely with Trott at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. She characterizes him as “a rare breed of psychologist — the best of the best, both clinically and ethically. In some of the most austere and limiting conditions, he was able to create a full-fledged clinic for the 22,000 soldiers in his area. [He was] loved, admired and respected by everyone.”

Lt. Denis Consolver, an infantry veteran of the first Gulf War, served in 2004 as a mental health technician with Trott’s team in Iraq. His task, as he describes it, was “to get these clinicians ready for the harshness of military life in a war zone.” As the non-commissioned officer-in-charge, Consolver was impressed with Trott’s honesty and willingness to take direction from someone he outranked.

“Trott had no problem letting me tell him what needed to be done and how to do it, based on my 16 years experience,” Consolver writes via e-mail. “Many other officers would rather drive into a mine field than listen to an enlisted soldier.”

Consolver describes Trott as someone “who will go way beyond expectations to see that someone is taken care of.” (He also appreciated Trott’s generosity in sharing the Vermont coffee he received periodically in the mail.)

**BOMBS AND BREAKFAST**

Between stints in Iraq and Afghanistan, Trott returned to D.C. to work at National Guard Bureau Headquarters, and also provided some outreach through the Colchester, Vt., Veterans Administration clinic just north of Burlington. As of January, Trott has returned to work there full-time. He can still be deployed, but because of a troubling ethical situation that arose when he was in Afghanistan, he’s not sure whether he wants to stay in the Guard.

A superior officer pressured him to divulge patient information, the confidentiality of which is protected under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Trott refused, and tried contacting the medical Judge Advocate General, but the situation only worsened. He came away disillusioned.

“It really surprised me that folks would practice unethically and not be respectful of laws and regulations,” he says. “I know that sounds terribly naïve, but I thought medical folks were different, particularly when it came to patient rights and privacy. That was an eye-opening experience, to say the least.”

Trott explains that HIPAA protection applies to military personnel as well as civilians. “However, sometimes commanders try to get around it, use their rank. If you don’t give them what they want, they can get nasty.”

Trott seems more troubled by that experience than any of the physical danger he was exposed to during his deployments. When asked whether he ever feared for his life, he under states the risks.

“Did I feel my life was in danger?” He thinks for a minute. “No. But Iraq was a bit hairier than Afghanistan. In Afghanistan bases would get bombed every now and then, but it wasn’t a big deal. In Iraq the bases were smaller and people were getting killed.”

Trott describes the emotional transition he underwent during deployment, and how something that was first perceived as life-threatening becomes relegated to the status of irritant.

“One morning I was in the chow hall having breakfast. I’d just gotten my food, and then the whole building shook. But I’m thinking, ‘I just want to frickin’ eat!’ The first couple times [it happens] you’re like ‘God, I could be killed.’ Then it becomes, ‘I’ve got my Raisin Bran here, let me eat it.’ The gal in the bunker with me was kind of freaking out, and so I was doing some relaxation training with her, and we got laughing about the inconvenience. Then I wondered, how did I get to a point of ‘Here we go again,’ and disconnecting from this event that could take my life? It’s habituation.

“On one base we would get mortar fire quite a bit. Occasionally someone would drop their weapon — it happens sometimes and makes quite a racket. Just that noise [would occur] and several folks would hit the deck. And then they’d laugh about it. So the initial startle is still there, but it’s followed by, ‘Oh, okay, it’s just a weapon.’”

**TRANSITIONING TO CIVILIAN LIFE**

The hyperawareness that can save a soldier’s life in a war zone can become a handicap in civilian life.

For some vets, a loud bang at a Fourth of July celebration can result in a flashback-like reaction. While such a
response will eventually diminish for most, for others the process may require treatment to help them gain control of their responses, Trott says.

Even Trott, whose job is to educate soldiers about what to expect when re-acclimating to civilian life, was not immune to the emotional roller coaster.

“The transition from war zone back to civilian life is necessarily difficult. When I got back from Iraq in 2005, I was not prepared. I thought, ‘I’m a psychologist, I’ve got it covered.’ But I got back, and I struggled. I struggled.”

When friends noticed he seemed to be having problems adjusting, Trott got himself some therapy.

“After I returned from Afghanistan I went to an ashram in Quebec for a week. You know how infants are colicky and fussy and nothing will calm them? I sort of felt like that for the first two days. I didn’t want to be there, and it brought up stuff that had to be dealt with, and I didn’t want to deal with it. Many times I thought about just hopping in my car and driving back to Burlington.”

Assimilating to the civilian world can be especially difficult for National Guard and Reserve personnel because those soldiers are more integrated into a civilian area than are active duty soldiers living on bases. Returning soldiers often carry unresolved emotional issues that can have a big impact on a small community. The ripple effect reaches into many aspects of life.

“When service members come back and they’re struggling, the community hasn’t received a lot of education about what to expect,” Trott says. “All they know is they were gone for a series of months or a year, and now they’re different. They’re left with a lot of questions, and not a lot of answers. That’s a shortcoming that the Guard and Reserve are really trying to fix — some would argue not too well.”

THE CLARK FIT
Trott credits Clark with playing a critical role in his development from a “very shy and introverted” teenager to feeling that he could be himself and be accepted.

“When I got to Clark, I just shed that skin — left it on Nantucket. I became more social, comfortable in my own skin. I think the Clark community afforded that development in a nice way. I started to realize that I can fit wherever I want. There was so much support and encouragement — more ‘can do’ than ‘can’t do.’ That’s a really important lesson for a kid from a very sheltered island.”

He’s also full of praise for the academic nurturing he received as a budding psychologist. In fact, it was his early interest in psychology, combined with Clark’s reputation in that field, that led him to apply. He started doing research in developmental psychology during his sophomore year under the guidance of the late Dr. Ina Uzgiris.

“She was a great adviser for me to have,” he says. “She had worked with Piaget! I’m in developmental psychology class, watching old black and white videos of Jean Piaget, and there’s Dr. Uzgiris setting up the blocks! To have an adviser who’d worked with The Man; just to have that kind of support and individualized attention. If I had gone somewhere like UMass, I doubt I would have gone on to grad school.”

HOPE FOR HEALING
The media are full of stories about the psychological damage many soldiers are sustaining during deployment, serious conditions such as severe depression, traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. Trott reports that progress is being made in helping soldiers heal from combat-induced psychological injury. He has seen the research first hand, both when he worked in Washington, D.C., overseeing and coordinating all of the state National Guard psychological services, and when he headed up the post-traumatic stress disorder treatment program at the Veterans Administration clinic in Cleveland, Ohio.

Trott is proud of his eight years of military service.

“It’s inherently rewarding to be a psychologist; working with a population that can be in such dire need makes it that much more rewarding,” he says. “Many times in Afghanistan and Iraq, people would pull me aside and say, ‘Your job must be so stressful.’ It is stressful, but it also has that level of reward that other professions don’t have.

“I think I don’t take things for granted as much. I’m more grateful for what I have, for friends and family, and more keenly aware of how good my life is and what my blind spots are. I don’t get broadsided as quickly by life.”

“YOU CAN MAKE PEOPLE DISAPPEAR, SIR,” THE MAN TOLD TROTT. “SOMETIMES SOLDIERS GO TO THE PSYCHOLOGIST, AND THEN THEY MAGICALLY DISAPPEAR.”
NEARLY FORTY YEARS AFTER ADOPTING HIS DAUGHTER, PROFESSOR PAUL ROPP SET OUT TO LOCATE HER BIRTH FATHER IN TAIWAN. THERE, HE UNCOVERED A TALE OF SORROW, HOPE AND JOY.

By Jim Keogh
Illustration by Ian Dodds
In a Taiwan hospital, Zhen-yi Wu weeps not for his infant girl, who was born prematurely, yet who is healthy and beautiful. He cries for his wife, who had experienced complications during childbirth, requiring blood transfusions and other dramatic measures. Five days after delivering, her body weak and depleted, she has died, and now he regards the baby in a sobering light.

Zhen-yi already has a boy and two girls at home, and he works a low-paying custodial job. How can he provide for four young children as a single father? What kind of life can he give this child?

Faced with a terrible choice, Zhen-yi Wu mulls the possibility of giving up his daughter for adoption. The hospital staff knows of an American couple who has inquired about adopting a baby girl. Perhaps this is the family his baby should go to.

Zhen-yi reluctantly decides he must travel this path for his daughter’s sake. Later, he will sign the adoption papers, but he will also leave something behind: a forwarding address. Maybe one day, he reasons, his girl will try to find him. And he wants to be found.

Professor Paul Ropp has been teaching Asian studies at Clark since 1985, and before that taught for 10 years in Memphis. His career is a singular passion, one that has sent him overseas many times, including to China where he’s had a ringside seat to the emergence of a new superpower.

In 1972 Paul was a student working on his dissertation in Japan. By then, he and his wife Marjorie had two sons and were considering having a third child. With population control a worldwide concern (the book “The Population Bomb” had sounded a clear warning), the couple began talking about adopting. They had friends who ran an orphanage in Taiwan, and they wrote the Christian Children’s Fund to let them know they’d be interested in adopting a baby girl.

The agency offered little hope, explaining that it typically helps families support their children at home rather than organize adoptions to outside parties. Six months later, the Ropps arrived in Taiwan where Paul was continuing work on his dissertation. To their surprise a letter from the Christian Children’s Fund was waiting for them.

“It said, ‘We have a baby girl for you,’” Paul recalls.

The girl they would name Amy was just four months old and living in an orphanage in Taichung, two hours south of the capital city of Taipei. Paul and Marj visited her and fell in love, but they couldn’t take her from the orphanage until all the bureaucratic hurdles had been cleared. So they were forced to leave Amy behind while they returned to Taipei. “That was hard,” Paul acknowledges.

Two weeks later they got a call on a Sunday evening informing them to appear at the courthouse at 9 a.m. the following day. There, they met Amy’s father, Zhen-yi Wu, and signed the papers. The procedure was brief.

“It was a very simple process compared to today,” Paul says. “Getting her American visa was more complicated. We had to be fingerprinted, have background checks done at the U.S. Embassy. It was very rigorous.”

Eight months later, the paperwork finally in order, the Ropps brought Amy home with them to the United States. Through the years they made sure she knew the story behind her adoption, even though Amy exhibited little interest in her background. “Amy was totally American and intent on fitting in,” says Marj.

The Ropps returned to Taiwan in 1984 when Amy was in seventh grade so Paul could take a language-refresher course. The family was preparing to move from Memphis to Worcester, where he was joining the faculty at Clark University.

“We’d be walking on the street in Taiwan and people would start speaking to Amy, assuming she was our escort,” Paul says. “That made her want to study Chinese, but only while we were in Taiwan. She didn’t continue with it back in the States.”

During that same summer, the Ropps made a trip to Hualien, the seaside city where Amy was born. Amy was unimpressed with the city, which was less developed than other more sophisticated Chinese cities she’d visited. Marj recalls, “Amy said, ‘I wonder what it would have been like growing up here? I don’t think I would have liked it.’ All she knew was American culture. She didn’t have much more curiosity about her heritage for many years.”

Life moved on for Amy — school, work, and a family of her own. In 1994 she gave birth to a son, Christopher Jonathan, known by all as CJ. His arrival got her thinking a little more about her birth family in Taiwan.

“She was particularly curious about her mother, what she looked like, whether they had any resemblance,” Marj says. “She had no identification with her parents or siblings. On the contrary, they very much had an identification with her because she was their long-lost sister.”

Three years ago, Paul and Marj asked Amy if she would be interested in
trying to find her Taiwanese family. She thought it over and responded, “Yes.” They knew it would be a difficult task since there had been no contact in nearly forty years.

“We had an address Mr. Wu had left in 1972, but we assumed it was useless because so much had changed in Taiwan,” Paul says. “In 1984 when we went back to look for the house where we’d lived in 1972, it was long gone. So we believed there would be no easy way to find her family.”

There were other considerations.

“Sometimes these things don’t work out so well,” Marj says. “We had to find out about the family. Were they still around? Were they in good health? Were they interested at all [in a reunion]? It was important that we make some contacts first.”

Fortunately, the Ropps had allies in their quest: missionary friends Ted and Beverly Skiles who ran an orphanage an hour’s drive from where Amy was born, and who were comfortable working within the Taiwan bureaucracy. The friends said two graduates from their orphanage were now working as police officers in Hualien and could be enlisted to help search for Amy’s father.

In June 2009, Paul and Marj traveled to Asia to meet with Clark alumni in several cities, including Taipei. A week into their trip they received an e-mail from the Skiles saying that in order to receive any government assistance to locate Mr. Wu, the Ropps would need to produce a notarized statement from Amy in English and Chinese indicating her wishes to find her father. Since that wasn’t possible while they were traveling, the Ropps assumed the search was temporarily suspended.

A week later, the Ropps received a second e-mail from their friends: they’d located Amy’s father.

Zhen-yi Wu no longer lived at the address he’d left at the courthouse in 1972. In the intervening years his house had been devastated by a typhoon and rendered uninhabitable. But he’d intentionally remained registered at that address in the slim hope that his daughter could still trace him if she chose to.

“That gave us chills,” Paul says.

A few days after learning the news about Mr. Wu, the Ropps were in Taipei for a Clark alumni reception. They connected with Ted Skiles, who invited them to spend a day with him at the orphanage.

“Ted picked us up, and as he was driving he said, ‘Look, shall I call the social worker and have him contact Amy’s father?’” Paul recalls.

Says Marj, “This was the moment. And it was like ... wait, am I ready for this?”

They spent the night at the orphanage and the next day they were on a train to Hualien, carrying two photos of Amy they’d printed from Paul’s laptop and had framed in a local shop. There, they met Mr. Wu and his oldest daughter, Hui-zhen, and one of his granddaughters.

“They brought us a bouquet of flowers; they were so gracious,” Paul says.

The Ropps learned that Hui-zhen lives in Hualien with her family and is in the construction business; Amy’s other sister, Hui-ru, lives in Shanghai where her husband works in real estate, and her brother, Yun-hua, is a marble engraver in Taipei.

Mr. Wu had retired many years earlier at age 60 and now lived in a comfortable apartment owned by Hui-ru. One wall was filled with family photographs.

“For the first time we saw pictures of Amy’s family,” Marj says. The wall was like a visual timeline of the Wus, depicting not only Amy’s brothers and sisters, but nieces and nephews, cousins, aunts and in-laws she never knew she had. The picture of Hui-ru, the Shanghai sister, was especially remarkable because it looked exactly like Amy in her high school graduation photo. Paul conversed in Chinese with Mr. Wu, filling him in on Amy’s history, and learning about the progression of the Wu family over four decades. “He said, ‘This is a miracle that you found us,’” says Marj. “He was overjoyed.” Adds Paul, “He said, ‘I don’t care about any material things. I just want to see my daughter.’”

He would. On Christmas Day 2009, the Ropps flew out of Boston with Amy and her son CJ. In Los Angeles they all boarded a midnight flight to Taipei along with the Ropp sons Ben and Andy, and Andy’s wife and two children. They landed in Taipei, where they were met by Clarkies Yen-hung Lo, M.A. ’92, Ph.D. ’96, and Ku-jun Lin, M.B.A. ’94 and his wife Wen-chen, who had made reservations at area hotels and helped facilitate their stay. The Ropps spent two days with Amy’s brother, Yun-hua, before taking a train to Hualien, where Amy’s father and sisters were waiting.

“I didn’t grow up feeling there was a huge emptiness in my life,” Amy says. “I’ve always known that my father gave me up for adoption not because he didn’t want me, but because he couldn’t care for a little baby at that time. I was happy to finally meet him, but a little nervous. I wondered how he would react; if he was expecting something more than I am.”
Father and daughter put their arms around each other; Amy’s sisters embraced her, and something was spoken in Chinese that Amy couldn’t understand. Later, she learned it was: “We’ve been waiting forty years for this day.”

Later, she learned it was: “We’ve been waiting forty years for this day.”

The language difference was a challenge, though not insurmountable. Paul acted as interpreter, one of Amy’s brothers-in-law spoke serviceable English. Andy Ropp, who had spent two and a half years in Japan, was able to converse in Japanese with Mr. Wu — affectionately known as BaBa by his children — who had been raised under Japanese occupation and knew the language. “When Andy started talking to him in Japanese it was like a light bulb went on with Mr. Wu,” Paul remembers. “Everyone was transfixed on this moment.”

“We were so full of emotion; they had memories of her and of their mother. That wasn’t true for Amy.”

“It was clear to me he is an incredibly compassionate man,” Paul says of Mr. Wu. “His daughter told us he never remarried because he always feared a new wife would never accept his children.

“What struck us in a way we hadn’t been conscious of before was the tragedy they experienced, and how their tragedy, in a sense, became our blessing. Yet they were so generous and gracious in embracing us, and so grateful for us finding them.”

Mr. Wu had earlier said that all his photos of Amy’s mother had been destroyed in a typhoon. But the day before the Ropps departed from Taipei, Amy’s brother gave her a black-and-white wedding photo of Zhen-yi Wu and Fan Jin-zi, Amy’s mother. This stunning image of a handsome young man and a beautiful young woman with a face remarkably like Amy’s now graces the table in Amy’s home.

The story ends with a man and a woman, his daughter.

There are tears.

In Hualien station, Mr. Wu stands on the train platform ramrod straight, his hands wrapped around his walking stick, which he holds in front of him at chest level. He looks at Amy on the other side of the glass and he weeps — with joy that his girl has found him, sadness that she must now depart to continue her life, relief that she is well and that the decision he made nearly forty years ago was the right one.

Over the next year, the Ropps and the Wus will exchange e-mails, with Paul doing the translating for Marj and Amy, and signing off as “Your American Uncle.” The Wus will send a tape at New Year’s offering their best wishes and urging Amy, a nursing student, to work hard, using an old Chinese expression that translated literally means “add oil.” Amy wants to study Chinese and is planning a return trip to Taiwan this May.

On Thanksgiving 2010, Hui-ru will write her American sister, making a brave effort to understand the workings of the holiday (“It is a day for the family to gather for dinner with turkey, salad, bread, and red wine! Is that right?”).

And a final message: “BaBa wants us to tell you when we write that he loves you and misses you every day. Although you are all very busy, please remember that your Taiwan family misses you and hopes you are happy.”

From the platform in Hualien, Amy’s sisters approach the train and press their hands to the glass. Amy presses back. The train starts to move. The families wave as the train pulls away, and until they can no longer see one another. “Dad,” Amy says. “That was hard.”

Marj later will write about Amy’s reunion in a family newsletter, concluding her account with a Chinese phrase that the Ropps and the Wus believe will hold true.

Zai jian, zai jian. See you again. See you again.
The following is a recollection by Zhen-yi Wu of his reunion with his daughter Amy Ropp. The piece has been translated from Mandarin Chinese by Prof. Paul Ropp and Wenhua Jin.

I'M ALREADY AN OLD MAN of more than 70 years, but through my whole life there are days when I simply cannot forget no matter how hard I try. On February 3, 1972, I had four children, 6-year old daughter Hui-zhen, 4-year old son Yun-hua, 2-year old daughter Hui-ru, and the little baby, Amy, just about to be born from my wife's tummy.

That was just at the lunar New Year when everyone in Taiwan was gathering to celebrate. But that atmosphere of celebration never made it to our family, because there was a problem with my wife's lymph nodes in her neck. The doctors had to make a quick decision to operate about a week before Amy was born. And then, while recovering from this surgery, my wife went into labor. In the exertion of childbirth, the neck wound burst open, and this resulted in massive blood loss. The doctors tried everything, but to no avail. How could this happen? A minor surgery for a lymph node destroyed all hope for my family.

On February 8, 1972, my world ended. From that day on, I don't know how I survived from one day to the next. Tears drained off, and my heart died. But I had to go on. Every day I had three older children to look after, and now I had the tiny newborn infant Amy to hold. I wondered how to get through the days. To tell the truth, I really had no way to cope. The whole world was in chaos. Every day I feared the coming of darkness, because I had no way to walk into a room to face the reality that my most beloved wife had departed this world. And the most disastrous of all was the fact that I didn't have much money to start with, and because of my wife's illness, I had already spent all our savings. There's no way to describe my horrible predicament at that time. With my job, I couldn't really take care of a newborn baby, and no one else could take care of her.

My heart was torn apart, like burning in oil. Such pain to give up my child. And although in a hundred ways I didn't want to, in the end I had to go back to work as the only way to help save my family. And finally I had to give up my guardianship of this newborn baby, and let Amy go. After making that decision, I knew that everything now would just become a sense of missing and longing for Amy, without end.

Days passed, one after another. Years passed, one after another. A decade, then two decades, and then three decades passed. I even lost track of how many years it had been since Amy was gone. But every year, I always remembered one day, February 3, 1972, Amy's birthday. In my heart, night and day in remorse, I thought, "Amy, have you grown up?"

[Although] Amy's sisters had each established their own households and many times invited me to come live with them, I insisted on keeping the old dilapidated home where Amy was born. So for 30 years I was entirely unwilling to leave our old home, because it was the only evidence Amy could use to try to seek out her roots.

I knew that once my daughter Amy grew up, she would know that she had Asian blood. At the same time, I feared that she might really hate me, and I couldn't embrace the hope that she might forgive me. I only thought that if Amy could be okay, then my heart could be at ease.

One day in June of 2009, it suddenly seemed like a dream — what I had longed for over and over again. Suddenly there was news of Amy. Heavens! Our whole family dared not believe this. The children all assembled together; without any prompting all came home and gathered to seek proof of this news. We just wept in each others' arms, unable to absorb this good news. Right up until December of 2009, it was a long wait for our appointed time for a face-to-face meeting. I had trouble getting to sleep every night. I was excited. I was apprehensive. I felt ashamed and remorseful. I felt a hundred different emotions.

Finally, on December 29, 2009, that day, the good Paul brought Amy back hand in hand, and my heart collapsed again. For so many years I had tried hard to hide my emotions in front of the children, and felt I must be strong. Now Heaven was granting me this opportunity to see Amy.

Although this marvelous opportunity to see my dear daughter was very short, not even a week, I think this was the most precious gift of God for me since he robbed me of my most beloved. I've started to believe there is a God, and in my heart [God] is in the far-distant Paul and Marj in America, that good couple who, even having two of their own children, exerted themselves to raise and nurture Amy. They are the benefactors of my whole life. Really, there must be a God.
Imagine you’re a recent college graduate living in one of the greatest cities in the world. Your job is to take fabulous photos of big-time celebrities while you travel to exciting places, honing skills that are lighting the career path you chose when you were still in school.

It might seem like a sweet fantasy, but that’s real life for Diana Rose Levine ’07. And anyone who knows her also understands that she works hard for each success and shares her talent and enthusiasm at every opportunity.
EVINE, 25, LIVES IN MANHATTAN AND WORKS AS A FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER FOR MAGAZINES, BRANDS, ONLINE MEDIA, AND MORE.

Much of her job involves photographing popular musicians, bands and public personalities. Her work has taken her to Miami, Los Angeles, London, Chicago, Las Vegas, Atlanta, Detroit and beyond. She’s been up-close and personal with dozens of pop-culture notables, including Alicia Keys, Elvis Costello, John Legend, Kim Kardashian, Usher, Vampire Weekend, Keri Hilson, Billy Corgan, Wyclef Jean, Kylie Minogue, Paramore and Jason Derulo. Among her corporate clients are AOL, MTV, Boston magazine, Converse, Bumble and bumble, Gawker, and several record labels.

“It’s a blast getting to work with such talented and inspiring people,” she says. “Freelancing gives me the freedom to shoot so many different projects, to be somewhere new every day, to meet so many different people, and to travel to places I wouldn’t have otherwise been able to see. It’s definitely a challenge, but one that excites me every day.”

Although her college search led her to visit several campuses, Levine, who grew up outside of Boston, applied to Clark only. “I wanted to be part of a school that made ‘making the world a better place’ a top priority,” she says. “I also wanted to go to a small school with a close-knit campus feel, and wanted to be within driving distance of my family.”

Levine seems to thrive on challenges, and while at Clark she actively sought them out or simply created her own.

By the end of her first year, she had decided to double-major in studio art (photography) and psychology, with a concentration in Mandarin Chinese language. Levine credits a close high school friend, Celeste Lam, for fostering her interest in Mandarin. “She gave me weekly quizzes, flashcards, and taught me all about the language, culture and pronunciation,” Levine says. “I had been learning Chinese from her for three years before I started officially studying it at Clark — I was excited to take what I had learned one-on-one from her and see what it was like to study it in a classroom.”

As a Clark sophomore in 2004, Levine founded STIR magazine, the University’s first student-run lifestyle, culture and art-photography publication. “I so badly wanted to be doing photo shoots for publication. I was never really satisfied just shooting for class, I always wanted there to be a purpose to my shoots, so I created a magazine that would showcase and feature work by Clark students and, eventually, the [Colleges of the Worcester] Consortium students. It was one of the most exciting things I’ve ever been part of — from our first meeting in my apartment with a few friends, to weekly meetings of 20 to 30 people, all so excited to be writing, shooting, editing, modeling and designing.”

From the beginning, Levine set the bar high at STIR, gathering a team of talented fellow students who helped her produce a provocative full-color magazine. She notes the support she received from her friends, the Student Council and faculty mentors, as well as guidance from George Gendron, founding director of Clark’s Innovation & Entrepreneurship program. Thanks to Levine’s clearly set vision and standards, STIR continues to thrive at Clark.

“I really thank Clark for allowing me to grow this project, something that helped me learn so much about being a photographer, not to mention running a staff, designing a publication, selling advertising and raising money, dealing with printers and community groups,” Levine says. “STIR was a gateway to my first job as
the designer and staff photographer at Boston magazine, so it was an incredibly important part of my college education.”

Levine spent a semester of her junior year studying at New York University’s prestigious Tisch School of the Arts’ Photography & Imaging program. She describes her studies at the Tisch School as an invaluable complement to her Clark experience. “I needed the balance of both schools to get me where I am today. At Clark, I took advantage of the small school size, amazing connections with professors and freedom to work on personal projects, while at NYU I learned about the technical and business side of photography. I can’t imagine where I’d be without the hands-on experience NYU gave me through internships like Jane magazine and Condé Nast.”

An anecdote illustrating Levine’s self-determination is told by photography instructor Frank Armstrong, who recounts Levine visiting him and fellow instructor Stephen DiRado during her senior year. She was back at Clark after her time at the Tisch School and had been busy catching up with coursework, assisting at STIR and throwing herself back into university life. Near tears, she expressed how frazzled she was feeling, and her empathetic teachers offered advice and reassurances. Levine collected herself and, as she stepped out of the room, poked her head back in the doorway to announce, “Oh, I forgot to tell you — I’ve started another magazine.”

Delighted by her ambition, but not surprised, Armstrong and DiRado listened as she told them about her creation: Point+Shoot, a gallery-style online and print publication showcasing the art photography of students from around the region.

Levine landed a full-time position at the magazine, then after a year in Boston it was off to the Big Apple to start her own freelance photography business.

“It was hard. I started out in magazines, so I had these well established brands to legitimize my work. People trust that,” she says. “When I left those magazines, I lost that automatic trust. I had to transition from having a legiti-

The best part of that [Elvis Costello] shoot was hearing my dad’s reaction on the phone after I sent him the photos.

“Diana came to class with at least three times the amount of work to show than the other students,” DiRado says. “She was really showing them up. The other students had to rise to Diana’s level and some of them were resentful. ‘She’s just showing off,’ they’d say. I’d say to them, ‘What are you all bitchin’ about? You’re all going to be working for her some time in your life, so be nice!’ Every step of the way, there was never a hint of Diana taking anything for granted. She took the heat, tried to learn everything she could and worked through it.”

Upon graduating from Clark in 2007, Levine shot her first freelance assignment for Boston magazine, photographing New England’s best beaches. “I had to pinch myself: I get paid to travel with my boyfriend, and take photos of beaches? Not a bad gig.” (Her longtime boyfriend, Matt Workman, is a freelance cinematographer, and the two often work together.)

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“If you’re going to go down the independent route, you have to be prepared for the reality of being your own boss,” Levine says. “I love living in New York City,” she says. “I love that, no matter who you are or where you come from, you’re not alone. I love that there are no limits here to what you can dream. I love the feeling that everyone here is working toward something.”

For Levine, the work has been steady and varied. Recently, she photographed Kim Kardashian for the celebrity’s 3D avatar iPhone app. She also worked for the reunited boy band New Kids on the Block, traveling with
DIANA LEVINE WITH SOME OF HER CELEBRITY SUBJECTS, (FROM TOP LEFT) ALICIA KEYS, KIM KARDASHIAN, USHER, ELVIS COSTELLO AND JOHN LEGEND.
them to document a cruise trip from Miami to the Bahamas. For the clothing retailer H&M, Levine photographed products and stills of MTV news reporter SuChin Pak and celebrity stylist Nole Marin for a commercial campaign that ran on MTV during the 2010 Video Music Awards. Ten of Levine’s own New York City photos were included in an exhibit installed by HBO as part of its launch of the TV show “How to Make It in America.”

Levine frequently goes on assignment for AOL’s “Day in the Life” project, spending a full day with an individual artist or band and photographing everything that happens in their day: radio and TV interviews, sound checks, meals, hotels, traveling, meeting fans, etc. Her AOL gigs have included days spent with performers Keith Urban, Hanson, Linkin Park, Clay Aiken, Ludacris, David Archuleta, and many others, accompanying them to the “Today Show,” “The View,” BET, MTV, backstage at concerts, and other venues. She also shoots a video documentary of each “Day in the Life” piece.

A photo session with Elvis Costello ranks among Levine’s favorite jobs. “My dad is a huge fan, so I’ve been listening to his music since I was a little girl. The best part of that shoot was hearing my dad’s reaction on the phone after I sent him the photos.”

Asked to pick a dream celebrity assignment, Levine names the Diana after whom she was named. “My mom’s from Motown,” she says. “I grew up listening to Diana Ross.” She also adds the girl band The Spice Girls to her wish list. “I know it’s silly, but I was such a big fan in middle school that it would be a dream come true. And I’m not ashamed to say it.”

Friends often comment on her “glamorous” New York life and career, but it is by no means perfect, Levine acknowledges. The hours can be long, the schedule erratic, and the shoots take place any time day or night in all types of weather. “You can’t make plans to go out with your friends on Saturday night. It’s definitely not 9-to-5, go-home-relax; it’s 24-7, and you have to be really flexible. Your whole family has to be understanding about it, too. … That’s why it’s so great that Matt and I both do this; it would be really hard to have a relationship if you’re not totally understanding about the lifestyle. I wanted this so bad; I am living my dream, but everything comes in baby steps.”

In December, Levine found herself in an unfamiliar situation: in front of the camera. She was profiled in a TV commercial for singer Britney Spears’ new “Radiance” perfume, featured for having had a “radiant year.”

Levine says that “almost everyone I shoot, famous or not, inspires me.” She points to Clark as being a cornerstone of that inspiration, citing the influence of DiRado and Armstrong and other Visual & Performing Arts Department professors, including Valerie Claff and Elli Crocker. She also values the lessons she learned from psychology professors Jeffrey Jensen Arnett, Nicholas Thompson, Jaan Valinier and James Córdova, whose class she took with Ali Fedotowsky ’06, who would go on to star in TV’s “The Bachelorette.” And she notes the support and friendship of fellow photography program students Rachel Loischild ’05, Jesaca [Qiao-Juan] Lin ’08, and Bridget Kane ’07.

Levine recalls how she eagerly enrolled in every one of the courses in Chinese taught by Clark instructor Minxia Li, adding how she enjoyed “having a big dinner at Li Laoshi’s home, where she taught her students how to cook delicious Chinese food while practicing our language skills.” She attended photography critiques at DiRado’s home every week, “where we had access to his collection of photo books and prints. I always felt supported and excited about what I was learning at Clark, particularly due to the incredible professors.”

Living and learning in Worcester also impressed Levine. She and her STIR magazine team made extra efforts to look for story ideas beyond campus, featuring articles about people and places in the city and at the many nearby colleges. The STIR enterprise relied heavily on ad sales to local businesses. “I still remember being so excited about the first ad we sold — a full-page menu for Uncle Sam’s Pizza, which I always ran on the inside back cover,” Levine recalls. “Looking back on it, it really touches me that a small business would purchase an ad in a magazine that didn’t even exist yet, but it was because of the generosity of Worcester businesses that I was able to start STIR at all.”

To this day, Worcester outshines New York in at least one important aspect, according to Levine. “The thing I miss most about Worcester is the No. 37 from the menu at Dalat. I’m still looking for that exact meal in New York City.”

Before arriving at Worcester and Clark, Levine’s professional vision was already coming into focus. While growing up she constantly snapped photos of her family and friends, documenting her life and the people in it. “For my 25th birthday, my sister and Mom found an old video I created back in middle school, which was a time capsule of life in the ’90s. It was a compilation of footage of my family, of popular bands and music, movies, TV shows, magazines, actors and actresses that we admired,” she says. “I didn’t even remember putting this together, so it was a great surprise, and funny that now, as an adult, my job is to photograph and document the popular bands, musicians and personalities of today’s culture.”

These days, beside her busy work life, Levine is raising money and awareness to battle Parkinson’s disease through the Michael J. Fox Foundation. She recently appeared in a public service announcement for the Parkinson’s Disease Foundation. “My mom, who is one of my biggest inspirations, has Parkinson’s, and raising money to find a cure is a huge part of our family,” she says.

Perhaps at the root of this exceptional Clark graduate’s career is the late Jimmy Bittker, her grandfather and a photographer. “When he passed away, I was given a lot of his camera equipment, a lot of which I still use to this day,” Levine says. “He was certainly an inspiration, and I do hope that, somewhere, he knows where my life has taken me.”

Levine maintains a lively online presence, with a blog, Twitter account, and professional portfolio. To sample her work, visit dianalevine.com.
the year was 1967 and Richard Ford was doing what he loved best: studying the vibrant cultures, social rhythms and political nuances of Africa. As visiting professor at the University of Natal, he’d traveled to South Africa with his wife Nancy to continue his research when he received an unexpected letter in the mail. It was from Saul Cohen, the head of the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University, informing Ford that a teaching position was open and asking if he would be interested in applying.
ORD WAS HARDLY INTRIGUED.

In fact, he balled up the letter and tossed it into the wastebasket.

“I grew up in New York and I’d never even heard of Worcester, never mind Clark,” Ford says. “That night, Nancy and I were going to dinner with an American couple. He was a Yale Ph.D. in African history, but it turns out he grew up in Worcester. I said, ‘Worcester? I just got a letter from somebody in Worcester. Do you know anything about Clark University?’ So he told me all this good stuff about Clark. Later I went back, dug the letter out of the wastebasket, and wrote Saul Cohen a note that I would come to Worcester for an interview.”

Ford landed a history professorship at Clark in 1968. He brought with him his passion for international development, and here he found kindred spirits in geography professors Robert Kates and Leonard Berry, who co-authored a book with Ford titled “Making the Most from the Least” highlighting the plight of the world’s least developed countries. Over time an informal collaborative of professors from across the University’s disciplines were developing curricula, securing grants and conducting research that would result in practical approaches to longstanding social, environmental and economic problems that reached into some of the remotest corners of the globe.

Ford needed help to continue the mission, and was given the green light to hire a part-time professor, Barbara Thomas-Slayter, to help administer the burgeoning international development program.

Thomas-Slayter, whose expertise was centered on the dynamics of class, ethnicity and gender in Africa, particularly Kenya, discovered two distinct groups of students in the introductory development classes she taught. “There were students who were genuinely interested in finding out about worlds and cultures beyond their own, and there were international students who contributed so much of their own experience to the dialogue.” She remembers a student from Sarajevo who talked about not being able to go outside for fear of being shot. “When he spoke, you could hear a pin drop.”

Recalls Ford: “We were running probably the second or third largest graduate program at the University on Barbara’s salary, the salary of a secretary, and a budget of $12,000. We raised our own money for scholarships; I was writing proposals all night every night. And we loved it. The deans would fight us every time we went in for a budget increase, saying, ‘You’re not a department.’ We’d say, ‘Good, because we don’t want to be a department. We want to pull people together.’

The “little entity” couldn’t help but grow, and from its noble, humble origins blossomed into Clark’s International Development, Community and Environment (IDCE) department in 2000. The department is marking its 10th anniversary on March 30 and 31, with a program titled “Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers” that will include reflections on the first decade, and an all-day symposium with six panels addressing topics like global public health and urban sustainability.

Director William Fisher had a response similar to Ford’s when, as an anthropology professor at Harvard University, he was approached in 1999 about starting up a new department at Clark. The school was a mystery to him.

“I didn’t know anything about Clark except for one thing: its program on International Development and Social Change,” Fisher recounts. “When I asked my Harvard colleagues what they thought about Clark, the response was that it was this absolutely great place, a little secret gem with fabulous faculty. A lot of colleagues had direct connections; they were either sending their kids to school here or they were involved in research with Clark faculty.”

IDCE was “built on the shoulders” of the International Development and Social Change and Environmental Science and Policy programs.

The Geographic Information Science for Development and Environment program provided a direct link with the Geography Department, and the Community Development and Planning program evolved a couple of years later. The mission from the beginning has been to cultivate a “transdisciplinary” approach that prepares students to become “agents of social change — locally, nationally and internationally — in an increasingly interconnected world.”

IDCE students are immersed in studies of grassroots initiatives, social movements, government policy, market approaches, entrepreneurship, technological innovation, individual action and education. Armed with the intellectual tools to effect positive change, they then put those tools into action everywhere from the neighborhoods of Worcester to the villages of Sudan — a marriage of research and practice.

Those of us coming in to start IDCE were looking at the linking of these interdisciplinary programs that were going to look at questions of sustainability, development and social justice. We’d all been working in that field quite a while as individuals,” said Fisher, who had done much of his work in Nepal. “We all had alternative perspectives on grassroots-oriented, bottom-up development.”

In some ways, the events of Sept. 11, 2001, influenced the work IDCE does today, Fisher says.

“We knew 9/11 was going to change what we do. You start thinking about global terrorism, and the war on terrorism, and you have to go back to what generates anger, resentment, and dissatisfaction, what generates a sense of injustice that makes some people feel justified to strike out,” he says.
IDCE SNAPSHOTs

A small sampling of some of the work being done by the International Development, Community and Environment department:

NATIONAL CHILDREN’S STUDY
Clark is partnering with the University of Massachusetts Medical School to become one of 105 research centers across the country that will implement one of the most ambitious long-term studies ever conducted. The federally-funded National Children’s Study will follow 100,000 children nationwide over 21 years to determine how environmental and genetic factors impact children’s health and development in the U.S. “To develop community-based approaches to health assessment and health care, we need a revolution,” says Professor Tim Downs, who is working on the project with fellow Clark professors Rob Goble and Yelena Ogneva-Himmelberger.

AIDS2031
aids2031 aims to change the face of the AIDS pandemic by 2031, and Clark has helped lead that charge. Clark hosted and managed this international project with nine working groups worldwide that have engaged hundreds of leading experts who are stimulating new research, encouraging public debate and uncovering new evidence on HIV/AIDS. Clark also hosted the Social Drivers Working Group that examined key social, political and economic factors driving the pandemic. clarku.edu/aids2031

HAITI EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE
When an earthquake devastated Haiti on January 12, 2010, relief aid poured in from all over the world, but in many cases the assistance was temporary. IDCE professor Jude Fernando saw an opportunity to bring more permanent change to the embattled country. He forged a partnership with the University of Notre Dame d’Haiti to promote sustainable economic and agricultural practices that will benefit Haitians long after relief workers have departed. Led by Fernando and fellow professor Hamil Pearsall, a group of Clark students chose to forgo their Thanksgiving break to fly to Haiti and work with Notre Dame faculty and students on issues of food security and rural development. clarku.edu/haiti

THE GRANVILLE SCHOOL
It is doubtful that many, if any, of the Sudanese students passing through the doors of the Granville-Abbas Girls’ Secondary School know that their school is named for John Granville, IDSC/M.A. ’04, a USAID foreign service officer who in 2008 was gunned down in Khartoum while bringing radios to the population of South Sudan. (The other name on the school belongs to USAID worker Abdelrahman Abbas Raharna, who was killed alongside Granville.) But the contingent of IDCE alums who attended the school’s dedication ceremony in the village of Kurmuk last March remember well his commitment to essential human rights. The Granville-Abbas School perpetuates that commitment by giving Sudanese girls, who suffer from higher illiteracy rates than boys, a chance for a quality education. clarku.edu/granville

PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL
In the early 1980s, Richard Ford and Barbara Thomas-Slayter, in association with a large number of African colleagues, developed the Participatory Rural Appraisal to provide African villages with tools and strategies to improve their lives by doing everything from developing a sustainable local economy to resolving internal conflicts. PRA has become recognized internationally as an essential component of the “bottom-up” method of social change, where the people take ownership of their destinies, and has since been expanded to apply to urban settings. Ford has conducted workshops everywhere from Baghdad to Lewiston, Maine, where an influx of Sudanese refugees into that city inflamed tensions with local residents and elicited national headlines. Still practicing what he’s preached for over the last three decades, Ford in the past year has worked with Bhutanese refugees in Concord, N.H., and Worcester to help them acclimate to the United States. clarku.edu/bhutan

Fisher notes that IDCE faculty weren’t surprised by the level of resentment that had been fostered in other parts of the world. “For us, the frame wasn’t America and the rest of the world, the frame was about global capitalism of which American capitalist icons serve in a very visible way. The way it was cast in the U.S. was so provincial that in a way, it was frustrating for us. It made our work a little bit harder.” One offshoot, he says, is that the U.S. became a less attractive place for international students to pursue higher education (currently about 40 percent of IDCE students are international) and it became increasingly difficult for overseas students, especially men from Muslim countries, to obtain visas to come to the states. “It’s still a challenge,” Fisher says.

The merging of environmental science and international development to create a dynamic, multi-faceted approach to global problems attracted Timothy Downs to Clark. The assistant professor of Environmental Science and Policy was one of the department’s first hires, after he’d worked in Mexico to create healthier settings in rapidly urbanized/industrialized areas that were plagued by everything from severe pollution to lack of basic services. Getting at the root of those problems involved navigating the political, social, cultural and ecological realities in those cities, in addition to the scientific underpinnings. One of his major projects was working to find ways to improve the water supply to the most vulnerable populations in Mexico City.

“The [Environmental Science and Policy] program has always been about how to harness the science to inform choices, policies and practices,” Downs says. “It’s a signature of the department.”

Laurie Ross, assistant professor of Community Development and Planning coordinator of the CDP graduate program, came to Clark as a student in 1987, intent on studying psychology, until an introductory class in international relations “changed my world views in a lot of ways.” She worked for the ECOGEN (Ecology Community Organization and Gender) project, which conducted case studies on
gender and resource management and development in half a dozen countries, and while completing her master’s degree in international development she traveled to the Dominican Republic to create “gender maps” of farms that detailed the differences in how men and women were utilizing land.

But despite her involvement overseas, Ross developed an even more intense interest in her own backyard of Worcester. She began working with the Worcester Family Research Project, which got her into the city’s neighborhoods and shelters where she interviewed families as part of a study on homelessness.

Today, Ross uses participatory and collaborative approaches to tackle issues like employment, tobacco control and gang activity that affect the city’s youth. She’s recruiting Clark IDCE students to be researchers on youth homelessness and to gather information for the Promise Neighborhood initiative, a federal grant program that would create a strategic plan for the Main South area to enhance investment and improve outcomes in the community.

“I find Clark students, admirably, want to get involved,” Ross says. “It’s important for them to have humility, to be aware of who they are and where they come from when they sit at a table with residents. I try to work with students to learn to sit and listen to what people are saying and think about the filters through which they’re hearing it, because it generally brings you to a deeper level of understanding and effectiveness.”

Laura Sampath, IDSC/M.A. ’03, traces her interests to her experience as an IDCE student working in Morocco on a Fulbright grant, obtained with the assistance of Richard Ford. “My area of focus ended up being around conflict, including post-conflict humanitarian issues and principles of conflict negotiation, but with a true appreciation for research methodologies,” she says. Today, Sampath runs the Massachusetts Institute of Technology International Development Initiative, an effort to get more MIT students working on technical solutions to problems in developing countries.

Graduate student Tyrone Hall, IDSC ’11, has conducted field research in his native Jamaica, co-founding On the Ground News Reports, a social media news page that filled an information vacuum during civil unrest in the capital city of Kingston last May. He covered the AIDS 2010 Conference in Vienna as a youth journalist, writing extensively about the need for a human rights approach to HIV/AIDS. As a result of his work, Hall co-edits the website local-insight.org, which is dedicated to finding sustainable and innovative models to stopping the spread and impact of disease, particularly HIV/AIDS.

“My experience at IDCE has been defining, intellectually and professionally,” Hall says. “I’m particularly appreciative of my exposure to the delicate interplay between theory and practice, which my professors emphasize quite diligently.”

At this milestone anniversary, IDCE has much to celebrate. According to Fisher, IDCE’s student numbers have continued to climb. The department boasts 230 graduate students (there were 30 that first year) and about 120 undergrads, the majority of them involved in the International Development and Social Change program.

Students are well prepared for a rapidly globalizing job market, he notes. IDCE students are finding employment in non-profit agencies, non-governmental organizations, development agencies, USAID and the World Bank. Some international students return to their home countries to work for the government. Students in the environmental sciences are going to work for the Environmental Protection Agency and a host of companies, while international agencies and other employers are seeking graduates with knowledge of geographic imaging systems.

IDCE has continued to build upon the foundation laid by Ford, Thomas-Slayter and many other faculty who envisioned the extent of Clark’s reach across the globe, and the depth of it in the neighborhoods just beyond the gates.

“If you go to Africa and you say, ‘I’m from Clark University,’ people will know Clark University,” says Downs. “We seem to be at a point where we can take advantage of these opportunities to do the kind of work we’ve always been passionate about. I’m excited about what the next ten years will bring.”
Alice Higgins

The name Higgins crops up in several places around Clark, including on a plaque next to Carlson Hall, on the Higgins School of Humanities, and Higgins University Center. In all cases, they honor Alice Coonley Higgins (1909-2000), who with her husband Milton Higgins made a significant mark, not just on Clark, but on Worcester as well.

Growing up in Lake Forest, Ill., the then Miss Coonley inhabited a privileged world of servants, debutantes, and trips to Europe. She attended Milton Academy, Vassar and Barnard colleges. But when the Depression claimed the family fortune, she took a secretarial job at the Austen Riggs Foundation in Stockbridge, Mass., where she met future husband Milton Prince Higgins II of Worcester, heir to Worcester’s Norton Company. After impressing him with her ability to change a tire, the two fell in love, married and eventually settled on Worcester’s Salisbury Street.

Despite some initial misgivings, the new Mrs. Higgins embraced Worcester as her own, and busied herself during WWII with managing her household and raising a family. During the 1950s she accompanied Milton on business trips to Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. As the wife of one of Worcester’s leading industrialists she volunteered extensively in the community and became increasingly dedicated to Clark University, where, in addition to serving as trustee, she was instrumental in planning and fundraising for the Goddard Library, Kneller Athletic Center and Sackler Science Center. Literature devotee, speaker of three languages, active sportswoman, Higgins was loved for her optimism, humility, zeal to do good, and willingness to listen. Husband Milton said of her: “I tried to tame her over the years, but I failed.”

SOME NOTABLE FACTS ABOUT ALICE HIGGINS

// Presented at the Court of St. James in Buckingham Palace, London, 1929

// Helped establish a permanent volunteer service at Worcester Memorial Hospital

// In 1962 became the first woman elected to Clark’s Board of Trustees; as chair from 1967-74, she served as the first female chair of a board of trustees at an American research university

// Received a Doctor of Humane Letters from Clark University in 1974

// 1980 recipient of the Distinguished Friend of Education Award by District 1 of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (first woman to receive this award in her own right)

// In 1986 established an endowment for Clark’s Higgins School of Humanities

// In 1999 published “Our Magic Odyssey,” a chronicle of her world travels during the 1950s with husband Milton Higgins in his capacity as president and CEO of Worcester’s Norton Company
On February 1, a tremendous honor was realized and an exciting new era in Clark University Athletics came into focus. It is indeed a true privilege to be writing all Cougar fans as your new Director of Athletics and Recreation. After years in a variety of administrative roles both in and out of the collegiate setting, I come to Clark with high levels of energy, ambition and appreciation for what is in front of us: the challenge of elevating Clark Athletics into the top echelon of NEWMAC competition, and achieving regional success and national acclaim. These are just a few of the many goals we will tackle together.

The University has a long and proud history of academic excellence. Not surprisingly, this was one of the major factors to convince me that joining the Clark team was a unique opportunity that must be pursued with great vigor and determination — qualities our varsity teams will surely continue to exhibit. Now that this new era is upon us, I am thoroughly excited about the promise and challenge of the tasks that lie ahead.

High-level athletic success at the intercollegiate level is determined by a number of key elements. Perhaps the most vital piece is an institutional culture of excellence, an environment of achievement that encourages creativity, dedication, virtue and competition. Without question, Clark has this and many other advantages at its disposal from all corners of campus. Because of this institutional willingness to extend ourselves, I anticipate this new era of Cougar athletics to be filled with success.

Developing our road map toward achievement in the Athletic Department will take time and many hands, and you are a significant part of this effort. I invite you not only to support our Clark teams when they compete against our conference foes, but also feel free to share your hopes for the future and appreciation for the roads we’ve traveled over the years. Please stop by the Kneller Center or perhaps a sporting event and introduce yourself, as it would be a pleasure to meet as many Cougar supporters as possible. Your continued support and personal investment in all things Clark Athletics is a source of energy upon which we’ll depend. As your new Director of Athletics and Recreation, I welcome your voice as we work together to build a successful future for our programs, participants and fans alike. To that point, I look forward to working with the Clark University Athletic Board, led by Dr. Michael Butler, as we not only visualize our programmatic plans but also ensure that these ideas walk in step with the wider interests of the University.

While varsity athletics may be the most publicly visible prong of the Athletic Department, it is just as critical that we promote the importance of high quality recreational programming as well. The betterment of the entire Clark campus community is largely dependent on our physical well-being and ability to consistently connect in as many healthy social outlets as possible. As such, the recreational- and wellness-related offerings provided by our department will also be refined and promoted. New fitness center equipment is being purchased to immediately enhance our current array of recreational options. I encourage each of you, whatever your relationship to the campus, to embrace your own positive health or recreational activity.

I am sincerely honored to have been asked to join the Clark University family. We have a tremendous opportunity to dare one another to be great — to excel in all realms of campus life, in the classroom, in the community and in the theater of competition. I encourage each of you to engage in this new day and support us in our journey toward athletic excellence.

Thank you for your continued investment in Clark Athletics ... and Go Cougars!
Triple Threat

In case you missed them, three key moments

SOPHOMORE SENSATION // Second-year field hockey player Mel Melkonian [A] (Worcester, Mass.) surpassed all expectations this fall. After being named the 2009 NEWMAC Rookie of the Year, Melkonian was named second team All-America by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association and first-team All-NEWMAC. She set school records for goals (32) and points in a season (75) and was recognized as the nation’s leading scorer and statistical champion in points per game (4.17) and goals per game (1.78) — not only in Division III, but her totals were the best among all three divisions.

NATIONAL ACCLAIM // Every night sports fans tune to ESPN to watch their flagship program, SportsCenter. On two separate occasions, Clark fans had to do a double take. On Sept. 3, Will Van Noppen [B] (Providence, R.I.), who scored a goal from midfield to start the second half of a win over Colby-Sawyer, made the show’s Top Ten plays at No. 3. A little more than a month later, Van Noppen was back on the network’s nightly list, this time at No. 2. His second appearance came courtesy of a four-second rocket off his right foot to start the match against archrival Wheaton. That score tied the record for the fastest goal to start a game in NCAA history.

POOL PROWESS // Swimming and diving All-Americans Eileen Garcia [C] (New York, N.Y.) and Ryan Garr (Kingston, R.I.) have continued to add accolade after accolade to their resumes. Garcia swept all four diving events at the tenth annual Worcester City Championships to earn Female Diver of the Meet for the third straight year. Garr, meanwhile, set meet records in both the 100-yard and 200-yard backstrokes en route to his second consecutive Male Swimmer of the Meet award.

High Five

Faces you should know for the Spring 2011 season

SCOTT HOLLINGSWORTH, [A] Senior, Tilton, N.H., Baseball
A first-team all-conference performer in 2009, Hollingsworth is just 28 hits shy of breaking the school record for hits in a career (159). He has tied the school single-season record twice, plays a near flawless outfield and has started 96 of his 99 career games.

MEGHAN LENNON, [B] Junior, Charlton, Mass., Softball
One of the many two-sport athletes who play both field hockey and softball, Lennon also doubles up in softball — pitcher and outfield. She emerged at the plate last season, hitting .329 in 70 at-bats and striking out 15 batters in 29 innings.

PHIL WINSLOW, [C] Junior, Providence, R.I., Lacrosse
The team’s leader in assists last season (17), Winslow played a vital part in the program’s turnaround. With the departure of all-time leading scorer Shawn Roche, more scoring onus will be left on Winslow who spent the fall semester abroad in Australia.

NICOLE MEUSE, Sophomore, Hudson, Mass., Softball
It’s easy to see why people may have overlooked the freshman campaign she posted. Classmate Mel Melkonian won the league’s rookie of the year and, after all, Meuse is in the same rotation as ace Sarah Carter, one of the league’s premier hurlers. However, Meuse went 10-3 with a 1.78 ERA and five complete games in her first season in the collegiate circle. Another season like that and everyone will take notice.

PETER LEWIS, Senior, Gardiner, Maine, Baseball
“The King of Clutch” Lewis had several key hits last season as the Cougars won 16 games and he became a consistent force in the lineup. He hit .333 and belted three home runs as Clark set a school record with 27 roundtrippers. With him as a fixture at shortstop and at the plate, the Cougars will never be out of a game.
Published and Presented

Whether the topic was war, fame or the complexities of marriage and family, Clark faculty produced a number of noteworthy books within the past year. A sampling of some recent offerings:

1. **When Sons & Daughters Marry: How Marriage Changes Relationships with Adult Children** // By Deborah M. Merrill, Sociology Department Chair

   Merrill’s book examines how marriage alters relationships between parents and adult children and how that dynamic differs for sons and daughters. It also looks at whether the adage, “A daughter is a daughter all of her life, but a son is a son ’til he takes him a wife” describes the reality of marriage and intergenerational relationships today.

2. **Visual Power and Fame in René d’Anjou, Geoffrey Chaucer and the Black Prince** // By SunHee Kim Gertz, Associate Professor of English

   Reading semiotically against the backdrop of medieval mirrors of princes, Arthurian narratives, and chronicles, “Visual Power and Fame” examines how René d’Anjou (1409-1480), Geoffrey Chaucer’s “House of Fame” (ca. 1375-1380), and Edward the Black Prince (1330-1376) explore fame’s visual power. While very different in approach, all three individuals reject the classical suggestion that fame is bestowed and understand that, particularly in positions of leadership, it is necessary to communicate effectively with audiences in order to secure fame.

3. **Belonging and Genocide** // By Thomas Kühne, Strassler Professor of Holocaust History

   No one has ever posed a satisfactory explanation for the extreme inhumanity of the Holocaust. What enabled millions of Germans to perpetrate or condone the murder of the Jews? In this illuminating book, Kühne offers a provocative answer. In addition to the hatred of Jews or coercion that created a genocidal society, he contends, the desire for a united “people’s community” made Germans conform and join together in mass crime. He shows how the Nazis used such common human needs as community, belonging, and solidarity to forge a nation conducting the worst crime in history.

4. **Women and War** // By Kristen P. Williams, Associate Professor of Political Science, and Joyce P. Kaufman

   Drawing on both traditional and feminist international relations theory, the book explores the roles that women play before, during and after a conflict, how they spur and respond to nationalist and social movements, and how conceptions of gender are deeply intertwined with ideas about citizenship and the state. The authors show that women do more than respond to conflict situations; they are active agents in their own right shaping political and historical processes.

5. **Key Concepts in Economic Geography** // By Professors Yuko Aoyama, James T. Murphy and Susan Hanson

   This new textbook is organized around 20 short essays, providing an introduction to the central concepts that define contemporary research in economic geography. It presents the key concepts in the discipline, demonstrating their historical roots and contemporary applications to fully understand the processes of economic change, regional growth and decline, globalization, and the changing locations of firms and industries.
AVIS BAIRD was able to clear some time for an interview with this magazine at the end of the fall semester, but it wasn’t easy. Clark’s new provost and vice president for academic affairs was in the midst of composing the narrative for the University’s five-year Academic and Financial Plan. Beyond that, he’d been immersing himself in all things Clark — meeting with chairpersons, faculty and students in each academic department to better understand the University’s academic underpinnings and also to cultivate ideas for shaping future offerings.

“I was thrown into the deep end of the pool,” he said with a laugh. “But I’m not drowning. It’s been good for me.”

Working with the departments to assess strengths and weaknesses, challenges and goals “has been extraordinarily helpful,” he said. “The primary reason is to get to know the players and create the foundation for a working relationship.”

The meetings across campus have also assisted him in writing the narrative for the Academic and Financial Plan.

“The plan will not say that Clark is taking a sharp left turn or a sharp right turn. But it will be specific about goals the University wants to achieve in the next five years.”

The plan affirms Clark’s core identity as a small urban liberal arts-based research university. In support of this the plan aims to establish Clark as a leader in four areas: Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP); graduate programs, and in particular multidisciplinary master’s programs; research, particularly research that will help solve critical problems facing the world today, and partnerships that engage the local community and communities beyond Worcester and beyond the United States.

Baird was aware of Clark’s strength in all these areas when he was interviewing for the position of provost, but he was especially struck by the “quality and intensity of the research,” particularly in comparison to other liberal arts institutions.

“I believe serious research should be an integral part of an undergraduate liberal arts education for a whole number of reasons,” he said. “If you only think of education as telling students what we know and how we came to know it, which is a typical liberal arts approach across many disciplines, we shortchange them, because they ultimately go out into the world of what we don’t know and their job is to deal with uncertainty. That’s what research is about — moving ahead in the face of uncertainty.”

The LEEP initiative, which melds academic knowledge with development of the intellectual and practical skills needed in worlds beyond the classroom and the university, also excites him. While running the Honors College at the University of South Carolina, he’d adopted several ideas into the academic program that are similar to those in LEEP. “I had clear resonance with what Clark was doing when I came. We’ve taken some baby steps in this direction, and there are giant leaps we really need to push ahead with. That’s a big part of the strategic planning process.”

Baird grew up in Lexington, Mass., and earned his undergraduate degree in math and philosophy at Brandeis University in 1976, but his return to his home state took a 33-year detour to points west, then south. He earned his master’s in philosophy of science and doctorate in philosophy at Stanford University, and then taught for a year at the University of Arizona, before accepting a post at the University of South Carolina.

At South Carolina, Baird chaired the Philosophy Department for 13 years and was dean of the Honors College for five years. His research interest is the philosophy of science and technology. In the area of nanotechnology, as principal investigator, he received more than $3 million in funding from the National Science Foundation and the Carnegie Foundation. Baird is co-founder and president-elect of the Society for the Study of Nanoscience and Emerging Technologies. He is the author and editor of numerous articles and books, including “Thing Knowledge: A Philosophy of Scientific Instruments” and “Nanotechnology Challenges: Implications for Philosophy, Ethics and Society.”

He was recently named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Baird is married to Deanna Leamon, a professional artist and former tenured professor at the University of South Carolina who has a studio in Worcester. Their son, Ian, is a recent graduate in physics from the University of South Carolina.

Work continues on the Academic and Financial Plan, which is expected to be brought forward to the board of trustees in May.

“By the end of the semester we’ll have a bold, ambitious plan that will significantly accelerate Clark,” Baird said.
LETTER TO ALUMNI:

I came to Clark (10 years ago this past fall) because I wanted a college experience that was extraordinary. I didn’t want to be shepherded into a conventional relationship with my school, professors and friends. I wanted something more — to be challenged, to experience new things in a new way, and to leave a different person than when I started.

Clark changed all of us. For some, change came from a coach or team; for others, it was in a lab or classroom; and others found it on stage, or in the field doing research. But we all at some point found a special piece of Clark that, at least in some small way, transformed how we looked at the world.

One of Clark’s most striking aspects is that the school has, since its founding, consistently set itself apart from other universities. Howard Jefferson, our third president, referred to Clark’s “unique purpose,” while we call it “challenging convention” these days. Whatever the description, the truth is that Clark has always possessed a special quality.

But it’s not just about “being different.” As President David Angel stated in his inaugural address, Clark’s future is tied to its ability to be a pioneer — to define and be a leader in what a liberal arts, research education means in the 21st century. As an alumnus, I’m proud that my alma mater is surging toward the forefront of post-secondary education, and thrilled with the idea of Clark pushing pedagogical boundaries.

The fact that Clark is not resting on its laurels, but is confronting liberal arts education changes on a fundamental level and setting a standard for redefining what the possibilities of that education can be, should be a point of pride for all of us.

That transformation can’t and won’t happen without the active involvement of those of us who have already graduated. As Clark alumni, we have a unique opportunity to remain close partners and participants with our school — something few of our friends from other institutions can say.

As I wrote in the last issue, I believe better communication between the school and the alumni is paramount for better relations. The new Clark Connect online community (clarkconnect.clarku.edu), will play a huge role going forward. I encourage everyone to sign up and test out the site over the next several months.

I also truly hope that you will join me in giving to Clark this year. On every visit I make to campus, I see how our financial support as alumni gives Clark strength and flexibility, and dramatically impacts the experience for those students on campus today. Our gifts, of every amount, are an investment in the future of Clark and the next generation of world-changers.

And there is no better time to give. The Chairman’s Challenge is back, allowing your gift and its impact to be doubled if you give right now (you can find the details on page 5). It’s also a perfect opportunity to ensure your class has a better giving percentage rate than the classes above and below it!

I offer a reminder that reunion planning is ongoing for those who graduated in years ending in “1” or “6.” If you would like to get involved, contact the Alumni Affairs Office, or sign up at clarku.edu/alumni.

Best regards,

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

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

Clark graduates go on to impressive careers in a wide range of fields, and when they return to campus to talk to students they often credit their Clark education for helping lay the foundation for their professional success. That’s certainly true of the many alums who have pursued careers in business and finance, some of them who recently made the trip back to Worcester to share their experiences.

**BRIAN CORNELL ’80** returned in the fall as part of the annual Alumni in Residence (AIR) program to speak to business students about his time at Clark and his success as senior managing director of Mesirow Advanced Strategies, Inc. in Chicago.

“I love the whole atmosphere of creative thinking that you find with students,” he says. “They’re all champing at the bit, and have a gleam in their eye that they can solve the world’s problems in a nanosecond. I like to give them a cold dose of reality while also helping them prepare so they don’t get discouraged. They need to keep their eye on a long-term goal and cherish incremental progress.”

Cornell began college at Texas A&M before transferring to Clark. Early in his professional career he was working as a stockbroker, an activity he found as compelling as “selling shoes,” when he stumbled on a marketing pamphlet about Treasury bill futures versus Eurodollar futures. He did some research, and from that he developed his own trading model. “I built a business through a piece of junk mail that spurred an idea,” he says. “In the investment world if you’re constrained in your thinking you’ll be a one-trick pony and fail pretty readily,” he says. “I don’t think if I’d graduated from Texas A&M I would have given that pamphlet a second thought. That kind of intellectual curiosity, the ability to look at things from a wide variety of angles, was something that was cultivated at Clark.”

*View a video interview with Brian Cornell ’80 at clarku.edu/briancornell.*

**GAIL GORDON ’77** hadn’t returned to the Clark campus since she graduated, but when asked to speak with students through the AIR program, she seized the opportunity. Her interest was also spurred by the selection of David Angel as Clark’s ninth president; Gordon appreciated the way the board of trustees sought input from the University’s stakeholders during the process. “It struck me — I want to meet the president,” she says, adding with a laugh, “I came for dinner.”

She studied economic geography at Clark and after graduation took a job on a municipal bond desk at a Wall Street investment bank. “I had to pay the rent and I knew the job had something to do with cities, so I took it knowing I would figure it out. It’s a very Clark thing to do.”

She earned her M.B.A. at UMass-Amherst (after her Clark undergrad adviser had called to say it was time she seriously consider grad school). Gordon returned to her old company and built up its futures business, then in 2000 went to work as vice president of investments for Loew’s Corp., where she develops and implements strategies for asset/liability matched bond portfolios, pensions and equity trading. Recently she’s been overseeing the hedge strategy surrounding the company’s natural gas assets.

Gordon notes that she graduated from Clark in a poor economy, and advised students to insert themselves into the work flow, even if it means accepting a less than ideal job.

“My grandmother always said, ‘You go. You meet.’ In other words you’ve got to get yourself out there and then make the decisions about what you like and don’t like. The key is to edit as you go along. You can’t sit back and wait for the perfect job, because it doesn’t exist.”

Gordon says it’s only recently that she truly appreciated the value of her Clark education and would relish the opportunity to re-enroll and study community development, as befits a former economic geography major.

**MARK FISHMAN ’82** told one of his favorite Clark stories: the one about history professors George Billias and Douglas Little making him rewrite a paper six or seven times, dismissing each new version with blunt criticism. Finally, he turned in an acceptable version, one he believed was in line to receive an A. When he got it back with a B, he
complained to Billias, “But I worked all semester on this thing.” To which his professor replied, “So did I.”

“In the bigger picture I walked out of there with more than a B,” Fishman says today. “Clark teaches you to be hungry, to work harder, to ask questions. It’s all about how good you want to be.”

Fishman, partner and head of fixed income at Diamondback Capital, and a Clark trustee, says Clarkies have a “bit of a chip on their shoulder. It’s a darned good school, and you know you can compete with anybody, but you also feel you have to prove it to people.”

Fishman learned that early, while doing computer trouble-shooting at a money management firm in Boston when he was still in college. There, he encountered plenty of old-money types from Ivy League schools (“the entitlement crowd,” he remembers), and observed them at work, started studying the markets, and he found his niche. “For me it was intuitive; this made sense,” he recalls. “Of course, I would make suggestions, and it was like, ‘Who are you?’”

Whether it’s in the financial field, social work, or the arts, Clarkies are wired to achieve, he says. “It’s not about who made money, but who did great things. You can’t confuse wealth and success — the reward is excellence, at whatever you’re doing.

“If you’re really lucky at Clark, you’ll walk away getting to have somebody like a George Billias or [Dean of the College] Walter Wright, who you later admire more than when you left. They changed my life, and I’ll always owe them.”

When she applied to the master’s in business administration program at Clark, MARGOT NONES, M.B.A. ’83, had never even filed a tax return. Nones was a newly graduated art history major from Connecticut College, and, unsure of her next step, decided to enter into an academic area that was foreign to her.

To this day when she speaks to Clark students, Nones credits the University for taking a chance on a novice who has gone on to forge a career in the financial world.

“I don’t hem and haw. I take chances and learn along the way. That’s been my modus operandi since Clark,” she says.

Nones was a fish out of water when she arrived, a 21-year-old attending MBA classes with older students and getting adjusted to a city where she knew no one. She met finance professor Maury Tamarkin, who “really defined my experience at Clark. He was teaching things that made perfect sense to me; for the first time in my business school experience I was excelling at something and it came easy.”

After graduation she was hired as an assistant performance analyst with Sanford C. Bernstein and Co. and two weeks later, after her boss quit, she was named the company’s performance analyst. Over time, she became the head of investment operations overseeing client services, pension administration, client reporting, billing and partnering with the IT department to build out global reporting capabilities. She later worked at UBS as head of operations for the Americas, traveling nonstop to London, Switzerland, Chicago and Toronto.

While at UBS, Nones was contacted by a former Bernstein colleague who was looking to start a new company. Despite the risk of giving up a secure position, the idea of building something from scratch appealed to her, and she made the move to start up Evercore Asset Management, LLC, an institutional asset manager, as one of the founding partners.

There were clear risks in shifting from a company with an advanced infrastructure to one that had to be pieced together. “I don’t regret any of it,” Nones says. “One of the things I took away from my Clark experience was that you should never be afraid to be out of your element. It’s been a great continuing education, which is the way life should be anyway.”

Following his graduation from Clark, he started a blog called blogaboutbeer.com, then launched a website. “I thought I knew something about beer, and thought I knew something about blogging, but quickly learned I didn’t know as much about either as I thought I did,” he says. “Through the website I really learned a lot about beer and the beer industry.”

The Maine native sold newspaper advertising and worked in college admissions before deciding in 2009 “to work on my dream of opening a brewery.”

Dream fulfilled.

In December 2010, Livingston opened Baxter Brewery in a 19th century Lewiston, Maine, textile mill that he rehabbed. “The tents for the Grand Army of the Potomac in the Civil War were made in our mill,” Livingston explains. “It’s a really neat, very ornate, kind of gothic collection of mill buildings. It’s got a lot of great built-in marketability.”

The Bates Mill complex was abandoned in the 1960s when the jobs dried up. “It looked like, literally, the whistle blew at the end of the last work day and people just left, and didn’t touch it again,” Livingston says. While reviving a 150-year-old building added stress to the process of opening the brewery, he insists the effort and investment were worth it. “It feels great to rehab a part of Lewiston that needs to be rehabbed, rather than just building another structure somewhere,” the Clarkie says.

Livingston’s interest in beer began at Clark when he turned 21 in his junior year.

“For my birthday my brother, who is a few years older than I am and who had been home-brewing for a while, got me my first home-brew kit,” he says. “I took it back to school with me after first semester midterm break, and brewed a couple of batches in my dorm room.”

Of course, creating alcohol of any kind in a dorm room isn’t a sanctioned activity at any university. So when Livingston returned from winter break in January, he found the brewing equipment he’d left in his room was no longer there. He did find a note on his door, though, telling him that he could have the apparatus back at the end of the year.

“I’m told there is now a caveat in the Clark student handbook that says you cannot brew beer in your dorm room,” he says. “My plan is to get a copy of that page of the handbook, blow it up, frame it and hang it on my office wall.”

Once he brewed his own beer, Livingston was hooked. “You discover the ins and outs of making beer, and what it takes to create a flavorful, full-bodied, American ale. Once you do that, there’s no going back,” he says. Livingston eschews bottles and instead uses eco-friendly cans made of recycled aluminum for his brews. (Hence the company motto: “We do what we can. We can what we do.”)

“Craft beer” is the new, more accepted term for microbrews. The term “elicits that sort of artisanal feel to beer; that it is the brewer actually cooking up a batch rather than Anheuser Busch, who does it all by computers now,” Livingston says. “It’s hand-crafted, it’s hand-made — it’s a lot like cooking a fine meal.”

So if he was brewing beer in his room, there was obviously a beer culture at Clark. Right?

“It’s a college — you’re hard-pressed to find any college, other than the military, that doesn’t have some kind of beer culture,” he laughs. “But it wasn’t the crazy kind of ‘Animal House’ party scene that you would find maybe at fraternities or larger universities, certainly.”

Craft beer, he said, “goes hand-in-hand with Clarkies, with what people at Clark identify with: a little bit off-centered, a little bit cooler, hipper.”

Livingston double-majored in communications and culture and screen studies. Clark, he says, taught him about “being on the forefront of ideas and standing up for myself, speaking for myself, presenting my own ideas, and leading. I know that as a person, I wouldn’t be anywhere near where I am today without Clark.”

Livingston says the risks involved with starting a business in a down economy never crossed his mind. “Maybe call it blind optimism, but literally the thought [of failure] never occurred to me.”

He notes that even in a poor economy beer consumption remains steady.

“Not only that,” he says, “if you look at beer sales over the last couple of years, the brands that are flat or down are Anheuser Busch, Miller Lite, Coors Lite — they haven’t grown at all. But the sale of craft beer is still growing phenomenally, 10, 12, 13 percent. Even though the economy itself is down, my industry is way up.”

Baxter Brewing Co. is online at baxterbrewing.com.
Clarkies share philanthropic paths and missions

You never know when you’ll meet another Clarkie. Marc Jacobs, M.A. ’73 and Jerry Rubin ’79 discovered their Clark connection on a double date to a folk music concert with their wives, Joanne (Wachsman) Jacobs ’71 and Carol Steinberg ’76. Jacobs and Sy Friedland, Ph.D. ’69 learned they were both Clark alums when their career paths intersected 20 years ago.

Today the three men share more than a Clark bond. They run three of the four leading social service agencies affiliated with the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston that serve communities of all faiths.

“Each of us shares a deep commitment to trying to right wrongs,” says Jacobs, who is CEO of Jewish Family Service (jfsmw.org), which helps strengthen lives and build community throughout Metrowest and Greater Boston by running programs for children, teens, families and seniors, from adoption of babies to geriatric care management for elders. “So much of what all of us do involves helping people who have not been on the right side of the American dream, whether it’s refugees from the former Soviet Union, immigrants from Africa or victims of the current recession.”

All three agree that their Clark connection is no coincidence. “There was a real value alignment between our work and Clark. Maybe we didn’t understand it at the time, but in retrospect Clark was definitely the right place for the values that carried us to where our careers are now,” says Jacobs.

Friedland, CEO of Jewish Family & Children’s Service (jfcsboston.org), describes Clark’s Ph.D. program as intimate and, unlike traditional clinical programs, community-minded. “That sense of community and direct contact with people is something that has had an impact on my entire career,” he says. Under his stewardship, the organization is continuing its 150-year tradition of offering “cradle to grave” services to the community — everything from adoption to mental health aid, food banks to disability assistance and elder care.

Jacobs traces his commitment to social service to his Clark graduate research in history and social change. “I call myself a 19th century social worker because I was researching the losers of the Industrial Revolution — mill workers, women in reformatory prisons — and their children,” he says. “That was where my work was and where the Jewish Family agencies movement really started, at the turn of the 20th century.” He went on to teach at-risk adolescents, direct group homes for runaway/homeless teens, and do child welfare training and consultation before joining Jewish Family Service.

Rubin, whose daughter (Julia Rubin ’12) and sister (Annette Rubin ’74) are also Clarkies, made the transition to CEO of Jewish Vocational Service (jvs-boston.org) four years ago because he felt it was the best employment and training agency in the Boston area. “The things I studied and cared about at Clark, which focused on improving life and opportunities in urban areas, are what I’ve done my whole career,” he says. “That innate passion for social justice is definitely what drew me to Clark and Jewish Vocational Service.” His organization provides employment and career-building services, particularly for underprivileged urban community members. “Clark is the model I look to — and frankly everyone should look to — for community partnerships. Look at what they have done with the University Park Partnership. The idea that a university would actually create a partnership with the community and not have a paternalistic view is groundbreaking.”

The CEOs say they face special challenges trying to find the balance between the “business model” and the “human model.” All agree they err on the side of charity over economics. There are times, Jacobs recalls, when he and his board have said, “That’s a stupid business decision. There’s no return on investment.” But my board wants to move forward anyway. It’s part of the leadership values of the organization.’

According to Jacobs, Rubin and Friedland, there is room for Clarkies on the boards of all three organizations. “Clark alumni looking to be in community leadership roles should be looking at our agencies,” says Jacobs. “I think that their value alignment is in sync with the work we are doing. We are always looking for new talent to be part of our leadership.”

Contact Marc Jacobs at mjacobs@jfsmw.org; Jerry Rubin at jrubin@jvs-Boston.org; and Sy Friedland at friedland@jfcsboston.org.
1951

CHRISTOPHER COLLIER, emeritus professor of history at the University of Connecticut, published his most recent work, “Connecticut’s Public Schools: A History, 1650-2000,” in 2009. He received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at the Clark commencement in May 2008, in acknowledgement of a career-long commitment to bringing serious history to the public. His published works include “Roger Sherman’s Connecticut” (1971; Pulitzer Prize nominee) and “All Politics is Local: Family, Friends and Provincial Interests in the Creation of the Constitution” (2003). He also collaborated with his brother James on a popular account of the creation of the U.S. Constitution, “Decision in Philadelphia” (1984). The brothers are best known for eight young adult historical novels used widely in the nation’s middle schools, particularly “My Brother Sam Is Dead” (1974). In addition to writing and teaching, Collier spent 20 years as the official Connecticut state historian. He lives in Orange, Conn., with his wife, Bonnie.

1958

BILL KENNEDY and his wife Charlotte celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a train trip to the Canadian Rockies (Jasper and Banff national parks in Alberta) via Canadian Rail from Montreal. They toured eastern Alaska by ship, bus and foot. Their return trip to Vermont included stop-over visits with their niece and her family near Seattle, and Bill’s sister and her husband. The trip was great, Bill writes. “We’ll make it a tradition every 50 years from now on.”

1963

DR. BOB PELLEGRINI has published “Identities for Life and Death: Can We Save Us from Our Toxically Storied Selves?” which can be previewed at the authorhouse.com bookstore. A video preview can also be found at youtube.com. Dr. Pellegrini, professor emeritus of psychology at San Jose State University, has received outstanding professor-of-the-year awards from regional and national professional associations as well as from San Jose State, and is a past president of the Western Psychological Association. After four major surgeries, he qualified for the national championships as a second place master’s division finalist in the San Francisco Bodybuilding championship contest in October 2010. He can be contacted at robert.pellegrini@sjsu.edu. His website is sjsu.edu/people/robert.pellegrini.

1970


1975

KENNETH (KIT) HERRING’s novel, “Descending the Cairo Side,” was published in October 2010 and is available on Amazon.com as an e-Book. The novel recounts the adventures of Danny White who, seeking to escape the complacent worlds of North American and Western Europe, joins the backpacker culture and travels to North Africa. Kit’s blog can be found at thebackpackershandbook.com.

1976

FAITH LINKSY and JANE MINER were roommates during their Clark undergraduate days, and returned to campus last year to represent their current educational institutions as delegates at the
in inauguration of President David Angel. Faith was a
delegate for Antioch University of Keene, N.H.; Jane
was a delegate from the University of Rhode Island.

DR. STEVE GREENBAUM, professor of physics at
Hunter College and executive officer of the Ph.D.
program in physics at the City University of New
York Graduate Center, has been elected a fellow
of the American Physical Society. Election to APS
Fellowship is limited to no more than one half of
one percent of the membership. His fellowship
citation reads: “For pioneering advances in NMR
spectroscopy applied to transport measurements
leading to improved molecular level understand-
ing of function and failure mechanisms in lithium
ion batteries and fuel cells and innovative and
sustained enhancement of participation in physics
by underrepresented groups.”

1979
KAREN TOPAKIAN was recently appointed board
chair of Greenpeace Inc., one of the largest and
most influential environmental organizations in the
country. Karen, a theater/sociology major, traces
her lifetime of activism to her academic mentors,
professors Robert J. S. Ross and Sydney M. Peck,
who provided a context and a framework for
understanding the critical value and importance
of social change movements. She started her
career at Greenpeace in San Francisco in 1987,
when she joined the newly created Nuclear Free
Seas campaign. Prior to working at Greenpeace,
Karen worked as a community organizer at
P.A.C.E. in Providence, R.I., managed a food co-op
in Wakefield, R.I., and directed the University of
Rhode Island’s Women’s Center. She served for
16 years as the executive director of the Agape
She is the founder of Topakian Communications, a
freelance writing and communications consulting
business. Greenpeace plays a large role in Karen’s
personal life as well since it was there that she
met her partner of 22-plus years, Peg Stevenson.

1981
CHRISTOPHER R. ADAMS was elected vice chair-
man of the Compressed Gas Association. This is
a two-year term, followed by two years as chair-
man. The CGA promotes the safe manufacture,
transportation, storage, transfiling and disposal of
industrial and medical gases and their containers.
Since 1981, Chris has been employed by FIBA
Technologies Inc., a Millbury, Mass., manufac-
turer of gas-containment equipment.

MADELINE BAIO joined the law firm of Nicholson
and Associates. She previously was a partner
with the Philadelphia firm, Rawle & Henderson,
LLP where she was the chair of the employment
law department and the leader of the pharma-
ceutical practice. Nicolson and Associates is a
woman-owned and operated law firm representing
manufacturers, retailers, schools and businesses
in product liability, retail liability, employment law,
school law and insurance recovery matters. Baio
received her law degree from Suffolk University
Law School. She is a member of the Pennsylvania,
Massachusetts and New Jersey bars.

1984
TODD DEMEL joined MF Healthcare Solutions,
a South Florida-based physician practice man-
gement company, as the senior executive of
physician management services. Todd has nearly
twenty years of experience in healthcare opera-
tions, practice management, and marketing. Prior
to joining MF Healthcare, Todd held positions at
Sheridan Healthcare Inc., Alpha Thought Global
Inc., and Humana Inc. He serves on the board of
directors of the South Florida Healthcare Executive
Forum Inc., the South Florida chapter of the
American College of Healthcare Executives.

1987
IBIPO JOHNSTON-ANUMONWO, Ph.D., a
professor in the Geography Department at SUNY
Cortland for nearly 22 years, was honored with the
Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship
and Creative Activities. She is particularly well
known for her research on gender and ethnic

HELPING ENTREPRENEURS STEP UP

Sergey Kazakov, M.A. ’08 knows that as tradi-
tional jobs dwindle in a struggling economy, it
helps to be nimble and adaptable. The answer,
he suggests, lies in entrepreneurship. To that end he
became co-founder of Step-Up Venture University in
Westwood, Mass., a not-for-profit organization that
provides people from all walks of life the knowledge
and hands-on experience in entrepreneurial basics.
According to Kazakov, Step-Up, through a variety of courses taught by
successful entrepreneurs and then by employing a network of mentors,
vendors and investors, helps students find jobs, start businesses, and
better market themselves. Clients — ranging from high school students
to seasoned professionals — have launched businesses in a wide variety
of areas, from rare book sales to online community
development to opening an indoor golf facility. Step-
Up also works with inmates in a Mass. Department
of Corrections pre-release center to develop their
entrepreneurial skills, and produces its own digital
magazine, World of Creative Destruction. Kazakov, a
native of Russia who is currently pursuing a doctorate
at Clark, is also using his work with Step-Up as the fo-
cus of his dissertation on entrepreneurship. Joining him at Step-Up is Olga
Dorofyeyeva ’08, M.B.A. ’09, the company’s communications manager.
Dorofyeyeva oversees the website, public relations efforts and commu-
nity outreach, as the company has built up a healthy public profile, earning
coverage in Boston media. For more information, visit stepupvu.org.
disparities in commuting patterns observed in urbanized communities across the United States. She is married to Justus and resides in Cortland, N.Y., with her two children, Obi and Kachi.

1988

AARON ALTMAN and his wife Staci are pleased to announce the birth of their third child, Benjamin, who joins older brother Noah (8) and sister Sarah (5). Aaron and his family live in Manhattan, where he is a partner at Altman Schochet LLP, a law firm dedicated to litigation and real estate transactions.

1991

JO ANNE SHATKIN, M.A. ’91, PH.D. ’94, a research fellow of Clark’s George Perkins Marsh Institute, has been named CEO of CLF Ventures, the nonprofit consulting affiliate of the Conservation Law Foundation. She has been managing director of CLF Ventures since August 2007. Jo Anne is author of “Nanotechnology Health and Environmental Risks” (2008).

1994

MARIANNE FISHBONE HIRSHMANN and her husband Lenard are thrilled to announce the birth of their son, Harrison Blake, on Dec. 16, 2009. Harrison was 6 lbs., 13.5 oz., and 20 inches long. He joins his big brother Ryan, who is 6.

1995

MARLA BRODSKY married Mark Kamler on April 24, 2010. Marla writes: “We had an all-candy themed wedding! It was a whole weekend actually, called M&M’s Sweet Escape! So of course, I had to have one of my favorite candies on hand, The Clark Bar.” Pictured, from left: Todd Rosenzweig ’91, Marc Brodsky ’92, Paul Fishman ’91, Marla Brodsky Kamler ’95, Marc Kamler (the groom), Stephen Brodsky ’60, and Daniel Jacobs ’97.

1996

JONI (BERNSTEIN) COMBS, Lakeville, Mass., and her husband Charles announce the birth of their twins, daughter Addison Haley at 9:48 a.m., and son Luke Steven at 9:49 a.m. on March 1, 2008. Addison weighed 4 lbs., 6 oz., and Luke was 3 lbs., 10 oz.

PASSINGS

John Davies
Professor Emeritus of physics
Shrewsbury, Mass., 7/12/2010

Peter E. Sloane
Professor Emeritus of economics
Falmouth, Mass., 11/28/2010

Barbara B. Barnett ’36
Middlebury, Vt., 10/8/2010

George E. Deering Jr. M.D. ’39

M. Katherine Kennedy ’40
Jamestown, R.I., 9/4/2010

John J. O’Connor ’40
Bridgewater, Mass., 8/23/2010

Richard P. Deitzer ’42
Syracuse, N.Y., 9/26/2010

Charles N. Brickley ’46
Putney, Vt., 9/25/2010

Jane D. Lough ’46
Brewster, Mass., 1/23/2010

E. Jean Dennehy ’48
Cypress, Calif., 9/14/2010

Edwin S. Costrell, Ph.D. ’49
Gathersburg, Md., 12/8/2010

Joan Mary Shiminski Macchi ’51
Bangor, Maine, 8/23/2010

George C. MacGillivray ’51
Frederick, Md., 12/3/2010

Philip E. “Flip” Charron Jr. ’52
Leicester, Mass., 11/16/2010

Howard M. Sachs ’52
Fairfield, Conn., 9/16/2010

Alexander J. Saitas ’52
Taunton, Mass., 5/8/2010

Arthur J. Smith ’52
Worcester, Mass., 12/13/2010

L. Daniel Dargie ’56
Franklin, N.H., 12/25/2010

Arnold Raphaelson ’56
Dresher, Penn., 7/22/2010

John N. Katori ’57
Venice, Fla., 12/22/2010

Leonard F. Sears ’57
Barre, Mass., 11/15/2010

Aldona P. (Lukshis) Daly-Boxshus ’59
Barre, Mass., 11/2/2010

John H. Begley ’60
Dennis, Mass., 10/5/2010

Ralph Croteau ’61
Millbury, Mass., 9/9/2010

Kenneth Hagberg ’61
Princeton, Mass., 12/13/2010

Judith Ann Holland ’62
Tacoma, Wash., 8/22/2010

Claire (Guerin) McGee ’68
Worcester, Mass., 11/16/2010

Edward Lappen ’71
Cohasset, Mass., 12/31/2010

Roger Rutledge McGrath Jr. ’77
Charlotte, N.C., 12/5/2010

Karen E. Amalar ’89
Mansfield, Mass., 9/17/2010

Catherine Gill ’94

Christa L. Loggie ’04
LESLIE MARGOLIS has published “Girl’s Best Friend,” the first book in the new Maggie Brooklyn Series. More information on the book can be found at maggiebrooklyn.com. Leslie’s previous novels include “Fix,” “Price of Admission,” “Girls Acting Catty” and “Boys are Dogs.”

ELIZABETH M. GEMSKI has joined the Government Affairs Group of Murtha Cullina LLP as a government affairs consultant. Her recent experience includes working for the American Cancer Society offices in Warwick, R.I., and Boston, where she held positions as state vice president of health and advocacy initiatives, state director of government relations and advocacy, and state coordinator of grassroots advocacy. She also served as finance director for the Campaign to Elect Matt Brown Secretary of State (Pawtucket, R.I.) and finance assistant for Jack Reed for U.S. Senate (Cranston, R.I.). After graduation from Clark, she interned at the office of Greville Janner, Queen’s Court, Member of Parliament in London, England.

1998

BENJAMIN BRADY ROBERTS was recently promoted to senior account manager at e3communications in 2005 from Stern Advertising in Cleveland. Benjamin also serves on the boards of directors for the Learning Disabilities Association of Western New York and Suneel’s Light Foundation.

1999

MATTHEW TURNER married Emily Grant on Oct. 10, 2010. Matthew is an intelligence officer at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Quantico, Va., where his wife is a civil affairs officer. The couple met when they were both stationed in Fallujah, Iraq, in 2006 – even though they grew up a half-block away from each other in Brooklyn, N.Y., and their parents were friends.

2000

BRENNI NIELSON CHILD ’00 and JEREMY CHILD ’02 are pleased to announce the birth of Parker Benjamin Child on Sept. 30, 2010, in Landstuhl, Germany. Mom and Parker, who was 8 lbs., 2 oz., and 21.5 inches long, are doing well. Mom, Dad and “the Boy” stayed at the hospital two nights after Parker’s arrival, and were happy to be home with all grandparents and Parker’s godfather, Derek.

2003

NATALIA KAROWAY-WATERHOUSE is living in Florida and running a raw and living foods personal chef and education business. Besides prepping food for clients, she writes for a number of different online magazines and shares video demos of her unique recipes. She recently published her first cookbook, “Pure Pleasures,” which she wrote and photographed, and which was designed by her husband, Adam Mills ’01. Offering 75 fresh recipes, full-color photos and essential lifestyle tips, this book focuses on the joy of preparing and eating raw, organic foods. “Pure Pleasures” is available at Natalia’s website glowingtemple.com and at Amazon.com.

2005

NICHOLE (WILLY) PERSING and ELI PERSING, both Class of ’05, were married in Lincoln, Mass., on July 25, 2009. They currently reside in Baltimore with their two dogs. Nichole works on the faculty of the Johns Hopkins School of
2003
‘PURE PLEASURES’ FROM NATALIA // P. 53

2007
DANIELLE PETRONI recently completed her two-year commitment to the Peace Corps in Swaziland, Africa, where she worked on AIDS education and taught in the local high school. She is now pursuing a master’s degree in social work with a focus on international social work.

ERICA CIPOREN has started her own marketing and consulting business (EricaCiporen.com), which will provide social media marketing, search engine optimization, e-mail marketing, blogging, website design, Internet marketing classes for DIY beginners and other customized services. She will be working with small businesses, educational institutions, nonprofits, community organizations, professional associations and other East Coast-based businesses within a five-hour radius of New York. Erica writes: “This is a very exciting time for me. I’m also getting married to Kevin Grossman (not a Clarkie) on June 25 in Long Branch, N.J.”

2003
Wally Bither ’33 of Bradenton, Fla., one of the most faithful attendees of Reunion Weekend, celebrated his 100th birthday on Jan. 1, 2011. A history major with a minor in economics, Mr. Bither attended Clark during the Great Depression, which, he said, left most students “hanging on by their fingernails.” In an interview on ClarkVoices (clarku.edu/oldestalumnus), he recalled that his father, a blacksmith, maintained steady work and Wally was able to make it through school financially sound. Mr. Bither marveled at the wonderful teachers at Clark, particularly history Prof. James Hedges, who, he said, delivered his hour-long lectures without a single note. After a brief period as a grocery clerk in Sandwich, Mass., Mr. Bither became a teacher and then head of education for the Civilian Conservation Corps in the Cape Cod towns of Bourne and Wellfleet for the princely sum of $1,820 a year. He served as an executive officer in the Navy during World War II, and was aboard ship at the Invasion of Normandy.

ELLYN LAMBECK is in her second year serving in the Peace Corps in Zambia. She teaches in three schools in the Northern Province in and around Kasama.

MAXIME HILAIRE’S Stamp of Camaraderie clothing line was introduced at a fall event in Uncle Pete’s Shop, a Boston clothing boutique. “Stamp of Camraderie is a lifestyle brand bringing together art and fashion. We bring these avenues together by creating clothing, hosting events, and work on projects that can enlighten the world,” he writes. Joining him at the event was fellow ’07 grad Eva Sano, a teacher and artist whose paintings were on display.

2009
ISIS NUSAIR, PH.D., recently published “Displaced at Home: Ethnicity and Gender Among Palestinians in Israel.” Dr. Nusair is assistant professor of international studies and women’s studies at Denison University. Information on the book can be found at sunypress.edu/p-5047-displaced-at-home.aspx.

KEITH TAVERNA, M.B.A., married Kimberly Clover on Aug. 22, 2010 in Boylston, Mass. Keith is a district accountant and budget analyst for the Danvers Public Schools; Kimberly is employed by the Atlantic Hospitality Group. The couple resides in Haverhill, Mass.
SIDNEY ROSE, who attended Clark as an undergraduate and whose later donation established the Rose Professorship in Holocaust Studies, died in Worcester on Dec. 12, 2010.

Rose fulfilled his lifetime goal with the establishment, with his brother Ralph, of the Rose Professorship, which was done as a tribute to their father, whose entire family — parents, two sisters, brother and 12 of their children — was annihilated in the Holocaust, and to help ensure that the horrors of genocide and the dangers of racism and bigotry are understood by future generations. The scholarly position this chair makes possible represents one of the landmark events in the institution’s history as well as a landmark in Holocaust and related studies.

In conjunction with the chair, Clark received a large sculpture by internationally known artist Steve Linn entitled “I Heard the Voices.” The piece depicts the life of Rose’s father, Philip, from his beginnings as an immigrant to his role in the community as a successful businessman and philanthropist.

Along with his brother, Rose also established a scholarship fund that made Clark the first to offer a Ph.D. in Holocaust studies. Rose and his brother also established the addition of the Rose Library and reading room for Holocaust studies at the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Rose was born in Worcester. After graduation from the University of Pennsylvania in 1941 and service in the U.S. Army, he entered the family business, The Standard Paint Stores. He and his brother later founded The Fair Department Store chain, where he served as president.


After earning his bachelor’s degree from Clark in 1944, he went on to receive a master’s degree from Brown University in 1947 before assuming the roles of director of admissions and lecturer in history at Clark, positions he held from 1952 to 1964. During that time he also worked toward his doctorate in history, which he received in 1961.

Despite his academic pursuits, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in April 1943 and was stationed in Italy and Trinidad from February 1944 to July 1945. He was honorably discharged as a sergeant in October 1945.

A dedicated teacher, Merriam taught at several high schools and colleges in Maine, including Bates College, Aroostook State College and Gorham State College. After leaving Clark, he was academic dean and professor of history at Fitchburg State College from 1965 to 1988. During his academic career he touched the lives of hundreds of students, many of whom might not have pursued higher education and professional careers without his encouragement.

In addition to his academic training, he developed a deep knowledge of industrial and railroad history and published several articles on Maine’s railroads in journals such as Railroad History and the Maine Historical Society Quarterly. He knew the city of Worcester, its factories and its railroad lines intimately and one of his hobbies was hiking the abandoned railroad beds of Worcester County. He frequently took his children and grandchildren on impromptu tours of mills and factories throughout New England, just for the sheer joy of learning how things worked.

He married Alice May Price of Portland, Maine, in April 1943. She survives him, as do his children: Gardner Price Merriam and his wife Deborah Young of New Haven, Conn.; and his daughter, Louise Alice Merriam and her husband James Oberly of Minneapolis, Minn.

NORMAN ASHER ’48, an honorary member of Clark’s Board of Trustees, died on Nov. 15, 2010, at his home in Dedham, Mass.

The retired partner at Hale and Dorr LLP (Boston) established The Asher Family Fund in June of 1979. Each year, the fund underwrites a lecture or other appropriate academic event that commemorates the anniversary of the fall of the Warsaw Ghetto, with respect to the Holocaust, its past, present and future implications for mankind. Another gift to Clark by Asher and his wife, Lenore, established The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, with the mission of providing resources to support, strengthen and recognize excellent and innovative teaching by both faculty and graduate students, and to promote active learning by students.

Asher was born and raised in Worcester. He loved birdwatching, tales of mountaineering, Verdi’s operas, hot soup, eggs fried in hollowed-out pumpernickel, raising money for the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, shopping at Filene’s Basement, and most of all his family. Over the last four years, he stoically refused to allow a daunting series of medical problems to overcome his wit, his warmth, and his spirit.


Hogan primarily worked the overnight shift in the Lasry Bioscience Center, but was also the university’s “floor man,” says Physical Plant supervisor Jim O’Connor, meaning that he’d be around campus if a floor needed to be stripped or waxed. He also maintained all of the university’s floor machines.

But more than that, he loved music, particularly the Beatles, and sometimes listened while he worked. He also was a Boston Bruins fan, and liked camping with his wife and friends. He enjoyed working on computers. In fact, O’Connor says, Hogan often came over after his shift and they would talk about the latest computer news.

Prior to working at Clark, Hogan worked at Algonquin Regional High School, advancing from custodian to supervisor.

Andy Hogan was “a special person,” O’Connor said. “He was a quiet, gentle giant.”

He leaves his wife of 29 years, Carolyn A. Hogan; his mother, Sylvia Hogan Ainsleigh of Ashburnham, Mass.; his brother, Peter Hogan of Ashburnham; his sister, Paula Goulston and her husband Chris of Winchendon, Mass.; his stepson Joshua and wife Angela Deschamps; in-laws, Jackie and Chet; and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.
Presidential Inauguration

“Among faculty, staff, students, alumni, and trustees, all, there is a palpable sense of optimism and possibility that Clark over the next decade will be a fast-rising institution. I can assure you that we will not lack for leadership in grasping this opportunity.” - PRESIDENT DAVID ANGEL, SEPT. 24, 2010

Under sunny skies, David Angel was sworn in as Clark University’s ninth president on Sept. 24, 2010, concluding four days of events that enlightened, engaged and energized the Clark community. The festivities included the Passport Dinner, which served cuisine from six different countries to students, faculty and staff, a night in Boston with Blue Man Group (co-founded by Matt Goldman ‘83, M.B.A. ’84), and the Pre-Inaugural Dinner held in a dressed-up Dolan Field House. The Inaugural Symposium featured four panels of alumni and faculty who led discussions on a wide array of themes covering creativity, leadership, sustainability, the global economy and the recession’s impact on families. For videos and photos from the week’s festivities, visit clarku.edu/inauguration.
**From top:** (Left) David Angel’s wife, Jocelyn Bauduy, and sons Sebastien and Julien applaud the installation of Clark’s ninth president, Sara Burton, wife of Jonathan Burton ’92, attends the inauguration luncheon with a future Clarkie.

*Among those enjoying the Pre-Inaugural Dinner in the Dolan Field House were alumni (front): Evalina Miteva ’99, M.B.A. ’01, Amy Mosher, M.A. ’04, and (far right) Tom LeBeouf, M.B.A. ’96; and (back): Jennifer DeFronzo ’97 (second from right), with Prof. Robert Tobin (at left), and guests. President Angel with a true-blue fan.*

* (Left) The Clark Concert Choir provided musical accompaniment to the ceremony. Also performing were The Clark Barn, the school’s a cappella group, the Symphonic Brass Quartet and the Pipe and Drum.*
Dr. Lewis Goldfrank ’63 prescribes a regimen of bold medicine

Dr. Lewis Goldfrank ’63 is among a handful of physicians for whom the phrase “seen it all” rightfully applies.

The Herbert W. Adams Professor and Chairman of Emergency Medicine at New York University, and longtime director of emergency services at Bellevue Hospital Center and New York University Medical Center, worked with Dr. Gregory Pincus, inventor of the birth control pill, while still a high school student.

As president of Clark’s student government he was key in bringing D’Army Bailey ‘65 to Clark after Bailey had been expelled from Southern University for leading civil rights protests. Later, Goldfrank was kicked out of medical school himself for his civil rights work.

He was dealing with patients suffering from the ravages of AIDS when the disease was still a mystery to the medical community.

He also co-authored a book, “Emergency Doctor,” that revealed the inner workings and personalities within one of the most renowned urban emergency departments in the nation.

Dr. Goldfrank was on campus in October to speak to Clark pre-med students about careers in medicine, but his presentation took them down unexpected paths. He sprinkled his lecture with references to Camus, Upton Sinclair and Sen. Joseph McCarthy, and he extolled the virtue of uncertainty — reasoning that it’s the not knowing that impels a doctor to seek creative, sometimes bold, solutions to public health problems.

“You can’t come to the job of medicine if you have any thoughts about making money,” he told the students in his opening remarks. “You have to think about what your mission is; you have to find your reason to do this and understand what is valuable to you.”

Tall and wiry with a trimmed beard — Lincolnesque in his physical presentation — Goldfrank spoke of his days as a Clark undergrad, working to make himself as well rounded as possible by taking courses in the sciences, philosophy, economics and literature. Raised in a politically active family (his parents were investigated by McCarthy in the 1950s), he became involved in the civil rights movement during the 1960s, a passion he later brought with him to Johns Hopkins Medical School.

Goldfrank clashed with the dean at Johns Hopkins, who deemed Goldfrank’s civil rights activism “unprofessional” and threatened to kick him out of school if he continued. Goldfrank ignored him, and even though he made the grade academically, he was eventually asked to leave. “There wasn’t a dean I knew who I couldn’t learn to dislike very rapidly … or other people in authority for that matter,” he told the Clark students with a grin. “I learned that at home.” He later finished his medical studies at the University of Brussels in Belgium.

A sense of social justice mingled with dissatisfaction for the status quo is crucial to practicing effective emergency medicine, Goldfrank said. He spoke of his frustrations when he brings medical teams to Ghana and treats people with maladies, like tetanus, that have been eradicated in the developed world. (“Inexcusable,” he says of the disparity.)

He’s a proponent of universal health coverage in the United States, arguing that every person has the right to medical care.

“A system where you can deny someone health care is absolutely unacceptable,” he said. “There’s no compromising on that perspective.

“You have to decide as a society that people must receive universal health care. That should be what your education offers you [at Clark] — a sense of what’s right and what’s wrong. If it’s not right to do, the question is how to achieve change. You can’t imagine the feeling that doctors have of not being able to guarantee reasonable health care for people because they don’t have access to it.”

Goldfrank counseled the Clark pre-med students to listen to their patients rather than rush to a diagnosis. “Don’t talk when you go see a patient. Let the patient tell the story and try to understand what the story is about.”

And don’t be afraid of not having immediate answers.
“The more we study the possibilities, the more we become uncertain about the exact answer, the better prepared we become,” he said. “Not many people like to deal with uncertainty, but the delivery and study of health care is often associated with uncertainty.”

Goldfrank noted that many mornings he walks past the U.N. building in New York, and if a group is protesting outside — “Whether it’s about Tibet, whether it’s about China, whether it’s about Bangladesh” — he can accurately predict that one or more of the participants will end up in his emergency department later that day. Sometimes, he said, the reason for the visit is connected to the stress of the protest itself.

Bellevue also has a large clinic that treats victims of torture from across the globe. “You see a lot of people who have tremendous problems and you get to learn about the world,” he said. “You’ve got to know the social and political issues of immigrants who arrive each day.”

Goldfrank recalled the early days of the AIDS pandemic, when the emergency department staff knew nothing about this new devastating disease, including whether it could be transmitted simply by breathing an unknown agent into one’s lungs. He compared the disease to the contagion in Albert Camus’ novel “The Plague.”

“It’s about the unknown. Can you deal with it? Are you willing to deal with it? If you’re going to be fearful of personal illness, fearful about things that are dangerous, then medicine isn’t the job for you.”

He remembers Bellevue’s wards in the early ‘80s filled with babies born infected with HIV, a circumstance that, thanks to a systematic approach of treating pregnant women, has largely been prevented in the United States.

“When I go to Africa I still see babies who are born with AIDS — it’s inexcusable. Science and perseverance and courage can change almost anything, but the tough things aren’t easy. You have to be driven and committed to work on a problem, and you have to see something and decide you want to change it.”

Goldfrank continually nurtures his activist roots, and has been a vocal advocate in the public health realm. Over the years he has responded to trends based on the cases filling his emergency department by demanding action from city leaders and public health officials while increasing public awareness through the media.

“I had to be part of a team to confront lead poisoning, which was filling the intensive care unit, and clinics; and kids being injured in car crashes because pediatric air bags and seat belts weren’t yet available; kids falling out of windows because there weren’t window guards. Those were the basic public health issues that had to be addressed. I began to understand the issues, and when the system didn’t work I had to say: I’m going to talk to the New York Times, the Daily News or a TV station about these problems and our lack of adequate solutions.”

These days, Dr. Goldfrank is piloting what could be a radical initiative to increase the rate of organ donations. The six-month trial collaboration with Bellevue, the New York City police and fire departments, New York University and the New York Organ Donor Network, allows emergency workers to initiate the steps needed to preserve the kidneys of cardiac-arrest victims within 20 minutes after death. That’s about how long a team of organ specialists has after the patient has been declared dead to arrive at the home, check a donor registry, determine medical eligibility, obtain a family member’s consent and get the person into a specialized ambulance known as the Organ Preservation Unit and transport the patient to Bellevue Hospital.

The project is “very, very modest but has the potential to prove a concept that could be revolutionary,” Dr. Goldfrank told the Associated Press when the initiative launched in December.

Never be afraid to question, to probe, to seek alternatives, he advised Clark’s students.

“You must have passion, or you’ll never accomplish the things that are essential,” he said. “You have to be able to imagine things other people can’t see.”

“I take jobs where dissent is tolerated,” he added. “I wouldn’t accept a job as the head of a hospital system, or as a dean. If I wasn’t fired within a month I’d feel I had failed.”

Be empathetic, be realistic, be adaptable, but above all, he said, be optimistic.

“There’s no sense in becoming a doctor if you’re a pessimist.”

A system where you can deny someone health care is absolutely unacceptable. There’s no compromising on that perspective.
Clark University is in the Powell family’s DNA

It took a knee injury for Reed Powell ’10 to truly “discover” Clark. In his sophomore year, the point guard for the Cougars’ basketball team tore his anterior cruciate ligament, and then developed a serious infection that required him to self-administer antibiotics through an IV pump. Suddenly, the basketball-player piece of his identity faded into the background, and a more nuanced Clarkie emerged.

“It was one of the hardest years for me, but it helped me learn more about myself and gave me a whole new perspective of Clark,” Reed says. “For my first two years, basketball and school were all I knew; I didn’t really take advantage of what Clark had to offer. Yes, it’s okay to go to school and be a basketball player, but now I advocate other things. Go to the International Gala, go to the dances, go to poetry readings, go to the movie screenings in Jefferson. There are many things I would never have experienced, people I wouldn’t have met, if I hadn’t gotten hurt. The injury helped me to focus.”

Being a third-generation Clarkie played a role as well. Powell’s mother, Lynnel Reed-Powell ’80, and his grandmother (Lynnel’s mother), the Rev. Catherine H. Reed ’93, already knew the value of the Clark experience. Catherine earned her degree in English after raising two children and while working full time. Lynnel began her college career at Worcester State before transferring to Clark for her sophomore year.

The fact that the Powells live within walking distance of Clark, that Reed had grown up attending Cougar basketball games, and that he attended University Park Campus School from grades 7 to 12, made his enrollment at Clark seem a slam dunk.

Not quite.

In addition to Clark, Reed was accepted to a number of schools, including Bentley, Babson, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, WPI and Holy Cross.

“We figured if we pushed Clark too hard he wouldn’t like it, even though we thought it would be a good fit for Reed,” Lynnel says. “Of course, I’m biased.”

Reed eventually chose Clark as a business/economics major.

Today, he works at Sigma Systems, a staffing and consulting firm in Marlborough, Mass., where he finds candidates for high-level jobs in technology and management. At the time of this interview he’d just finished preparing and presenting his company’s bid for a $25 million government contract.

Despite a lifetime of work and family, Catherine Reed never abandoned her dream of earning a degree. As a Clark English major she displayed a talent for poetry, and would go on to publish two books of her original works, “Crossing Boundaries” and “Between Midnight and Dawn.” She continues to give poetry readings throughout Worcester.

Catherine attended graduate school at Boston University at age 64 (“I was the oldest person in the dorm,” she laughs), and at Hartford Seminary, and was ordained a minister at John Street Baptist Church in Worcester, where she serves as associate pastor. She worked for seven years as a campus minister at Clark, sharing a prayer room in Dana Commons with Muslim students, and then served for eight years as Holy Cross’ first Protestant chaplain. Catherine has returned to campus several times to address incoming freshmen through the Academic Clark Excellence program, which is keyed toward first-generation college students and students of African-American, Latino, Asian or Native American heritage.

Lynnel graduated with a degree in psychology and was a social worker with the elderly for 17 years. She then earned her master’s degree and certificate of advanced graduate studies in rehabilitation counseling, and for the last 10 years she’s worked as a guidance counselor at North High School in Worcester, placing her on the front lines of the embattled American public education system.

“I’ve seen big changes even in the last five years,” she says. “The requirements of the state, budget cuts, bureaucracy. The dynamics of the family have changed, too. I work with a lot of families and even the best ones are overwhelmed.”

She’s volunteered as a liaison between Clark and the neighborhood as a board member on the Main South Community Development Corp., and holds a special affinity for the University Park Campus School.

Clark, Lynnel notes, taught her to think critically and “exposed me to people from all over the world. Clark embodies diversity in every aspect.”
Lois Green completes her last chapter

Can you change a light for me?” They were the first words Lois Green, M.P.A. ’78 spoke to me as I entered her condo that steamy July day. I’d come to interview Lois, but the bulb needed replacing and she saw I was tall enough to reach it. Problem solved.

Lois Green was not shy when it came to getting things done. She was direct, plain-spoken, confident. Our July meeting was for the express purpose of talking not only about her life, but also about her battle with terminal breast cancer, a topic that had led her to write a frank memoir titled “The Last Chapter.”

She did not tread delicately around the subject of her own death. Instead, she engaged it head on, speaking from a position of authority as one who had fought both uterine and breast cancer in her lifetime. Lois noted that attitudes toward the disease have changed in recent years, with more openness encouraged. When she was diagnosed with uterine cancer in 1975 “people would cross the street rather than talk to me. Even my husband Bob would say, ‘How can you tell people you have to miss a meeting because you’re having radiation treatment?’ My response was, ‘Well, you’d tell them if you had appendicitis.’”

When we spoke, Lois was working out with a personal trainer twice a week. “I want to be as strong as I can to battle this,” she said. It was her goal to host Thanksgiving one more time for her four children and nine grandchildren at her second home in Longboat Key, Fla., a tradition she and her late husband Bob Green had begun many years earlier. She did make it to that last Thanksgiving and passed away shortly afterward, on Dec. 18, 2010, at the age of 80.

Lois waged a one-woman war on the status quo her entire life. She married Bob in the early ’50s, quickly realized that traditional women’s organizations bored her, and set about making her own niche. She worked part time in the Clark library, then went to work for Bob in his insurance brokerage business. “I didn’t enjoy it because I knew I could run his office better than he could,” she said with a laugh.

Between her duties as mother, Lois earned her master’s in public administration at Clark (she held a bachelor’s degree from Bryn Mawr). She gradually took on the role of community advocate and champion of the underserved by earning membership to a raft of boards and committees, some that had been male-only enclaves for years. Lois was the first woman campaign chair for the United Way of Central Massachusetts, was founder and first president of the Bet Shalom Housing for the Elderly in Worcester, and the first director of the Geriatric Community Clerkship at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, introducing medical students to the community services available to the elderly.

Lois also served as vice chairman of UMass Memorial Health Care, whose president and chief executive, John G. O’Brien, said of her: “Lois Green has done more for health care in Central Massachusetts than anyone I know.”

Clark was close to her heart. She served as trustee for 15 years, right up to her death, and was honored with a Doctor of Humane Letters (to go with her honorary doctorates from UMass Medical School and Becker College). The walls and shelves of her condo office virtually groaned with the weight of the plaques and trophies she’d been awarded over the years in honor of her charitable works.

“I’m incredibly outspoken, but the amazing thing is nobody ever gets angry with me,” she marveled.

Lois acknowledged that she had a controlling side, noting that she’d already made her funeral arrangements, right down to choosing the caterer.

Prior to her death she worked with medical students to give them a deeper understanding of how to deal with people who are living with, and dying from, cancer. The Lois Green Learning Community at the University of Massachusetts Medical School was formed to teach new physicians about end-of-life care.

“In a strange way, I’m not sorry about my diagnosis,” Lois wrote in her book. “I know now to enjoy things, to love everything I’m doing ... I would like not to die. But I hope I have showed people how to live, and now perhaps it is time to show them how to die.”

Before I left Lois’ home, interview completed, light bulb changed, she told me she disliked not knowing the ending of things and always read the last chapter of a book first. Her faith, she said, would carry her through this challenge.

“I have a very personal relationship with God,” Lois said. “If it’s raining and I have to get to a meeting, I say, ‘Okay God, if you really want me to go to this, you’d better find me a parking space.’”

“Does that work?” I asked.

She smiled. “Like a charm.”

(Visit Lois’ website at loisbgreen.com)
OUTSTANDING FACULTY HONORED
Clark honored outstanding faculty members at an awards presentation hosted by President David Angel in September. Along with Angel, presenters included Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Davis Baird, Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Priscilla Elsass, Dean of the College Walter Wright, and Associate Dean of the College Kevin McKenna.

JUDITH DECEW, professor and chair of the Philosophy Department, received the Senior Faculty Fellowship Award, an honor bestowed with recognition by colleagues and students for her outstanding scholarship, professionalism and efficiency as department chairperson.

Professor DeCew’s major area of research has been the set of current legal and ethical problems based on the concept of privacy. Since publication of her seminal book “In Pursuit of Privacy: Law, Ethics, and the Rise of Technology,” she has been in demand as a speaker and writer. She also advises more than a dozen first-year students and teaches three in-demand courses and a first-year seminar.

Professor DeCew has authored three books and has another due in 2011 titled, “The Right of Privacy.” She has received the Clark Hayden Faculty Fellowship for excellence in teaching and research.

MEREDITH NEUMAN, assistant professor of English, received the Outstanding Teacher Award.

The Oliver and Dorothy Hayden Junior Faculty Fellowship was presented to SHARON HUO, associate professor of chemistry, and PAUL POSNER, associate professor of political science.

KAREN FREY, assistant professor of geography, received the Hodgkins Junior Faculty Award.

The Seymour N. Logan Faculty Fellowship went to LAURIE ROSS, assistant professor in the International Development, Community and Environment Department.

President Angel recognized faculty who were awarded tenure. They include: ROB BOATRIGHT, assistant professor, Political Science Department; TIM DOWNS, assistant professor, International Development, Community and Environment; BETSY HUANG, assistant professor, English Department; RANJAN MUKHOPADHYAY, associate professor, Physics Department; KRISTINA WILSON, assistant professor, Visual and Performing Arts Department; JING ZHANG, assistant professor, Economics Department.

GINO D’IORIO of the Visual and Performing Arts Department was promoted to full professor.

The Outstanding Advisor Award went to SCOTT HENDRICKS, associate professor of the Philosophy Department.

BARBARA BIGELOW, professor of the Graduate School of Management, and DREW MCCOY, professor of the History Department, received honorable mention for their scholarly work.

Outstanding Teaching Assistant awards were presented to DIANE BOUCHER and CHRISTA HUTCHINSON.

COOL MILLION FOR GREEN TECH
JEFFREY A. SIMON, director of the Massachusetts Recovery & Reinvestment Office, came to Clark in the fall to admire an innovative “green” technology under development by Physics Professor CHARLES AGOSTA.

Simon was also following the money — traveling the state at the behest of Gov. Deval Patrick to visit recipients of federal stimulus grants from the Department of Energy. Machflow Energy Inc., Agosta’s small startup company housed at Clark, received $1 million.

Prototype models of Agosta’s device hold promise for providing clean and more effective cooling in a range of commercial uses, such as with electric car batteries and in computers.

Simon called Agosta’s startup “interesting and exciting” with the “potential to have a big impact. This stimulus money is an investment in the future, part of getting people back to work.”

Since its inception in 2005, Machflow has secured $750,000 from small investors plus $1 million from the venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers. The DOE’s $1 million follows an earlier Phase I grant of $150,000. Agosta’s company has so far filed eight patent applications.

HISTORICAL AWARD
Historian, author and Clark University Professor Emeritus GEORGE BILLIAS received the James P. Hanlan Book Award from the New England Historical Association during the NEHA fall conference at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine, on Oct. 16. The award is given annually to a New England author of a book on any historical topic. Billias’ book, “American Constitutionalism Heard Round the World, 1776-1989: A Global Perspective,” garnered enthusiastic response from scholars in the field.

LITTLE, KREFETZ APPOINTED
President David P. Angel recently announced the appointment of DOUGLAS LITTLE, professor of history, as the first holder of the new Robert H. and Virginia N. Scotland Endowed Chair in History and International Relations, and the appointment of SHARON KREFETZ, professor of political science, as the next holder of the Andrea B. and Peter D. ’64 Klein Distinguished Professorship. The Scotland Endowed Chair has been established through the generosity of Robert Scotland, a member of Clark’s Class of 1942, and his wife Virginia to support scholarship and teaching in history and international relations. The Kleins funded a permanent endowment for the chair in order to recognize and honor distinguished scholarship, teaching and service by Clark faculty members.
ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY PROFESSOR Yuko Aoyama has the distinction of being the first faculty member to dance at Clark’s ever-popular International Gala, where she performed in April 2010 along with five other dancers recruited from her flamenco class.

Aoyama’s foray into the fiery world of flamenco dance began one day in March 1989 when she attended an evening performance at a tablao (flamenco club) in Madrid, Spain. There, she watched a group of dancers — women in form-fitting flounced dresses and men in white shirts and high-waisted trousers — display mesmerizing footwork to the music of flamenco guitar. For this Japanese native, flamenco’s combination of music and dance set to intricate 12-count rhythms stood apart from other Western performance art, and she was hooked.

“Ever since that time in Madrid I’ve been intrigued with the dance,” she says. Aoyama began taking flamenco dance lessons in Atlanta when she taught at the University of Georgia. Her studies continued after she joined Clark’s Geography Department, and she commutes to Boston for weekly lessons. She also takes advantage of workshops offered by top flamenco dancers in Boston, as well as in New York, New Mexico, Japan and Spain. She’s currently experimenting with the bata, a type of flamenco dress with a long trailing skirt that’s manipulated by the body so that it twists and untwists around the dancer.

For Aoyama, flamenco has become a way to stay in shape, as well as a means of expression.

“It was a fascination with the culture and the music first, but then it got combined later with a need for exercise,” she says. The flamenco dance, and harsh, almost a wail. It can take time for an outsider to develop an appreciation for its subtleties.

“I really could not appreciate cante for a long time, in part because of the raspy guttural sound they make, and in part because of my limited Spanish,” Aoyama admits. “Most flamenco songs are not love songs, although they do exist. They’re often about the suffering of the gypsies — poverty, persecution and imprisonment, and the separation of families because of that.”

Ever the geographer, Aoyama found a way to incorporate her interest in flamenco culture into her research, with the support of a National Geographic Society grant, and published two articles in scholarly journals.

She concludes that, far from endangering the essence of flamenco, globalization, tourism, and the Internet have helped keep flamenco culture vibrant and evolving.

“What I found particularly interesting,” Aoyama explains, “is that flamenco emerged and evolved along with early 19th century tourism in Spain. Local culture is not something that’s just pure and indigenous to a particular location and is somehow being jeopardized by globalization. It’s more a co-evolving process of the producers — the gypsies in this case — and the consumers. Without the consumer, this culture would not be able to survive and thrive.”

Aoyama finds that social media such as Facebook and YouTube help her follow the careers and whereabouts of favorite performers, and to stay connected to classmates and other flamenco devotees. The Internet creates a common space where those who love gypsy music, song and dance can keep alive that passion, and the gypsy culture that feeds it.
Fast Forward

THE BONNEVILLE, Utah, Salt Flats, where the Bonneville Speed Week is held every year, really is a special place. The salt flats, and the mountains that ring them, have been named, deservedly, an official National Monument. They are beautiful any time of day, but particularly so at dawn or sunset. You can’t take a bad photo.

And the salt really is salt. I’ve seen guys take a screwdriver, scrape some up, and put it on their hamburger.

I was the driver of a specially prepared Alfa Romeo record car at Speed Week last August. We had the usual trials and tribulations that go with racing, although it was great fun overall, as is always the case when we take the amazing yellow Alfa Spyder (“Bonnie”) to compete in that unique and exotic locale. I have been competing at Bonneville for nine years and it is always a thrill.

On my first runs the car started porpoising at about 200 mph, bobbing up and down as if it was going over waves. You don’t want to get air under the car because the nose could lift and the car could try to take off like an airplane. When a Camaro two cars ahead of me lifted off about 35 or 40 feet during its run, I was thinking, “Maybe this isn’t such a good idea.”

The salt looks smooth, but it’s not. At high speed it’s like driving on snow or ice; the car shifts and squirms beneath you, and if you lose control the car goes sideways. A car that travels over 175 mph requires a parachute, because if the car goes sideways you can pop the chute to keep it straight.

After changing the ignition module and making some other changes we got back out on the salt and made a really good run. I had an average speed for the fifth mile of 233.841 — which was about 8 mph more than needed for a new record and the fastest that I’d gone — and an “out the back door” speed of 233.891 mph. We decided to put that run in our pocket and we took the car directly to impound.

The way it works is that you have to leave the car in impound overnight after a run that qualifies for a record and then make a back-up run the next morning. The average speed of the two runs is then calculated to see if you have broken a world record for the class. If the average is high enough to qualify, the engine is torn down to ensure it is legal.

The car is quite claustrophobic. You wear a bulky, five-layer fireproof suit, thick boots and gloves, a head brace, arm restraints, leg restraints and six-point seatbelt. A driver must be able to get himself unstrapped and out of his car in 20 seconds — everyone is timed, but the officials look particularly closely at older guys like me (I’m 73) to be sure we can get out of the car if there is a fire.

When you’re really moving, the sense of acceleration is very dramatic. The adrenaline kicks in and you’re just pushing it. We call that feeling “the red haze.”

It only takes a few minutes to cover five miles. At the start you’re surrounded by a mob of people taking pictures, holding microphones and giving instructions, and the noise of the engines is deafening. Minutes later you’re sitting in a silent car, totally alone in the desert — you can’t see anyone, can’t hear anything. It’s kind of spooky.

On August 19 we were out on the salt at dawn and I made a run that yielded a fifth-mile speed of 230.590 mph. Not fantastic, but more than enough to set a new world record. The old record, which I set last year, was 225.839 mph and the new one (the average of my last two runs) is 232.215. The car was torn down for post-record run inspection, and the Southern California Timing Association declared that it was legal and that I, and the all-important car and engineering team, were now official holders of the new world record for the Blown Fuel Modified Sports, under-two-liter class.

The record won’t last forever — it could go away this year. But it will stand until somebody beats it.
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