20 UNDER 30

YOUNG CLARK ALUMNI WHO ARE
SHAKING UP THE WORLD
Law school was a natural extension and maturation of the seeds planted in me by my Clark professors. Clark’s diverse student body taught me to be tolerant and sensitive to the needs of others regardless of their ethnic or racial backgrounds or their religious beliefs or sexual preferences. These teachings were a precursor to the satisfaction I have received in my law practice from representing and counseling clients from all walks of life and helping them resolve a myriad of legal issues and conflicts they confront in their daily lives. This was true when I was a VISTA Volunteer and a legal aid attorney, and again when I served as a county attorney.

Today, as a private attorney with my own law office, the lessons learned at Clark govern how I practice law and lead my life, and are reflected in the respect and deference I bestow on others, whether they are my clients, opposing attorneys, judges, litigants, friends or adversaries.

Hopefully with my donation I have begun to repay Clark for a debt I have owed for many years for the significant role Clark played in molding me into the person I am today. A debt that no gift can ever fully repay.

ELIOT STRIAR ’62,
Attorney-at-Law, Columbia, Maryland

CLARK HAS ALWAYS HELD A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART. I WOULD NOT BE AN ATTORNEY TODAY IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE VALUES INSTILLED IN ME AND THE EDUCATION I RECEIVED DURING MY UNDERGRADUATE YEARS AT CLARK.

“I will be eternally grateful to Clark.”

Show your Clarkie Pride and give to Clark today at clarku.edu/gift

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education suggest that this focus is a luxury that our students and our country can no longer afford, demanding that education must shift to a singular emphasis on preparing students for work. I disagree. Engaging our students around issues of meaning and purpose is one of liberal education’s most precious gifts, and it serves our country and our world well. We are inspired by the accomplishments of so many of our alumni who provide thoughtful leadership in their lives, work, and citizenship. The successful graduates profiled in this issue of CLARK magazine affirm that we have much to be proud of regarding liberal education at Clark University.

Clearly, one central purpose of liberal education must be to prepare students for long-term success in the world of work. With LEEP, we are especially influenced by feedback from leading employers. Time and again, these employers cite critical thinking, strong communication skills, creative problem-solving, and the ability to make decisions under conditions of uncertainty as keys to recruitment and advancement in their organizations, whether a business, hospital, investment firm, city government, or nonprofit. As part of LEEP, we are partnering with alumni and host of organizations to expand the opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate these capabilities while working to solve problems in challenging situations around the world. We are building a new model of liberal education that is responsive to the profound changes underway in the global economy and that renews our commitment to Clark’s pioneering model, Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP™), that specifically addresses the lifelong “return on education” for our graduates. And we will do more. LEEP is a major step forward in providing students with world and workplace experiences that open the door to initial career opportunities. We are also exploring ways to further support early-career alumni as they navigate the first decade beyond Clark. For all of our efforts here, Clark alumni and friends are critical to our success, whether as mentors to recent graduates or as resources for new networking opportunities and career building.

Beyond life and career, we believe that a liberal education must serve the critical purpose of effective citizenship. How are we to prosper as a country and a world if universities and colleges do not commit to fostering effective participation in our democracy? The Association of American Colleges and Universities describes this time as a “crucible moment” for higher education, one in which we must urgently reverse a growing deficit in civic and democratic engagement in society. We will look to new generations of college graduates to demonstrate greater understanding and fluency of cultures, languages, and societies beyond our own. When national organizations search for examples of universities and colleges that have successfully taken on this challenge, they will see Clark University’s commitment to deep and transformative engagement in our neighborhood and beyond. Ours is a powerful story about the ways in which students can connect their education to the world and acquire the skills and capacities needed for dynamic citizenship in their communities.

These three strands of liberal education — preparation for life, career, and citizenship — define our commitment to Clark graduates today. Our approach to strengthening educational opportunities for our students builds on Clark’s heritage while responding to the challenges that mark a rapidly changing global economy and society. Thank you for the opportunities that your ongoing support affords new generations of Clark students.
Ah, to be young. And a Clarkie.

To track down the young alumni featured in this issue’s cover story, “20 Under 30,” and its online complement, our staff had to do some calling around … to Cyprus, to London, to Tanzania, to Sweden and to Serbia.

Closer to home we made connections to Clarkies in Los Angeles, New York, Washington, D.C., Portland (Oregon) and Boston.

If you’re concerned about whether Clark was able to pay last month’s phone bill, don’t worry. A good number of these folks were so busy they only had time to answer our questions via email. Nagraj Rao ’08 apologized for the delay in getting us his photograph, but he was stuck on a little island off the coast of Tanzania that simply had no scanner. When I asked Gunnar Hagstrom ’07, M.B.A. ’08, if he had any photos of himself without sunglasses, he also apologized, but noted that in Cyprus, where he does much of his coaching and teaching outdoors, the sun beats down so intensely that temperatures rarely dip below 100 degrees in the summer. Wearing sunglasses there is like wearing a shirt anywhere else — they’re part of the wardrobe.

The conclusion to the profile of documentary filmmaker Jay Shapiro ’04 had to wait until he returned from Uganda, where for the past three years he’s been filming the story of the nation’s first Little League team. He was there in January to capture a momentous event: The Ugandans finally played (and won) against a squad from Canada, an opportunity the African team had previously been denied when their lack of documentation kept them out of the Little League World Series.

I felt badly when I inadvertently woke Dr. Mary Badon ’05 with a phone call to set up a photo appointment. If you know anything about the crushing schedules that surgical interns keep, you know that sleep is a precious commodity. Chemist Kelley Shortsleeves ’09 managed to respond to my nosy questions during a train ride to the Boston lab where she helps develop revolutionary treatments for a host of troubling diseases.

It was no chore to find Clarkies less than 10 years out of school — some of them only one or two years removed — who were impressively accomplished. In fact, we had more profiles than we could fit into the magazine (read them all online at clarku.edu/alumnistories).

As I step back and look at the collective result, I can fully appreciate the impact these Clark graduates are having in the world, and anticipate the good things yet to come. In a relatively short span of time they have already displayed remarkable ambition, ingenuity and resilience. Some have started their own businesses; some have devoted themselves to public service; others are forging careers in law, medicine, education, finance and the arts.

Many readers of this magazine are well past their twenties, but they undoubtedly have their own colorful tales about launching a career, starting a family, and shaping a life for themselves at a time when the potential they exhibited in college was beginning to pay dividends in the “real world.” The stories in these pages will resonate with those who remember what it was like to be a newly minted Clarkie with a resume still under construction, but with a strong thirst for experience, knowledge and achievement.

The generation represented by these young alumni has been branded “millennials” by the popular media. Labels, of course, can be a crutch for making universal assumptions about a group of any age (just ask the boomers). But I think you’ll find our Clark twenty-somethings defy simple classification. So much individual brilliance is on display here, no single designation can possibly contain them all.

Jim Keogh
Editor
How Clark changed my life without my knowing it

BY PATRICK DAVIS ’00

I have always been able to think and speak on my feet. In honesty, it can be both a blessing and a curse. I’ve found myself in just as many predicaments as I have opportunities as a result of it. Therefore, I’ve never mended my Ishi set a hashable commodity.

When I began my college search I focused on institutions that I was told would “be a good fit” for me, as most kids do, and in the process, I popped over to Clark. It turns out that choosing to attend Clark was one of the best afterthoughts I have ever had.

Today, proudly wear my Clark sweatshirt to work, visit Annie’s Clark Brunch on every occasion I can, and speak boldly and proudly with my business associates about the power and richness of my Clark experience. I call it the “unintended consequence” of my time at Clark.

I recently took inventory of all the doors Clark opened for me that I never expected or understood. Unlike others who navigate family and friends with mandates, often directly consequential results of a college education, I thought I would share some of those “unintended” opportunities being a Clarkie offered me.

1. Being a Clarkie taught me how to survive.

In my junior year, I learned — late first-semester — that my mother was dying from an autoimmune disease and would need a kidney transplant. I had to drop out. The expenses of uncovered medical bills, thousand-dollar-a-month prescriptions and general family angst required me to quickly close my O'Malley/CWC classes and continue credits to credit. I was sure I’d never finish.

My Clark community supported me, most importantly close friends and trusted mentors like Michael Ramirez. I took early leave of my dorm room and moved to Maywood Street in an apartment owned by a fellow Clarkie. I faced rent, bills, food … and for the first time, real paying work became a necessity. As I worked in the city, more opportunities arose and I took advantage of them as they came. As I look back now, it was my time at Clark that really solidified my understanding that communication, content, and context drove all successful business endeavors. I quickly rose to the challenge, using those critical thinking and speaking skills to survive. Without this “unintended consequence” I’m not sure where I would be today. And by the way, Mom’s still with us and I finally got that piece of paper.

2. Being a Clarkie made me a Dad.

I met my wife Julie (Bell) ’00 when she was working as a photocopy work-study in the Psychology Department my sophomore year. She was strong-willed, intelligent, athletic and popular. At that time in my life she was everything that made my teeth grin, except I couldn’t get her out of my head. We never dated, although I always knew something more was there between us.

While working in my junior year, it was my job as low man on the totem pole to visit Stop & Shop in Shrewsbury to procure a specific and exhaustively described brand of coffee. It was that day I met Julie again. I saw her from a distance and was astounded. I knew she was my wife from that moment on.

We got married in 2001 surrounded by my Clark community. We now have two beautiful children, Sethobah (5) and Cathal (6) who are a unique blend of both of us. We will celebrate 11 years next July, and neither one of us can imagine not just how we were brought together. Credit Clark with this “unintended” but awesome voyage.

3. Being a Clarkie gave me a career.

All the late-night conversations about Heinz Werner and his intentions with genetic theory, volumes of Lev Vygotsky translated into English, and examinations of discourse and narrative theory were meant to prepare me for a life steeped in academia. Instead, they prepared me for the business world.

Since 2004 I have been self-employed in marketing and communications, where I have run the gamut of roles and responsibilities. I created and ran a successful Web design startup company, which I sold in late 2009 to my then-partner.

I have since taken on executive communications projects for many large companies, writing position papers, marketing programs, and creating advertising. I focused on key projects with long-term relationships of value, where I could be of demonstrable, change-oriented help. Now I serve as the director of sales and marketing for a small, energetic family business, where I have run the gamut of roles and responsibilities. I created a culture of entrepreneurship, and led our team to earn the Inc. 5000 status, which we proudly wear to this day.

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All things considered, I was fortunate to choose the right college for me. All the “unintended consequences” were positive and align with what I needed as a person. The culture of Clark is very different from the typical college culture, and I am very grateful to have found and chosen a college that prepared me for the real world.

All in all, Clark was an incredible experience, and I am very grateful to have been a part of it. Thank you, Clark. 
Conflict, complicity and Congo

HOUCHOU NAMEGABE (pictured at right) stood before a spellbound audience in the Kneller Athletic Center and talked about the rape of her country.

“Women’s bodies are being used as a battlefield,” Namegabe said. “Each single case is a tragedy.”

The journalist and activist described how systematic sexual assaults on women and children in east Congo are used to control and destabilize the villages that lie near valuable mineral mines, whose extracted materials power many of the world’s cellphones and computers. The mass rapes, murders, beatings and countless other human rights abuses are weapons of war, she said.

Namegabe’s testimony was part of her keynote address for “Informed Activism: Armed Conflict, Scarce Resources, and Congo” (Sept. 24-25), an international summit that brought together hundreds of war, she said.

The conference was presented by the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies in partnership with Jewish World Watch.

Speaker after speaker noted that the demand for high tech-technology is helping fuel the conflict in Congo. President David Holmgren of the American Psychological Association, credit Clark with being the birthplace of the rat maze, which was the brainchild of Edmund Sanford, Ph.D., and graduate students Linus Kline and Willard Small. San 1901, Small, the lead researcher on the project, developed a contraption. It was “a platform about 6 feet long by 8 feet wide, covered with sawdust, and divided into galleries with walls of wire netting. (Willard) took the plan from a diagram of the hedge maze at Hampton Court (Palace in England), with an open space at the center, and six cul-de-sacs. The layout was selected with a natural setting in mind, he wrote, so that his experiments would be ‘couched in a familiar language of rodent burrows.’”

Every evening, Willard Small released two rats at a time by sliding open a glass door with pulley. He would then observe the animals’ movements, “recording their every sniff and sojourn in his note-book, before leaving them to wander the maze for the rest of the night. “Soon after, other researchers had adopted the maze as a research tool.

is it mere coincidence that 70 years later Hollywood made a horror movie about an odd young man who commands an army of rats, and that the charac-ter’s name, as well as the movie’s title, was “Willard?”

A-mazing fact

Who doesn’t take pride in learning that their college broke new research ground, even if the particular example of thought leadership involved the directional dyscrasias of rodents?

Two recent stories, in Slate.com and Monitor on Psychology, the publication of the American Psychological Association, credit Clark with being the birthplace of the rat maze, which was the brainchild of Edmund Sanford, Ph.D., and graduate students Linus Kline and Willard Small. Slate recounted that in 1901, Small, the lead researcher on the project, developed a contraption. It was “a platform about 6 feet long by 8 feet wide, covered with sawdust, and divided into galleries with walls of wire netting. (Willard) took the plan from a diagram of the hedge maze at Hampton Court (Palace in England), with an open space at the center, and six cul-de-sacs. The layout was selected with a natural setting in mind, he wrote, so that his experiments would be ‘couched in a familiar language of rodent burrows.’”

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A-mazing fact

I think my cellphone may have something to do with mass rape in the Congo.

NAAMAH HAVI’ D.O. M.A. ’96, at the Sept. 24 “Informed Activism” conference at Clark, correlating how mineral extraction for high-technology items fuels violence and systematic sexual assault in Congo.


“Educating...for what...? Renewing the deep purposes of higher education” was the theme of a semester-long symposium organized by Clark University’s Difficult Dialogues program and the Higgins School of the Humanities this past fall. The symposium fostered a series of vivid campus conversations around such topics as engagement and citizenship, livelihood and vocation, and creativity and resilience. The conversations have helped to guide and enrich the development of Clark’s new approach to undergraduate education, Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP®). The symposium was sponsored by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which has taken an interest in the LEEP initiative and especially in the role of the humanities in advancing new approaches to liberal education in the 21st century. The symposium also celebrated the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Higgins School of Humanities (see related story on page 62), honoring the vision and leadership of Alice Coonley Higgins, who served as chair of the Clark University Board of Trustees from 1967 to 1974. For more about LEEP, visit clarku.edu/leep.

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The man and his building

John M. Johansen considered the audience seated before him inside the Robert Hutchings Goddard Library’s Rare Book Room, and offered a humble assessment of the building he designed 43 years ago.

“Architects think of their most recent work as being their best,” he said. “But they can come back to earlier work and they say, ‘Not bad’.”

Johansen, 96, returned to Clark University on March 14 to help launch the exhibition “The Life of a Campus: Clark Buildings Then & Now, 1887-2012” created by the students of Kristina Wilson, associate professor of art history. The exhibition traces the evolution of Clark architecture from its first building, Jonas Clark Hall, through the campus’ gothic and modernist periods, and concludes with the University’s “green construction” exemplified by the Lasry Center for Bioscience and Blackstone Hall.

The Goddard Library remains an enduring example of “brutalist” architecture, an innovative, forward-thinking style that perhaps reflects Johansen’s recollection of “being full of ideas — possible and impossible.” He was joined at the March 14 event by architect Steven Foxe and Mark Freeman, who in 2009 augmented the original building by creating the Academic Commons.

In May of 1969, a mere two months before he left footprints on the moon, astronaut Buzz Aldrin cut the ribbon on the Goddard Library. Aldrin’s participation was “the perfect match of man and building,” Johansen said. “It’s the promise of the future ful” alteration, and noted that, while he respects history, it’s the promise of the future that sustains him. “This building is 43 years old,” he said. “That’s young, isn’t it? I hope it’s here some time longer.”

“The Life of a Campus” features original art and essays by Wilson’s students that recall and interpret the history of Clark’s signature architecture. The exhibit is on display in Dana Commons through May 27.

I was a wild man at that time,” Johansen told the standing-room-only crowd, “and still believe I am.”

Foxe said the addition of the Academic Commons was inevitable — designed to accommodate new modes of learning, which are more collaborative, more social in nature, than they were in the days when librarians shushed students among the stacks. Libraries, he said, have evolved “from places where knowledge is stored, to places where knowledge is created.”

Johansen, who viewed the Academic Commons for the first time since its construction, praised the space as a “wonderful” alteration, and noted that, while he respects history, it’s the promise of the future that sustains him. “This building is 43 years old,” he said. “That’s young, isn’t it? I hope it’s here some time longer.”

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Going with the grains

EVERYBODY at one time or another has built a sandcastle. But Arshad Kudrolli, chair of the Physics Department, and post-doctoral research associate Julien Chopin have taken beachside architecture to a new, granular level. In the process, they also scored a “hat trick—one” in the science media.

A research paper written by Kudrolli and Chopin titled “Building Desgined Granular Towers One Drop at a Time” was highlighted not only in Physical Review Letters, but also in Science, Nature and Scientific American magazines. From Nature: “Remarkable of children building castles at the beach by dipping wet sand from their feet, researchers in Massachusetts have created their own slender towers by dipping a suspension of glass beads in a water-glycerine mixture over a granular surface... The researchers suggest that the technique could be an alternative route to surface patterning and three-dimensional printing.”

Scientific American’s Cocktail Party Physics columnist Jennifer Ouellette also cites the scholars’ experiments. In “Of Granular Material and Singing Sands” the self-proclaimed “science geeks” write: “Sand is pretty fascinating stuff, from a physics standpoint. You can build far more stable and intricate sand castle designs if you have a fundamental grasp of these basic principles. And if you’re Arshad Kudrolli of Clark University, you can exploit the physics of granular media to build all kinds of unusual slender structures — building so-called granular towers, drop by mercurious drop.”

Kudrolli’s research uses both two- and three-dimensional imaging techniques and includes a broad range of topics including soft-condensed matter physics; granular materials; nonlinear geophysics; geomorphology; biomeschanics; and elasticity and crumpling, population dynamics, and patterns in biological systems. And, yes, it also involves some pretty neat-looking artwork created in a scientific sandbox.

The opera ain’t over til the Clark alumni sing. The Alumni Gala Concert held Jan. 27 in the Trinita Centre featured four star alumni who have gone on to careers as professional singers. Darlene Ann Dobisch ’95, Zhanna Alkhazov ’02, Thaddessa Bell ’98 and Tara Goodhue Alvom ’97 were accompanied by pianist and Clark music professor Sina Kustanovich in a program that included favorite arias, duets and ensembles from the opera repertoire, ranging from Handel and Mozart to Tchaikovsky and Verdi. Picture: are Bell and Dobisch.
NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Professor Taner Akçam has spent his career bravely challenging his native Turkey to accept responsibility for the Armenian Genocide of 1915—or even acknowledge that it occurred, something the country has vehemently resisted.

Akçam has not hesitated to throw himself into the fray in recent years, debating the debaters at every turn through his writings, teaching, and during his many major media appearances, sometimes in front of hostile Turkish TV audiences.

In October, he received a substantial measure of vindication when the European Court for Human Rights ruled that Turkey violated Akçam’s freedom of expression. Akçam, the first Turkish scholar to publicly express his conviction that the Armenian genocide occurred under the Ottoman Empire (of which Turkey is a successor state), brought his case to the European Court to tackle the constant fear of prosecution that caused him to stop writing on the subject in 2007.

“Without acknowledging a historic wrongdoing there will be no democracy,” Akçam said. “Turkey should learn that facing history and coming to terms with past human rights abuses is not a crime but a prerequisite for peace and reconciliation in the region.”

At least one other country publicly agrees. In January, the French Senate voted to criminalize any public denial of the Armenian genocide.

Akçam continues his scholarship, diving into hundreds of secret Ottoman documents. His latest book, “The Young Turk’s Crime Against Humanity,” covers factors that set the stage for the Armenian Genocide.

FROM THE PODIUM

No need in sight

The American healthcare system stands the fine line between trying to serve the good of the many and the interests of the individual. But no one has yet figured out a cost-effective, yet humane, way to do both. As such, there is “much ineffective, extra, inappropriate care being delivered,” said Jesse Gruman, president of the Center for Advancing Health, during the Oct. 4 Alex Daines Memorial Lecture. Gruman touted the use of “evidence-based medicine,” which often clashes with the desires of the individual patient, who may seek treatment or he or she believes will work, but which has not been proven effective through objective measurement. It’s critical that people become better informed about their healthcare, Gruman advised. “The rates of health literacy and innumeracy are appalling,” she said.

High Five

Clark University took home five awards in the annual Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) communications contest. CLARK alumni magazine was named best overall magazine in the 160,000-199,999 circulation class, earning a silver award (there was no gold given), and took a bronze for best design.

Clark’s recruitment poster, “Change Our World,” earned a silver award, and honorable mentions went to the University’s recruiting packages and the @Clark electronic newsletter. Clark competes in CASE District I, which includes the northeastern United States and eastern Canada.

Information age

In a world awash with information, where everyone from retailers to online dating services gathers, studies and deploys targeted data to improve performance, it stands to reason that the United States’ education system would make similar strides to boost student achievement. But that hasn’t been so, according to Amye Rogstad. Guidera, executive director of the national Data Quality Campaign, who delivered the Lee Gurel ’48 Lecture on Education in November, Guidera said she is entrusting all stakeholders in public education—from parents to policymakers—on a “data crusade” to demand that a comprehensive information system be employed to enhance educational outcomes. “We have more data than ever before. But who cares, if no one trusts it or knows how to access it?”

Making a Statement

“The fight is on, and it’s going to be very hard. That’s the glory of it, and the frightening thing about it.”

The times may be different, but the message was eternal, as delivered by Tom Hayden, one of the best known political activists of the 1960s. Hayden spoke at a Difficult Dialogues Symposium in November about authoring the “The Port Huron Statement,” the manifesto that helped launch the ’60s student movements. “We thought we could change the country and the world,” he told the packed room in Dana Commons. Hayden was encouraged by the uprisings in the Middle East and on Wall Street, noting the power of direct action to effect change. “You put your body on the line. You vote with your whole life, not just a piece of paper.”

And justice for all

The legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.—particularly his message of justice and tolerance for all—was recalled by activist and author Kevin Powell in a Jan. 24 speech commemo- rating Clark’s 27th annual celebration of the life of the slain civil rights leader. Powell acknowledged that King was a flawed human being, but he was a charismatic general in the fight for equality and peaceful revolution. He speculated on what King would make of the economic disparity in contem- porary America, and said he sees par- allels between the Occupy Wall Street movement and the civil rights unrest in King’s time. Powell urged students to use their education to find ways to elevate others. “We need people not to be Dr. King, but to be yourselves,” he said.

FROST ON THE PUMPKIN

A
nuals of a certain vintage still were nostalgic over the Blizzard of ’78, which left much of the Northeast without power for days, forced the cancellation of classes, and produced snowbluffs that rose to the third floor of Wright Hall. Today’s Clark students perhaps one day will regale their children with the story of the freakish Oct. 29, 2011, snowstorm that left the quad looking like a war zone and, even more traumatically, forced the postponement of Halloween. The storm’s early arrival meant that more than a foot of wet, heavy snow was dumped onto trees that hadn’t yet shed their leaves. Thanks to the accumulated weight, countless limbs crashed and snapped off during the night, taking down power lines along the East Coast.

Clark was largely spared the violets, though many staff and faculty living in other parts of Worcester and surrounding towns were without electricity for days, and were offered the use of the shower facilities at the Keenier Athletic Center. The cleanup job was extensive, students joined Physical Plant employees to draw brush off the quad. Ironically, this winter didn’t come close to matching autumn’s snowfall, with the temps so mild that the newly built skating rink on Charlotte Street struggled to remain frozen and was finally dismantled in March.
they are all Clark University alumni, all of them under 30 years old, and, like so many of their fellow graduates, they are exerting influence in their professional spheres, in their fields of study, and in the wider world. In this special cover story, we celebrate the accomplishments of 20 young alumni who already have made an impact in medicine and finance, high tech and the arts, government and education. They work in rural African villages and teeming American cities, in Manhattan skyscrapers and London laboratories, pursuing their passions with the kind of conviction and focus that are the hallmark of a Clark education. Whoever came up with the adage, “Youth is wasted on the young,” never met the talented men and women who appear on these pages, nor their Clark peers profiled at clarku.edu/alumnistories. This likely is the first time you are hearing about them, but it certainly won’t be the last.

MARY A. BADON ’05  
Major: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Studio Art  
Doctor, Orthopedics, University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Worcester  
Mary Badon knows how to focus. She was eyeing the promised track even before enrolling at Clark, where she went on to excel in biochemistry and molecular biology. Not one to view her education through a narrow lens, she managed to add a second major in studio art, specifically photography.

Today, the 28-year-old from Connecticut is a surgeon in residence in orthopedies at UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester. While studying at the Yale University School of Medicine, some of Badon’s photos about homelessness were featured in an exhibit there.

As a Clark undergraduate, Badon received a coveted Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, a Pfizer Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship and an Anton Fellowship. She graduated summa cum laude in 2005, with a medical degree and a B.S. in studio art, specifically photography. Today, she enjoys the hands-on nature of orthopedics. “I like being in the operating room. I like the procedures and the fact that, for the most part, orthopedics cases have positive outcomes.”

Badon says she enjoys the hands-on nature of orthopedics. “I like being in the operating room. I like the procedures and the fact that, for the most part, orthopedics cases have positive outcomes.”

Orthopedics is becoming “more molecular,” Badon adds, noting that her Clark studies with orthopedics major, Denis Larochelle provided a “strong foundation in molecular biology, so I can understand the new growth factors that are becoming a more important area in orthopedics.”

What are Badon’s goals for the future? “I’m still figuring that out,” she laughs. “Being in residency right now is all-consuming.”

The daughter of a pathologist father and physical therapist mother, Badon has kept her medical career in focus while making sure science, business and art also stay in the picture.

JONATHON D. BLUMENTHAL ’06  
Major: Mathematics and Computer Science  
Software Site Reliability Engineer, Google, Portland, Ore.  
If you Google the best companies at which to work, you’ll find Google. Google “Jonathon Blumenthal” and you’ll also find Google, where he has worked for the past three and a half years.

Blumenthal is with Google’s Emerging Markets team, bringing products and services to countries with far less developed infrastructure than the United States. He finds the company, the opportunities, and his location to his liking. Google was rated the top company to work for in 2012, and Blumenthal cites strong benefits and perks, and the way Google “offers opportunities to change the world.”

His biggest challenges and rewards on the job? “Scale, for both,” he answers. “When thinking about problems and solutions, the scale is always amazing. The problem most likely doesn’t impact a few people, but rather thousands or even millions of people. That is a pretty tall order to think about; however, the reward is just as big — if not bigger.”

Blumenthal values the teamwork he learned at Clark. “While my computer science and mathematics majors provided the necessary foundation and fundamentals, I’ve found that academic coursework is nothing like corporate...
and commercial software engineering. However, I’m still using the teamwork and group skills that I learned from doing research with Professor Li Han and group projects in advanced math courses with Professor Natasha Steenbergen. His future plans include continuing to challenge himself at Google. “I see endless ways of growing my career as a software engineer. Technology is always changing and there is always room to grow.”

When asked to recall the most exciting thing to happen to him both at Clark and after Clark, Blumenthal had only one answer: “I met my future wife at Clark (Katie Spencer ’05), and we were married this past October.”

But what about law school? Like college students through the ages, Sara Brown was asked that question just after telling her mother that she’d decided to switch her major from prelaw to government and international relations with a concentration in Holocaust and genocide studies. After taking an introductory course on genocide, “I literally dropped everything I was doing and changed my major,” Brown says. Since then, she has taught, studied and worked in Israel, Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi and the United States. She’s been chased by elephants in Zamb, done refugee resettlement work in Dallas, and worked with post-Hurricane Katrina shelter populations in Baton Rouge. Brown’s life path began to reveal itself in Rwanda during the summer of 2004. Mentored by Professor Shelly Tenenbaum, she received the Arthur and Rochelle Belter Foundation award for an internship there with the Alternatives to Violence Project. “It was right at the 10-year anniversary of the Rwandan genocide,” Brown said. “I felt like I had done enough. I’ll also fall in love with the sights, smells and the people.”

Brown graduated with honors in 2005. Now, she’s back at Clark in her second year as a Ph.D. student in Holocaust and genocide studies.

“Genocide, ‘I literally dropped everything I was doing and changed my major,’” Brown says. “I grew into myself as an academic and as a human being. That sounds so self-aggrandizing… But Clark made me go out and do something with my life. Clark drew the dots for me and then I was able to connect them.”

Brown earned a master’s degree in diplomacy and conflict studies at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel, led a team of six graduate students on a service-learning trip to Rwanda, and also conducted research in Burundi. In spring 2011, Brown participated in the highly selective Clart Global Initiative University, hosted by President Bill Clinton. The annual conference aims to inspire, educate and motivate students who want to make a difference. Her project involved working with high-level members of the Burundian government as the country strives to recover from the 1994 genocide that claimed an estimated 1 million lives.

Last summer, Brown spent five weeks in Rwanda. She met with organizations where women are primary stakeholders and studied the role of women in genocide — as victims, as bystanders, and as perpetrators.

Brown’s contributions to education include conference presentations in Tampico and in Kigali, Rwanda’s capital. Coming full circle, she guest-lectured for the same Introduction to Genocide Studies course that inspired her as an undergraduate. She taught two classes — one on central Africa and another on the Rwandan genocide.

At the time of this writing, Brown had just returned from Kigali, where she was continuing her doctoral research. “I have to be in the field,” she says. “I have to get a little dirt under my fingernails to have a good day.”

DAMON GINANDES ’04
Major: Studio Art and Philosophy
\nKniefeldt Wotuky Capgemini, Jersey City, N.J. Painter/Sculptor, New York area
damonginandes.com

How would you like to get paid for doodling at Work, drawing images to illustrate ideas that percolate at corporate workshops? And when you’re done with that, you hit the streets to create celebrated pieces of art in locales ranging from the traditional (art galleries) to the urban-esque (a decommissioned subway station). Welcome to Damon Ginandes’ world. He’s a “knowledge worker” in the Accelerated Solutions Environment at the consulting agency Capgemini. In the ASE, executives from large companies and government agencies participate in focused, intensive workshops where they try to solve problems in a compressed amount of time. Ginandes facilitates these workshops by graphically recording the conversations through sketches and maps. He says “generated more acclaim than I expected.”

GUNNAR HAGSTROM ’07, M.B.A. ’08
Major: Management International Fellow, PeacePlayers International Cyprus

“Anyone who ever got me a job was a Clark grad.”

Gunnar Hagstrom chuckles when he says this, but not because it isn’t true.

The former Clark basketball and baseball player is speaking on phone from the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, where he works with PeacePlayers International, an organization that uses athletics to foster conflict resolution in troubled spots around the world, including South Africa, Israel and the West Bank, and Northern Ireland. Hagstrom landed the position with help from contacts Lawrence Norman ’74, M.B.A. ’75, a member of the PeacePlayers board of directors, and John Ginsbury ’01, a former assistant basketball coach at Clark. Prior to heading overseas, Hagstrom was an assistant coach with the MIT men’s basketball team. His Clark connection there was former MIT assistant Oliver Elesinger ’77, now head coach at CalTech. Last year Hagstrom played in the North Cyprus Professional Basketball League. (My buddies from Clark joke that of all the people who want to play professional basketball, somehow it was me.)

Riven by conflict between Greek and Turkish Cypriots since 1974, Cyprus is currently divided into the self-proclaimed northern Cypriot region and the United Nations-monitored buffer zone separating northern and southern Cyprus. The players practice in their own communities, and they are taught conflict resolution through basketball. “They’re low-skilled players, but we make the game fun and enjoyable,” Hagstrom says. “This is more about getting kids involved than creating the next Michael Jordan.”

Once a month, teams from the north and south are brought together for friendly competition. Sometimes they cross through the armed checkpoints; other times they play at a court in the neutral zone.

“We try to get them as many interactions as possible over the course of a year,” Hagstrom says. PeacePlayers also runs summer camps and teaches a leadership development program for 16- to 18-year-olds. “The earlier we get these kids in the game, the better; we can teach them about the other community. Our motto is: Kids who can play together can live together.”

KELLEY SHORTLEVE ’08
Major: Especially Gifted Associate Scientist at Ensemble Therapeutics, Cambridge, Mass.

It’s no coincidence that when she describes her profession, Kelley Shortlev’s phrases are peppered with the vocabulary of conflict. She speaks of “antagonists” and “targets,” and about locating the weaknesses in an enemy that...
Ensemble. It was the only interview I went on, going to small biotech companies in and around
in their labs to complete her master's degree. Later established a project working with Abbott
year she interned at Abbott Labs in Worcester chemistry in Shortsleeves, who pursued her
supply compounds for in vitro testing, "she says. "And I realize that small decisions can have
protein interactions that are common in oncology
do to address many protein targets that cannot be
accepted with grace and equanimity. Her first in-
ternship was with the civil division of the U.S.
Attorney's office in Boston during the capture of
renowned gangster Whitey Bulger, so she's
and comparing the legal literature in different
part of the school's co-op program, is steep-
Supreme Judicial Court in Massachusetts, is
rights law is the ability to advocate for some-
Before college, Shapiro moved to New York
then, Shapiro, a former high school baseball
player, landed a job working for Major League
Baseball. He began as a freelancer, editing each
day's game highlights from across the country for
the league's website. The position evolved into a
during a lightning storm. "What happens when you
give a camera to a kid who's never seen one? What's
that transformation like?"
In the spirit of Shapiro's profession of film-
maker, we'll save the ending for last, and in-
stead go to a flashback. A native of Attleboro, Pa., Shapiro had a
love for storytelling that early on manifested
a priority. A lot of these kids really don't know,
how old they are." Shapiro acknowledges he caught lightning in
Africa, camera in hand, to film "Opposite Field."
and joy, was captured on film by Jay Shapiro.
She is the director of academic
Franklin County for Connecticut's
the American Legion.
On Jan. 17, on a brilliant day in Uganda's capital
>World Series. The result was the docu-
mentary filmmaker, new York, n.Y.

JAY SHAPIRO '04
Major: Business
Documentary Filmmaker, New York, N.Y.

The boy's name is Ivan, and he is poor even by
Ugandan standards. He lives with seven other
relatives in an equipment shed, sleeping on
the bare ground, which turns to mud during rain-
storms. Once his eyes shut, though, he is happy. "When I lay here at night, I dream about
baseball," Ivan says with a slight smile, looking
directly into the lens of Jay Shapiro's camera.
Ivan and dozens of other boys from Uganda
are the stars of Shapiro's documentary, "Op-
opositive Field" which chronicles the unlikely rise of baseball in the east African nation and
the vision of a Long Island businessman who
could apply his skills, and by sophomore year
he'd secured an internship in the Philadelphia
area to learn editing. "I think I gained half my
credit outside the classroom," he says.
Shapiro also earned an Amos Fellowship, which sent him to Ghana. There, he
gained his camera to a 10-year-old boy and had him
chronicled his world. The result was the docu-
mentary, "Like Me, I Am Here."
The "quandary of Africa has always inter-
cested me," he says. "I wanted to focus on the
notion of the changing way people identify themselves, and how it can change the traje-
tory of a community, and ultimately an entire nation. What happens when you give a cam-
era to a kid who's never seen one? What's that
transformation like?"

And now, the happy ending.
A community organizer from Vancouver
called Ruth Hoffman learned that it had
been allowed to play in the World Series, the
Ugandan team's first African squad to qualify
for the visa snafu dashed its chances. Their
entrée into the Little League World Series be-
to send a Canadian team to Uganda, build more baseball fields
there, and supply funds for the Ugandan team to travel to future Little League competitions.
On Jan. 17, on a brilliant day in Uganda's capital
city of Kampala and the Pearl of Africa Series was
played, with the Ugandan team beating the Cana-
dian, 2-1. The game, and all its peripheral drama
and joy, was captured on film by Jay Shapiro.
When this interview took place, Shapiro
was shopping the distribution rights for "Op-
opositive Field" and was in talks with Turner
Sports about the possibility of making a
basketball-themed film in South America. He
marvels that on the fields of Uganda he
was able to unite his three loves — baseball, story-
telling and filmmaking — in an endeavor that
evertheless feels less like a job than it does a
sweet dream.
Dan Roberts
Director of History and Research, Wilson Historical Research Center and Little Rock, Ark.

Dan Roberts' love of history was practically predetermined by his hometown. He grew up in downtown Providence, R.I., on a corner dotted with old mansions, and near the Portland Harbor shipyard where workers toiled to build the ‘hurry ships’ that would establish United States naval dominance during World War II. He played on streets named for generals and presidents. ‘You can imagine the mystique,’ he says. ‘It was like growing up next to a castle.’

Roberts pursued his passion into history degrees at Clark (a bachelor’s and master’s), which included practical opportunities provided to him through the Strasser Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. During his senior year, he traveled with them to Italy to visit Sant’Andrea, and Monte Cassino, just miles from his ancestral village. Led by Erika LeClair ’05, the museum about an Italian-American GI named Robert Roberts is responsible for the historical messages behind the museum’s exhibits, books and presentations; he oversees a team of researchers who identify and write about each of the 10,000 artifacts in the museum’s archives. His job has evolved into a history major’s dream, offering him many opportunities to travel, including a trip to the Airborne Museum in St. Mere Eglise where his museum gifted the 65th anniversary of D-Day.

ERIKA LeCLAIR ’05
Major: Biology
Bachelor’s, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

‘In my current position a sterile environment is essential so I do not contaminate my - plates were not contaminated. I remember my first meeting was on a Friday afternoon...’

LeClair’s lab works with many city, state and federal agencies, responding to concerns and threats, and developing tests for various viruses and bacteria strains. LeClair landed her position after being a contract worker in another state laboratory.

Long Lin
Major: Economics
Financial Analyst, Schlumpf International Consulting, New York, N.Y.

‘I always think my “career” started in my freshmen year...’

At the time he was unsure of his professional path, but he discovered very quickly how best to move in the right direction. With the help of Career Services and the online alumni database, Lin reached out to alumni working in the fields that interested him, and they brought him in.

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Jennifer Goldstein
Major: Political Science and History Desk Officer, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

Jennifer Goldstein remembers a session of Professor Cynthia Elbow’s Comparative Politics class where the discussion centered on one topic: tomatoes.

“The basic premise was that you take what would appear to be mundane issues,” Goldstein says, “and discuss how everything is political. People’s motivations are political, whether they realize it or not.”

During her junior year, Clark, she worked for Harris Bank as a privacy analyst; for a political media firm; and then moved to DC to be an intern for Rep. Melissa Bean of Illinois.

“People’s motivations are political, whether they realize it or not.”

She was like growing up next to a castle.”

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HARRISON MACKLER ’07
Major: Biology
Pedodontal student Harvard Dental School, Boston, Mass.; Researcher
Harrison Mackler cut his teeth in a London dentistry internship, where his research was literally right beneath his tongue.

While studying abroad on Clark’s London Internship Program his junior year, Mackler worked at King’s College’s London Dental Institute, and began learning about tissue engineering. “Tissue engineering means growing organs, such as bone, a heart valve, or an entire pancreas, in the laboratory. By combining stem cells and growth factors onto materials that mimic our own body,” he explains, “we can make a final product that could be used to replace our own wounded or aged body parts.”

When he returned to Clark, he used his Steinbrecher and Corner fellowships to deepen his research with Professor Tim Lyerla. Mackler focused on a synthetic alternative to bone grafts that could be used to repair bone damaged by injury or disease such as osteoporosis, arthritis and cancer.

After Clark, Mackler expanded his tissue-engineering research to include teeth, first in a lab at Tufts Dental School and then at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. His interest also encompassed the workings of the immune system.

“When someone has gum disease, the immune system naturally tries to fight the bacteria that started it. Unfortunately, this response does not clear the infection,” Mackler says. “In fact, while it’s trying, the immune cells in-advertently break down bone and cause more of a problem.”

Continuing on this trajectory, he became the only dental student in the country to be selected for a year-long Howard Hughes Medical Institute research fellowship, which he carried out at the Forsyth Institute and the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. There, he took a year off from dental school to investigate a cure to suppress the immune responses in the mouth, trying selectively to stop the bone from breaking down.

That year of research translated into his winning five science prizes in 2011 and making presentations about his findings at academic conferences across the country.

After graduating from Harvard in May 2012, Mackler will start his residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry, where he'll spend three years specializing in clinical periodontology. “I am working toward being a specialist in the area of periodontology, and I will undoubtedly maintain a connection back to academics, whether that be through research, teaching, or a combination of the two,” he says.

“I am working in a field within dentistry that I'm really passionate about,” Mackler adds. “And I'm positive that I wouldn't have been able to have these experiences without the opportunities I was given at Clark.”

MEGAN ROSE ’06, M.A. ED. ’07
Major: English, Education
Teacher: University Park Campus School, Worcester

Rosa now has a similarly fulfilling job, working as a one-on-one teacher at the University Park Campus School in Worcester’s Main South neighborhood, where she is now preparing students for their own college experiences.

“Academically, I came away from undergrad with a clear understanding that there was something that I didn’t know about,” Rosa says. “But she acknowledges. “It's different for every age group and every kid, but through lots of trial and error I've found that emphasizing the particular student’s strengths, instead of his or her weaknesses, is as commonplace in academia, tends to work.”

The payoff of her efforts is tangible.

“The first seventh graders I ever taught back as a student-teacher are now my current seniors. They've been with me from sixth to eighth grade. We're like a family now and it's so fun to be with them in their final year and to see them off to college.”

SCOTT SILVER ’06
Major: Screen Studies
Co-owner of Siskatia Media, Los Angeles

Scott Silver makes movies for a living, but often has to use his own cell phone to make them. The Texas native, who during his time at Clark made short films starring theater students, honed his editing skills at the prestigious American Film Institute and by doing freelance post-production work. His company’s first major film, “Removal,” a Hitchcockian psychological thriller starring Billy Burke of “Twilight” and Elliot Gould, has just been released on DVD. He's now in discussions with

He says the meaningful undergraduate research opportunities he enjoyed at Clark were key to his development. As early as his sophomore year he was “learning the ABCs of economics research from Professor Wayne Gray. With the guidance of his professors, he was then able to secure a junior-year-abroad slot at the prestigious London School of Economics. Through the London Alumni Experiences — from his research responsibilities to the valuable alumni mentoring he received — are serving Long Lane well as he realizes his dream of bridging the two countries that have nurtured and educated him.

NAGRAJ RAO ’08
Major: Math and Economics
Research Analyst, World Bank, Tanzania
Nagraj Rao crunches numbers for a living, but to him those are not just figures on a spreadsheet. They represent thousands of little stories from which emerge a human narrative, one that describes the day-to-day circumstances of individual people, and, when considered collectively, of an entire country.

Rao, a research analyst with the World Bank, manages data collection on families in the African country of Tanzania, overseeing the teams who conduct interviews in remote villages and bustling cities. Working through grants from the Gates Foundation and other donors, Rao helps design survey models and deploys interviewers to gather information that will give the government hard numbers on such issues as poverty, housing, agriculture, water and sanitation. Through grants from various entities that include the government, international organizations and donors, Rao says, “certainly less so than in India, which has a very strong middle class. It’s critical for people to have a voice that’s not washed away in the politics of the place.”

The surveys are a multi-year process (Rao came on board during the second year). His teams follow up with families who were interviewed last year, then enter the data via computer software, which will tell Rao the types of changes that have occurred. He spends about 50 percent of his time traveling the country to ensure the surveys are being conducted properly.

“We’re looking at trends,” he says. “Obvi- ously there is quite a bit of movement — people get new jobs, get married, move away. Tracing the same people [who were previously interviewed] in the hard part, and we have to devise strategies to reach them. There are no localational addresses in Tanzania — even in the cities — and not everyone owns a phone.”

Once the data are collected, Rao and his colleagues in Washington pore over the information to check its legitimacy, a process that takes months to years — nothing on poverty or consumption. They’ll be setting up the survey for them and build the statistical capacity for the country. It’s exciting to be part of things as they change in Liberia — it’s on the verge of becoming a great nation.”

His work for the Gates foundation has taken him to Tanzania, India, Ethiopia and Nigeria, and “in a way, I have a job that allows me to travel the world and do something that matters,” he says.

“I love school. It only made sense.”

But he most relishes the creative component of his job. The Texas native, who during his time at Clark made short films starring theater students, honed his editing skills at the prestigious American Film Institute and by doing freelance post-production work. His company’s first major film, “Removal,” a Hitchcockian psychological thriller starring Billy Burke of “Twilight” and Elliot Gould, has just been released on DVD. He's now in discussions with

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English Language & Composition, 11th and 12th grade journalism, and 12th grade honors English — Rosa embraces the teaching task of engaging students of multiple abilities and backgrounds. Not all are so easily inspired.

“Motivating students — to do work, to do work well, to take risks — is a daily challenge,” she acknowledges. “It’s different for every age group and every kid, but through lots of trial and error I’ve found that emphasizing the particular student’s strengths, instead of his or her weaknesses, is as commonplace in academia, tends to work.”

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CAITLIN THAYER '07  
**Major:** History  
**Owner of Barefoot Media LLC, Hartford, Conn.**

Caitlin Thayer does not take her feet for granted, and with good reason. As a competitive runner, those feet carry her over hundreds of miles of New England roads each year, helping the weather-worn, traffic-scoured pavement for races ranging in distance from 5k to a half-marathon. And that’s not to mention the practice runs — three times a week if she’s being good.

But here’s the thing: Thayer doesn’t fear doing all that without the benefit of wearing shoes. She sometimes runs barefoot, eschewing anything that comes between her soles and the street.

Thayer’s business — appropriately named Barefoot Media — is equally as scrappy as her running style. Thayer launched her company (originally called Thayer Consulting) on the notion that she could coach nonprofits on using social media to spread the word about their social media campaigns effectively and cheaply. Her clients include The Alliance for Nonprofit Growth and Opportunity, the Hartford Public Library, the United Way and the Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame, hire Thayer to train them and strategize ways they can employ social media platforms to their advantage.

Thayer is no stranger to the nonprofit world. Following her graduation from Clark, the Maine native moved to Hartford to work as assistant manager of visitor services at The Mark Twain House and Museum. She was soon asked to run the museum’s Facebook page, and realized she had a knack for optimizing social media. Over time, Thayer was approached by other nonprofits to help with their online presence, her clientele list expanding to the point where she quit her museum job to start her consulting company.

"I actually think my young age made it easier to go out on my own," Thayer says. "My longest challenge has been that I don’t have a business background, so it’s been a learning experience dealing with invoicing, taxes and the logistics of starting and running a business."

Much of Thayer’s job involves illuminating clients — some who are skittish about new technologies — about how social media can be synthesized into their business plans. "I teach my clients to use social media in a natural way, grow it organically," she says. "There are so many people who think that social media is just for selling products and marketing themselves, which doesn’t help their company or organization in the long run. So I teach organizations how to be natural, how to connect with their audience and how to use social media for long-term success."

Thayer’s own success is getting her noticed. She’s a familiar presence in the Hartford media, who frequently seek her out to comment on social-media topics. Hartford Magazine named Thayer one of the county’s top young achievers, and she leads training seminars to help nonprofits enhance their online portfolios.

As her business grows, Thayer is compiling tips and techniques she’s developed for clients over the years and will post a do-it-yourself social media manual that folks can download for free. She knows that effective communication, like running, cannot be forfeited by traditional methods; that success will take you in exciting, unexpected directions. Yes, Caitlin Thayer is on the move, but she also has her feet firmly planted.

ETHAN ZORFAS ’07, M.P.A. ’08  
**Major:** Government and International Relations

**Chief of Staff for Congressman Frank Guinta, Washington, D.C.**

Introduction to American Politics with Professor Mark Miller. It was his first class, in his first semester, and it was there that Ethan Zorfas decided to see his career path.

“I knew then that politics was where I wanted to be,” Zorfas says. He’s never flip-flopped on that decision.

Zorfas is chief of staff for Congressman Frank Guinta (R-N.H.), managing theilmington’s staffs in Washington and New Hampshire, and serving as liaison to the leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives.

“I manage my boss in a sense, too,” he says. “I work with him on what his focus will be legislatively; how he’ll work through his decisions.”

After earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees, Zorfas worked on campaigns “as one of those guys who does everything — driving the candidates, fundraising, coordinating what needs to be coordinated.”

In 2008 he went to work for the National Republican Congressional Committee, traveling across the country to gauge what kind of support local campaigns needed from the committee in Washington. He worked with two candidates in particular, Dr. William Cassidy (R-La.) and Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyoming), who were both elected to Congress for the first time in 2008. At their request, Zorfas remained with their campaigns; he added four more clients, and soon he’d built his own campaign-consulting business. His political views meshed especially closely with Rep. Guinta’s. “We just hit it off,” Zorfas says. “We saw the world through the same lens.”

In January 2011, Zorfas accepted Guinta’s offer to become his chief of staff. He acknowledges the move legislative gridlock in Washington on major fiscal issues, but is quick to add that off the radar much is being accomplished across the political divide. He cites the work that Guinta’s office has done in tandem with Democratic Congressman Barney Frank on issues involving commercial fishing, which affect the coastal populations of both New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Zorfas himself is no stranger to reaching across the aisle. As a Republican at Clark, he found his positions often were at odds with those of liberal-leaning students, including many of his friends. But their discussions, he says, “made me sharper.”

“If I argue with politics with a Clarke, I had to be on my game. I loved it,” he says with a laugh. “Clark helped me interact with people who don’t agree with my political ideology; it gave me an understanding of things beyond my own world.” That experience has carried over into his professional life, where “I have to put my head in the place of someone who didn’t grow up as I had. That’s important when I’m in New Hampshire talking to a commercial fisherman.”

Despite his love of politics, Zorfas has no aspirations for elective office. “I see what these guys go through; I’m happy where I am,” he says. “I’d like to continue to find ways to work in policy through the government.”

BRIDGET T. MILLMAN ’08  
**Major:** International Development and Social Change

**Project Coordinator, Balkan Trust for Democracy, Serbia**

Bridget T. Millman wrapped up her bachelor’s degree when the U.S. economy was poised for the Great Recession, a time when college graduates around the country were struggling to find employment. Nonetheless, Millman, who double-majored in philosophy and international development and social change, has managed during these tough economic times to land a personally meaningful job that utilizes her interests and skills.

Millman grabbed an opportunity to intern with the Business Start-up Centre Kapgavec, an initiative of the Dutch organization SPARK. During her internship she conducted interviews with entrepreneurs, local parmes, and training participants in Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, countries where Business Start-up Centres had been established.

She returned to Clark to pursue a master’s in international development and social change. Her course research led her back to the Balkans to study the effects of international development assistance on political systems. Millman’s return to the Balkans was precipitated by her frustration in finding objective information on that part of the world.

“I had questions I couldn’t find answers to by staying put,” she explains. “I identified a gap in the quality and objectivity of information available to me in the U.S. on issues and events in the Balkans. I continue to see in the international media discrepancies in the portrayal of local events, and perspectives on those events. The reality is frequently much more complex.”

Millman is still in the Balkans, now working with the Balkan Trust for Democracy, an innovative public-private partnership that supports democracy, good governance, and Euro-Atlantic integration in Southeast Europe. Among her many responsibilities, Millman reviews project proposals and analyzes budgets, monitors ongoing projects and evaluates reports, meets with grantees and applicants, and conducts field monitoring visits.

In addition to working as part of a close-knit team, Millman enjoys the opportunity to travel and become familiar with Balkan culture and history. “Travel,” she notes, “whether international or domestic, is an invaluable education.”
Jonas Stanley

On As gilMAnCl Ark

was born in the hardscrabble town of Hubbardston, Mass., in 1815. ¶ Granville stanley Hall was born about 80 miles west in the hardscrabble town of ashfield, Mass., in 1845. ¶ Their humble beginnings were about the only thing they shared. ¶ Jonas Clark had become wealthy in the shipping trade to California after the 1849 gold rush. He later was in the furniture business in new york. When he retired in 1880, he owned substantial real estate in san Francisco, New York and Worcester. He and his wife moved to Worcester, where he built a large granite house on Elm Street and a substantial five-story office.

Jonas Clark, pictured at lower left; G. Stanley Hall, at upper right, and images from Clark University’s history.

CLARK’S FOUNDER AND ITS FIRST PRESIDENT WERE HIGHER EDUCATION’S ODD COUPLE, BUT FROM THEIR COMPETING VISIONS, A WORLD-CLASS UNIVERSITY WAS BORN.

By Albert B. Southwick ’41

ONAS GILMAN CLARK was born in the hardscrabble town of Hubbardston, Mass., in 1815. ¶ Granville Stanley Hall was born about 80 miles west in the hardscrabble town of Ashfield, Mass., in 1845. ¶ Their humble beginnings were about the only thing they shared. ¶ Jonas Clark had become wealthy in the shipping trade to California after the 1849 gold rush. He later was in the furniture business in New York. When he retired in 1880, he owned substantial real estate in San Francisco, New York and Worcester. He and his wife moved to Worcester, where he built a large granite house on Elm Street and a substantial five-story office.
building on Main Street — long rented by Denholms, the big department store — and made plans to endow a college in the city. Worcester at that time had about 85,000 people, thousands of them immigrants who labored in the mills that were transforming the bustling city.

When Jonas Clark realized how he had been conned by Hall, he stopped attending trustee meetings and sent the board an alumnae letter. Either get a regular college or stop talking about it. And make sure that Hall has no connection to it.

The trustees, who had been under the权控下 of Dr. Hall, capitulated. Clark College opened its doors in 1902. In 1930, long after Jonas Clark was dead, the University and the College were merged under the presidency of Dr. Wallace Atwood, a geographer. When Jonas Clark Hall, seated at center, flanked by Paul Siple, Ph.D. (below left) G. Stanley Hall, seated at center, flanked by Paul Siple, Ph.D. (below).
“Check the Koelsch book.”

It’s the standard response to the innumerable questions that arise about Clark’s past. Why was anthropology professor Franz Boas’ research considered revolutionary for its time? How did Clark students respond during war time, from the world wars through Vietnam? What president of the United States delivered Clark’s 1905 commencement address? Who founded the Clark University Archives and was named University Historian in 1982? In the 1970s he’d crossed the country looking for original manuscripts related to early Clark, and the book draws heavily on that material. He also conducted interviews with former faculty and administrators, and culled from the unpublished memoirs of former presidents Howard Jefferson and Appley.

By the time he wrote I was in a secure position against anyone who might want to squawk about something,” he says with a chuckle. “I can defend every sentence using the backup material.”

The latter part of the book is informed by Koelsch’s personal knowledge of Clark. During his many years at the University he was heavily involved in faculty governance and earned a reputation for exercising careful judgment with a measured voice. His access to the inner workings of Clark gave him a unique insight when it came time to compose some of the more recent history.

“The last two chapters are a mix of what was documented in the archives, my own experience, and a set of video taped interviews that [Dean of the College] Bob Campbell had done,” he recalls. “I also had a good deal of background material from other faculty who had been at Clark throughout those years.”

Koelsch, who retired in 1998 and now lives in San Diego, continued to give him time to prepare the Clark book for the 1987 centennial. And he has seen the book through its numerous editions since then.

“I remembered Harvey from my student days,” Koelsch recalls. “One day I saw him back on campus and I introduced myself. He told me he was here because he wanted to take a look at the new library. He’d heard that so he could make up his mind. Later, he told me he wasn’t that interested in the new library, but was a welcome sight during the World War II years when he was a student here because he wanted to take a look at the new library. He’d heard that it was about to be completed so he could take a look at it.”

One of the former custodians pictured, Harvey Curry, also delivered mail, and was a welcome sight during the World War II years when he would stop by classrooms with letters written by soldiers overseas for their sweethearts at Clark.

“I remembered Harvey from my student days,” Koelsch recalls. “One day I saw him back on campus and I introduced myself. He told me he was here because he wanted to take a look at the new library. He’d heard that so he could make up his mind. Later, he told me he wasn’t that interested in the new library, but was a welcome sight during the World War II years when he was a student here because he wanted to take a look at the new library. He’d heard that it was about to be completed so he could take a look at it.”

That is Clark. Even the custodians evaluate the evidence and make their own judgments."
THE MAN IN THE GLASS

100 YEARS AGO THIS SPRING, LOUIS TYREE BROKE THE COLOR BARRIER AT CLARK

BY ANNE GIBSON, PH.D. '95
ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE DALTON COWAN
Charles Tyree's enlistment papers cited his occupation as "farmer" and revealed, by his "mark," that he could not, at that time, write. Over the next two years Charles was promoted, first to corporal and then to sergeant, the latter after being wounded in action at Decatur, Ala. Off the "colored troops" in this fight, Major General R. S. Garnett was quoted as reporting that they "were cool, brave, and determined; and under the heaviest fire of the enemy exhibited no signs of confusion." Charles was later awarded an initial monthly pension of $4 in compensation for a gunshot wound to his left shoulder.

Charles and Lucy Jane were among the many African-Americans who made their way north in the aftermath of the Civil War, hoping to "read. Lucy Jane, who wrote both fluently and eloquently, expressed her hopes for her family in a letter to a friend immediately after World War II. "My husband and I have labored and sacrificed … that our children might be prepared to be of service in the world, and live a credit and honor to their name." Tyree started his high school career at Manual Training High School (now Emmet M. Manual), probably in the company of white as well as black students. But here his story takes an unexpected turn. Somehow he found his way to one of the most prestigious college preparatory schools in the country, New Hampshire's Phillips Exeter Academy, from which he received a Classic Diploma in 1909. Several months later he matriculated at Clark. **

When Louis Tyree was three years old, events unfolded 900 miles northeast of Indianapolis that would eventually allow him to further his education at the collegiate level. On March 31, 1887, the governor of Massachusetts signed the act incorporating Clark University, founded and funded by former abolitionist Jonas Gilman Clark. In his will, Clark stated "it is my earnest desire, will and direction, that the said University, in its practical management, as well as in its theory, may be wholly free from every kind of denominational or sectarian control, bias or limitation, and that in due time may be open to all classes and persons whatever may be their religious faith or political sympathies, or to whatever creed, sect or party they may belong." It would seem consistent with Jonas Clark's abolitionist views, as well as his desire to make a Clark education available to young men of modest means, for his University to admit students regardless of race as well. Clark University was located in a city known for its early abolitionist sympathies. Worcester's distinguished role in the abolitionist movement is revealed in Clark history professor Janette Greenwood's "First Fruits of Freedom: The Migration of Former Slaves and Their Search for Equality in Worcester, Massachusetts, 1848-1900." She notes that in 1875 Worcester had changed its representative to the Massachusetts General Court to call for the abolition of slavery, and that in 1781 a Worcester County slave successfully sued for his freedom. "From the 1830s on," Greenwood writes, "Worcester played a leading role in nearly every major anti-slavery endeavor of the era. In many ways Worcester initiated more groundbreaking and radical anti-slavery activity … than Boston." Escaped slaves making their way along the Underground Railroad often used Worcester as a way station, just as that of Worcester's Ste- phen and Abby Kelly Foster. Worcester was the birthplace in 1848 of the Free Soil Party that opposed the extension of slavery into western territories, and the Worcester Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, notes that while some northern educational institutions like Clark, Holy Cross and Phillips Exeter appear to have welcomed African-Americans, the wider community may have been less tolerant.

According to Koechel, author of "Clark University, 1887-1987: A Narrative History," the majority of Clark undergraduates during this time hailed from New England, and the bulk of those were from Worcester or elsewhere in Massachusetts. Clark political aspirations — tended to attract working-class and other students of modest means, so one can reasonably assume that at least the economic disparity between Tyree and his classmates wasn’t uncomfortably wide. Tyree, age 28 when he completed his degree, was one of the oldest in his class, but there was a spread of about 10 years between the youngest and oldest of his fellow gradu- ates. **

Louis Tyree, known as ‘Ty’ to friends, seems to have opened no effort to combat the isolation he must have felt as...
the only African-American and one of the relatively few non-New Englanders at the college. His father, Robert Perry, lists him as a member of the Cosmopolitan Club (formed to promote understanding between students of different nationalities), YMCA, Debating Society, the Republican Club, and the Wright Social Science Club (named for Clark College’s former president and U.S. Commissioner of Labor Carroll Wright). Tyree also attended the French Baptist Church on Main Street, an interesting detail, considering he was voted Class Heathen at Phillips Exeter.

Tyree’s time at Clark was bracketed by two events that received global news coverage: Frederick Cook’s sensationalist claim that he had reached the North Pole in 1908, one year before Robert Peary, and the sinking of the R.M.S. Titanic in April 1912. Closer to home, world-champion boxer “Babe” Ruth (who years later would sign a promising left-handed pitcher named Babe Ruth) went to hear the lectures of Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung, not to mention Tyree. He earned his bachelor’s degree with a major in psychology, and China and the Far East. One wonders if Tyree, who bore interest — and had to be paid back. Perry finds it encouraging that Tyree was able not only to ask for financial assistance, but to take advantage of that aid when offered. Perry says, “I do not know that I am colored unless I look at census records, city directories and other public documents from 1905 to about 1918 show any prejudice. I do not know that I am colored unless I look at census records, city directories and other public documents from 1905 to about 1918 show any prejudice. I do not know that I am colored unless I look at census records, city directories and other public documents from 1905 to about 1918 show any prejudice. I do not know that I am colored unless I look at census records, city directories and other public documents from 1905 to about 1918 show any prejudice. I do not know that I am colored unless I look at census records, city directories and other public documents from 1905 to about 1918 show any prejudice. I do not know that I am colored unless I look at census records, city directories and other public documents from 1905 to about 1918 show any prejudice. I do not know that I am colored unless I look at census records, city directories and other public documents from 1905 to about 1918 show any prejudice. 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In a June 1922 letter to his brother Tyler Jr., he described France as possessing a social climate more congenial to African-Americans than that which he had left in the U.S. “I like France very much,” he wrote. “The people here do not show any prejudice. I do not know that I am colored unless I look in the glass.” Tyree considered purchasing a combination of bar, restaurant and live space “in a working district near the docks” of Marseilles and expressed hope that his brother would consider joining him to “cook and run the kitchen.” Of this Mediterranean city Tyree rhapsodized that, “The climate is fine, the winters are very mild. The section of France in which I live is a land of perpetual springtime.”

He went on to confide, “The people at home are angry with me because I came to France, but I could not stay in the brothel of Negro prejudice any longer.”

This was Tyree’s second trip to the continent. He had spent several months in Belgium the previous year, possibly in a military capacity. Greenwood notes that often “black soldiers in World War I ... found France much more color blind than the U.S., with some returning as expats.”

Tyree’s dream of running a bar and restaurant in Marseille failed to materialize; the details are unknown. A September 1924 letter to one of his stores’ carriers a return address of Chicago, where Tyree appears to have resided and practiced law until retirement. His death on October 12, 1963, reported in the Boston Guardian, came to his mis to less than a year the passing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Tyree’s bacalaureate degree was a significant achievement for any one in pre-World War I America, of whatever race or gender. The National Center for Education Statistics reports that in the year 1910, fewer than 40,000 Americans earned a bachelor’s degree, slightly more than one quarter of whom were women. In those days, even completing high school was an accomplishment.

Three years after Tyree graduated, Clark College awarded a B.A. to African-American Francis C. Summer. He went on to complete a Ph.D. in psychology in Clark in 1920, the first doctoral degree in psychology earned by a black man in the United States. That same year African-American E. Franklin Frazier completed an M.A. in sociology at Clark. Perry finds it encouraging that Tyree was sufficiently receptive to students of color. The year 1909 witnessed a black student sit-in on campus, which resulted as a Black Student Scholarship Fund and the establishment of a black student cultural center. Today, Clark actively recruits and supports promising students of color, as well as those who are the first in their families to go to college, and provides them with transitional support through the ALANA (African-American, Latino, Asian and Native American) program. Numerous student-run clubs celebrate the racial and ethnic diversity that now characterizes the campus.

Aside from some of the older structures, Louis Perry probably wouldn’t recognize the place today. But he would likely take heart in the number of Clark students who don’t see color, even when they look in the glass.

Aknowledgments: Wilma Moore, Senior Archivist, African-American History, Indiana Historical Society; Edward L. Throemer, Assistant Librarian and Assistant, Library, Indiana Historical Society; Edouard L. Desrochers, Assistant in Technical Services, Phillips Exeter Academy; Forbush Williams, Coordinator of Archives and Special Collections, Clark University.
As it hits the 10-year mark, Clark’s International Gala remains a miracle of planning and execution. An insider delivers the low-down on how it’s done.

By Chanchala Gunewardena ’11, M.S.P.C. ’12
Photography by Steven King
I T S ABOUT 3 A.M. the morning of the show — earlier than I expected to be contemplat-
ing the prospect of sleep.

Final dress rehearsal wrapped up around 2 a.m. Sound and stage lights have been put to rest by a student crew, and they along with Director of Stu-
dent Leadership and Programming Mike McKenna (collectively known as Mike’s Team) are preparing to head home. International Students Association (ISA) members are done with their final checks, which include a last-minute trip to pick up safety pins, resetting the space to opening-night form, and hanging a world’s-worth of flags that proudly decorate the perimeter of the Kneller Athletic Center.

About eight of us are pulling out sleeping bags, sheets and pillows, and making our way to the stage that didn’t even exist 24 hours ago. This will be our soft place to land for the night. We must stay here because the wiring and temperature-sensitive equipment prevent the Kneller doors from being locked, and anyone could walk in. Some stayed behind for the camaraderie of a last night together. I don’t have it in me to point out that they will have to cancel their slumber-party plans — they will be out before their heads hit the pillows. I just say my goodnights and demonstratively give the Gala conversation a deliberate rest until the morning of the show.

My brother, also a Clarkie, would bring a per-
formance DVD home over break and I would watch, enthralled — not so much by the show, but by the sight of my brother bangra-ing and

sound track, enthralled — not so much by the show,

decorating the face of crystal Fam ‘13 with

tattoos, and being part of the Gala performance to the Kneller Athletic Center. Still, despite all the new logistical con-

cerns brought on by the move, the core of the show — its heart and soul-bound perfor-

mances — retained its passion. This is why seeing the performances take shape each year reminds all involved that it will work even on the most impossible days.

Committing to Gala happens long before the show goes into performance. With so much to do, and so much opportunity for student initia-
tive, Gala allows students to dive into the deep end, contribute meaningfully, and make their mark. That’s what hooked me and what I believe has continued to attract the campuswide in-

volvement on which the show relies. Even with the Gala performance to the Kneller Athletic Center. Still, despite all the new logistical con-

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tive, Gala allows students to dive into the deep end, contribute meaningfully, and make their mark. That’s what hooked me and what I believe has officially run the event for 10 years, prepar-
ing and performing the concert has given us the greatest understanding of how collaborative a project it truly is. The International Gala is a Clark community production.

The day the curtain falls on the current show, the discussion of the next begins — that’s no exaggeration. Together with Student Leadership and Programming, ISA assesses how well the completed show was managed and budgeted; we note immediate concerns and areas for improvement. Then we set a date.

With other events to attend to in the fall we give the Gala conversation a deliberate rest un-
til late November. Then we press “PLAY.” The International Students Association, which usu-
ally bears some semblance of cohesive struc-
ture with committees and specialized positions, then resists all boundaries, allowing members to jump around — brainstorming, teamwork-
ing, shouting and head-banging. Though the process may seem dysfunctional to the un-
trained eye, this is how the ever-vibrant and di-

verse personalities of the ISA executive board get things done. It also fosters an undeniable sense of family.

Our work, as always, is Amy Daly Gardner, head of the Office of Interultural Affairs. Since Gala’s inception in 2002, she has helped guide ISA to put on a show that celebrates all forms of diversity on campus while still being incredibly entertaining.

Gala is, for better or worse, cause for our ever-


growing teams to spend too much time together. Then there are the usual weekly meetings plus an assort-
ment of new projects to attend as we dive up work on commercial shoots (video and photos), T-shirt design, merchandise, flag ceremony organization, stage management, volunteer prep and more. Thankfully, we’ve always found indispensable help from friends. Outsourcing in true globalized style, last year we received assistance from ISA alum Anuj Ad-
hikari ’10, who worked remotely from his Nep-

al travels. An ISA alumnus, Valodzin ’07, the 2007 show had reached new heights, yet had also grown beyond the seating and backstage constraints of its then-Arwood home. By the time I arrived for the April 2008 edition, Arwood Hall had been reconstituted as our “Hell Week” rehearsal space with new ISA president Shyamal Asher and Mike McK-

enna initiating the experiment of relocating the Gala performance to the Kneller Athletic Center.

The Gala conversation is always a work in progress, a necessary rest for us to jump around — brainstorming, teamwork-
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al travels. An ISA alumnus, Valodzin ’07, the 2007 show had reached new
We also boast an incredible group of volunteers who jump on board with no intention of taking the stage. They come solely to fill vital, but perhaps more off-radar, positions such as security and ushers. The stage builders join ISA and Mike’s Team in the week leading up to the performance to unload three trucks of staging, sound and light equipment on Wednesday evening, build the stage till around midnight, and then return at 6:30 a.m. on Thursday to help assemble bleachers in time for the 3 p.m. tech rehearsal — often solely on the promise of coffee, donuts and entrance to the show.

While we stand in awe of our fellow Clarkians through all of this, nothing compares to knowing that the wider Clark community cares as well. There are the professors who patiently hear with half-functional students shuffling into class after too-long rehearsals, and faculty and staff who attend to cheer on their pupils, student interns and even their own children. High school teacher Nelle Kyle ’08, M.A.T. ’09, has brought her students to Gala for the past two years to help them experience her alma mater. Family and friends arrive from all over on show night, some traveling from out of state, and at least one from outside the continent. In 2010, the parents of Terrance Ma ’11 flew in from China to see for themselves the moment when Gala participants become something our often quiet, awkward, eccentric or merely nervous selves didn’t know we could be. Behind the scenes, or under spotlights, but with audience support unfolding before us — we transform.

The 8 a.m. wake-up is conducted by Mike McKenna. Appropriate to our basketball-court setting, the knowledge that it’s “game time” gets me up. Members of the ISA reconstitute in the Kneller as Mike’s Team, Jim Gorman from Media Services, Clark Cable Network members who are here to tape the show; all the volunteers, and of course, the performers, roll in for the last push. As evening approaches there will be a few more anxious moments as videos require last-minute transform. In the last few days knowing that the wider Clark community does not forget me up. Members of the ISA reconstitute in the Kneller as Mike’s Team, Jim Gorman from Media Services, Clark Cable Network members who are here to tape the show; all the volunteers, and of course, the performers, roll in for the last push. As evening approaches there will be a few more anxious moments as videos require last-minute transform. In the last few days knowing that the wider Clark community does not forget

NEW DIRECTOR OF PHYSICAL PLANT
R. Michael Dawley joined Clark University this year as the director of Physical Plant, replacing Paul McKenna, who was in the director’s post for 26 years. Dawley was formerly director of operations for Wellesley College Facilities Management where he oversaw grounds, maintenance, custodial services and small projects. He holds a master of science in facilities management and a bachelor’s in marine engineering from Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Prior to working at Wellesley, Dawley was project engineer for BVA Cogen, where he oversaw the planning, installation and operation of cogeneration plants.

“My most rewarding experience thus far at Clark is working with students who bring an amazing level of enthusiasm and thoughtful-ness to how we can support their education and integrate academics and experience with the physical environment through innovative programs such as LEEP,” he says.

BOYLE IS DEAN OF THE COLLEGE
Mary-Ellen Boyle, Ph.D., has been appointed dean of the college. She will take over for Walter Wright, who has served in the dean’s capacity during three separate stints in his long career. Boyle is positioned to help ensure that a Clark student’s education extends beyond the school gates and into the worlds of work, research and public service. She will be one of the drivers behind the execution of Clark’s LEEP™ (Liberal Education and Effective Practice) initiative. LEEP is the University’s innovative model for higher education that connects classroom learning with the kinds of professional and research opportunities that equip students to pursue their passions in a 21st-century society and economy.

Before becoming the associate dean of the college at Clark, Boyle was the faculty director of the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Department and a professor in the Graduate School of Management.

Students are drawn to Clark for a transformative experience. Are you ready to join them?

clarke.edu/gram  |  508.793.7400  |  clarkmba@clarku.edu
Women’s basketball on the rise

The arrow is pointing up for the Clark women’s basketball team. Two years ago, they were 5-20 and missed out on the conference tournament for the first time in program history. 2010-11 was a step in the right direction, as the Cougars enjoyed an influx of talent in the Class of 2014 that helped them return the program to one of the best in New England. The Cougars made a postseason appearance in the ECAC Tournament, won the most games (12) in league play in program history, finished third in the conference and founded a home playoff contest, and won 16 total games — their most since 2005-06, when most of the current team was still in middle school.

Led by sophomores Ashleigh Condon, Megan Grondin and Emily Reilly, Clark has one of the best scoring threesomes in the nation. Condon, who became Clark’s first first-team all-conference selection since 2007-08, finished the season sixth in the conference in scoring (13.3), second in assists (4.1) and first in free throw percentage (86.2). Reilly, meanwhile, was named to the all-conference second team, giving the Cougars their first pair of all-conference performers in the same season since 2005-06. She was fourth in the conference in scoring (14.3) and fifth in three-point percentage (32.9). The unbelievable consistent Reilly has started all 31 games in her career and has been in double figures 47 times.

Grondin, however, might have had the best season of the three. She raised her scoring average by nearly four points a game, finished second in the league in field goal percentage (.500), shot better than 82 percent from the free throw line and scored 20 points or more in three consecutive contests. A great deal of credit for the Cougars’ success goes to the individual student-athletes, but head coach Pat Griffin, who has amassed 478 wins, certainly deserves kudos, too.

Under Griffin’s watch, Clark has been to the NCAA Tournament seven times and won three ECAC championships. It was those seven seasons between postseason appearances. With the way the arrow is pointing, it definitely won’t take that long for the next one.

O’Toole named men’s soccer coach

Matt O’Toole, an assistant at one of the most successful programs in the country, and with extensive ties to New England, has been tabbed as the new head men’s soccer coach. O’Toole brings with him an impressive resume of accomplishments and accolades and was most recently an assistant coach at Amherst College, the nation’s 10th ranked Division III program in 2011. Thanks in part to his tutelage, the 2011 Lord Jeffs led the New England Small College Athletic Conference in 14 different statistical categories, including all eight offensive rankings — news that should bode well for future Clark soccer teams.

O’Toole got his start at league rival Wheaton where he helped guide the Lyons to a NEW-MAC regular season (2002) and conference tournament title (2003) in his two seasons. Wheaton, compiled a 34-8-2 overall record during his stay and advanced to the NCAA Final Four in 2003 — a season in which they won 19 games.

Following a stellar four-year career at Providence College that saw him start 64 of 65 games and earn All-New England honors, O’Toole was invited to train with three different Major League Soccer clubs, as well as with Bohemians FC of the Eircom Premier League of Ireland. It’s hard not to think Clark got its man when you look at O’Toole’s resume. He has had his hands on some of the most successful teams in New England over the last decade and knows what it takes to build a champion.

“Having Matt was an absolute slam dunk,” says Sean Sullivan, director of athletics and recreation. “He’s so incredibly well prepared and has an affinity for the scholar-athlete and a vision to help Clark reach the upper echelon of NEW-MAC play.”

Here is what the soccer world is saying about Matt O’Toole:

“I am excited to have Matt coaching in our league. He is very professional and will have Clark very organized and prepared to play. As a friend and peer I am very happy to have him back in New England where he and his family have always wanted to be.” — Matt Craig, Head Coach, W’ton College

“I couldn’t be happier for Matt, or our fans. He was such a big part of our success last fall and will be missed. Matt is the perfect example of a coach who will not only do great things on the field, but off of it as well.” — Justin Serpas, Head Coach, Ambrose College

“Coach O’Toole displayed solid leadership skills on the field in his time as a Providence College Friar. I have no doubt that the intangibles that he displayed as a player will translate into success. Clark University is fortunate to have him as their head coach.” — Cloke Daily, Head Coach, University of Michigan

O’Toole is a 2005-06 NEWMAC, Wheaton College Men’s Soccer Player of the Year and earned all-conference honors three times. After his senior year, he was chosen as the Rhodes Scholar representative from the United States.

O’Toole has a unique background for a new head coach as he spent four years with the Irish soccer team (2000-04) and he was away from the game for nearly a decade before stepping back into coaching, which includes a year as an assistant coach with the Washington Freedom of the W-League and the Ireland U-21 national team. O’Toole’s extensive experience was solid leadership skills on the field in his time as a Providence College Friar. I have no doubt that the intangibles that he displayed as a player will translate into success. Clark University is fortunate to have him as their head coach.” — Cloke Daily, Head Coach, University of Michigan

Matt O’Toole

Buzzer Beaters

We’ve all done it. Time winding down. Game tied. Or better yet, down two and the ball is in your hands. 3 … 2 … 1 … SWISH! Buzzer sounds and the gym goes crazy. Then suddenly you realize that buzzer isn’t the horn sounding the end of the game you’ve just won. It’s the alarm clock going off, ending your championship moment.

Well, your dream was Travis Curley’s reality, not once but twice on a sleepy Wednesday night in February.

Men’s basketball was in a back-and-forth battle with New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) rival Springfield at the Kneller Athletic Center. The Cougars led for most of the game and were ahead with less than a minute to play when Springfield tied the game at 60-60 and forced overtime in the waning seconds of regulation.

Clark was now playing its third overtime contest in its last four games and it showed as Springfield led by four with 35 seconds left. The teams exchanged missed shots and then the long-range show began for Curley. First he made a three-pointer that was so deep, some thought it might be a pass. Then after two made Springfield free throws, a perfect inbounds play found Curley on the left side of the court and, while fading away in front of his own team bench, he forced a second overtime with a shot that swished through the net as time expired.

In the second overtime, Clark led by three with 15 seconds to go, but Springfield tied the game at 79-79 with 10 seconds left. The teams exchanged missed shots and then the long-range games and it showed as Springfield led by four with 35 seconds left. The teams exchanged missed shots and then the long-range.
Published and Presented

THE YOUNG TURKS’ CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY // By Taner Akçam, Associate Professor of History/Robert Aram, Marianne Kalossian and Stephen and Marion Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies

Introducing new evidence from more than 600 secret Ottoman documents, Taner Akçam demonstrates in unprecedented detail that the Armenian Genocide and the expulsion of Greeks from the late Ottoman Empire resulted from an official effort to rid the empire of its Christian subjects. Akçam goes deep inside the bureaucratic machinery of Ottoman Turkey to show how a dying empire embraced genocide and ethnic cleansing.

SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICA // By Virginia Mason Vaughan, Professor of English, and Alden T. Vaughan

The Vaughans trace Shakespeare’s contributions to America’s cultural history from the colonial era to the present, with substantial attention to theatre history, publishing history, and criticism. The book identifies four broad themes that distinguish Shakespeare in the United States from the dramatist’s reception in other countries.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF NGOs: STATE FORMATION IN SRI LANKA AND BANGLADESH // By Jude Fernando, Associate Professor of International Development

Exploring the paradoxical relationship between non-governmental organizations and capitalism, Jude Fernando shows that supposedly progressive organizations often promote essentially the same policies and ideas as existing governments. The book examines a diverse group of NGOs have shaped the formation of the Bangladesh and Sri Lanka states, integrating into the capitalist system and adapting their language to give traditional exploitative social relations a transformative appearance.

INVISIBLE MEN // By Michael Addis, Professor of Psychology

Drawing on scientific research, as well as his own personal and clinical experience, Michael Addis describes an epidemic of personal, relational, and societal problems that are caused by the widespread invisibility of men’s vulnerabilities. From increasing suicide rates among men, to alcohol abuse, to violence and school shootings, his research reveals the continued cost of staying silent when emotional, physical, or spiritual pain enters men’s lives.

ENCLOSED // By Liza Grandia, Professor of International Development and Social Change

Professor Liza Grandía’s impassioned and rigorous analysis of the territorial plight of the Ó’odham Maya of Guatemala highlights an urgent problem for indigenous communities around the world — repeated displacement from their lands. Grandía uses the tools of ethnography, history, cartography and ecology to explore the waves of dispossession that unsettled these agrarian people.

ALUMNI NEWS

LETTER TO ALUMNI:

I’m proud of what Clark is, and I look forward to continuing to plant trees for those who come after us. For all alumni, this is a great time to register to come back to campus for reunion — or just to say hi. Whatever your reason for returning, I’m proud to announce that the initial phase of the Clark University Virtual Alumni Center is just about complete. The center, which will be part of the Clark Connect website, describes the privileges available to alumni who are back on campus. Returning alumni will be able to access Wi-Fi, get a free coffee in the Academic Commons, get a discount lunch in the cafeteria, take a walking tour of campus, and access the special collections and archives, with an appointment.

Additional programs are coming to the Virtual Alumni Center. For more information, or to let Clark know you’ll be back, please contact the Alumni Affairs office through clarku.edu/alumni or at 800-793-6246.

This is my last column as Alumni Association president. Shaké Sulikyan ’01 is our president-elect, but there is a certain tie that binds us all. Over the past two years, I’ve talked to hundreds of alumni, from Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) to our 50-Year Association members. Our specific experiences may differ from era to era, but there is a certain tie that binds us all.

The YOUNG TURKS’ CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY // By Taner Akçam, Associate Professor of History/Robert Aram, Marianne Kalossian and Stephen and Marion Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies

Clark exists for students, but it exists because of alumni. Over the past two years, I’ve talked to hundreds of alumni, from Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) to our 50-Year Association members. Our specific experiences may differ from era to era, but there is a certain tie that binds us all.

And that tie matters. Regardless of generation, we are Clark. And all of our experiences at the University were due to those who came before us. I love Clark. I’ve always believed that you can judge an academic institution best, not by its buildings or its surroundings, but by the people it attracts. And simply, Clark attracts the best. We are lucky to be alumni from a singularly special institution.

I’m proud of what Clark is, and I look forward to continuing to plant trees for those who come after us for a long time. I hope you’ll join me.

Best regards,

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

I’ve been proud to serve you. 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 St., Worcester, MA 01610.
Alumni, students get some AIR time

It’s become a rite of fall. The Alumni-in-Residence program lures alumni back to campus to discuss with students the challenges they’ve faced, the successes they’ve achieved, and the roads they’ve traveled to reach their career destinations. Last November, an eclectic group of Clarkies returned to tell their personal stories and offer insight into the world of work. To see video interviews with these and other alumni, visit clarku.edu/alumnistories.

Michael Staton ’02, M.A. ’03
CEO, Inigral Inc.

After teaching high school for three years, Michael Staton joined a company in Palo Alto, Calif., and lived with a friend who at the time was working for a little startup called Facebook. The site launched to high school students, and soon Staton found his students looking to “friend” him.

“I thought that was kind of creepy,” he recalls. But he also saw the potential for an app that would foster intra-student relationships in a constructive way. “I set out to take advantage of the Facebook platform to try and create a transformative company in education.”

The result is a new category of software called the student “life-cycle engagement platform.” It’s a “social, open kind of community,” he says, “where students would use starting early in the recruitment cycle all the way through to graduating alumni.” Use of the software is showing a clear correlation with increasing per-recruitment cycle all the way through to graduating alumni.” Use of the software is showing a clear correlation with increasing per-

Jill Daglish, M.P.A. ’01
Director of Worcester Community Action Council

When she returned to campus in November, Jill Daglish was excited to meet with Ken Clements ’12, who is leading a student effort to replace a decrepit playground at the corner of Downing and Florence streets.

As the director of the Worcester Community Action Council, an anti-poverty agency serving Central Massachusetts, Daglish knows well the value of early intervention in the lives of children, whether through education programs, health services … or nearby playgrounds.

“I’m blessed to have been able to work with Clark University over the course of 20 years. I have a long view of seeing how meaningful Clark is in terms of a neighborhood,” she says. “It’s one corner, one neighborhood, one family at a time.”

Daglish has devoted her professional life to the betterment of Worcester, beginning with the Office of Planning and Community Development and climbing the city ladder to Commissioner of Code Enforcement and Commissioner of Health and Human Services.

“I got to see every neighborhood of the city,” she says. “So my work at the neighborhood level — like in and around Clark — to the whole citywide and regionwide perspective has been something that I’m really passionate about. I like to be able to come back and talk to students and say here is a career track that I believe has been purposeful, and productive, and successful.”

The Worcester Community Action Council is helping people move to economic self-sufficiency through programs, partnerships and advocacy. It is, Daglish says, where she’s meant to be.

“When I’m a Worcester fan and a Central Massachusetts fan, I want- ed to be able to give back to this city and this region in a mean- ingful way through my work.”

George Russell, Jr. ’72
President, State Street Foundation

Numbers have always spoken to George Russell. It’s why he majored in math at Clark, why he earned his M.B.A. at New York University, and why he’s spent his entire career counting those numbers, analyzing them, figuring out where they’ll do the most good.

After graduating, he was hired by State Street Corp in Boston and found himself helping to create a lending group for small businesses all over the country, including high-tech startups.

“I liked the people,” he recalls. “They weren’t your typical business people. They were kind of quirky, did interesting things and developed some interesting products. That was enjoyable.”

He did national lending with Fortune 500 companies, “which really turned me into a banker.” Since State Street as the time it could not lend more than $20 million to any company, it couldn’t compete for some of the biggest fish, which might be seeking nine-figure loans.

“That meant I had to learn about all the other different services that the bank offered: cash management, foreign exchange, trust services, etc., and that was part of my bag of tricks that I could come in and offer to a company.”

Russell turned his career into a deal a great deal of success, but was looking for something else.

“That something else” was government. Russell was appointed treasurer and chief financial officer of the City of Boston under then-Mayor Raymond Flynn. “I had responsibility for cash man-agemt, debt management and investment management, and that meant running a billion-dollar cash flow, which meant going to Wall Street to raise money for infrastructure repairs, and doing investment work.”

Russell then moved one more change, becoming the president and CEO of a small community bank in New York, which eventu- ally closed. The CEO of State Street had been calling Russell every year for nine years to ask if he was ready to return to his old company, but he’d always resisted. This time, the offer was too enticing to pass up. Russell would be heading up State Street Foundation, the company’s charitable grant-making division.

“Make sure that whenever we have a physical presence anywhere in the world, not only are we doing business in those locales, but we’re investing in those communities,” he says. “For the past 20 years that’s what I’ve been doing; it takes me all over the world. I have committees in 38 locations worldwide, and that’s how I spend my time.”

David Brenerman ’73
Vice President of Government Affairs, Unum

As the sports editor of The Scarlet, David Brenerman decided not only which stories would be covered, but also the content and tone of the editorials appearing on his pages. If you think that sports pages don’t typically court controversy, remember that Brenerman attended Clark in the late ’60s and early ’70s, when country music was the rage and progressive music was the music of the people.

“We wrote some pretty controversial editorials and took on some issues that some people wish we hadn’t,” he recalls. “The question always was, should we write this or not? Later, as I moved through my career, every day I had to make simi- lar kinds of decisions.”

Brenerman embarked on a career path where decisiveness is a virtue. The Maine native was elected to the state legislature at the age of 25, and served six years in the House of Representa- tives. He followed that with three years as executive director of the Maine Democratic Party, was elected to the Portland City Council, and in his last year on the council was elected Mayor of Portland.

For the last 26 years, Brenerman has been working as the vice president of government affairs for Unum, one of the largest insurance companies in the country. The lobbying position re- quires him to be persuasive, but also willing to negotiate and find areas of compromise.

“Negotiations are so important in any particular job where you’re working with other people,” he says. “Not everybody agrees on what ought to be done and how it ought to be done. “One of the things I learned at Clark was collaboration, and that’s helped me in my career, both in politics and as a govern- ment affairs person and lobbyist. I was a member of the base- ball team, and no team can be successful unless all the players are working together. When I was in the state legislature, no one person could get a bill passed. You needed other people — Democrats, Republicans, independents — people who were conservative and people who were liberal. You had to bring them all together in order to pass a new law.

“And I was able to do that in part, I think, from working to- gether with other people here at Clark, on class projects, on the playing field, and at The Scarlet.”

Daglish, Brenerman, Russell, Staton, and Brenerman Jr., each mentored by a Clarkie who has left the porch, shared their professional stories during their visits to campus. How’s that for a life-cycle engagement platform?
Gwen Bell's legacy rings true

The Computer History Museum occupies 119,000 square feet of prime real estate nestled in Silicon Valley. The museum's exhibits and programs — both physical and online — trace the journey of computing, from primitive calculation and cumbersome mainframes to the ongoing revolution of online technology.

It's the world's largest and most comprehensive effort to collect and display the artifacts and stories of the information age. Impressive, to be sure, but even more so is the story of its success. Gwen Bell, its executive director, has been at the center of this effort for more than 20 years, and he is the only trained historian in the group.

The museum's humble origins, and its glorious present, are the brainchild of computer scientist Gordon Bell and his wife Gwendolyn Bell, Ph.D. '67, the founding director. Just last year, Gwen welcomed fellow Clark alumni to the museum, where they were given an after-hours tour and guided by Bell himself.

In 1978, Gwen joined the effort as full-time volunteer director of The Digital Computer Museum, established in the lobby of a Mattelos, Mass., building that Digital had purchased from RCA. The museum would later migrate to Boston and be renamed The Computer Museum.

Gwen committed 20 years to ensuring the museum's success. She established a classification taxonomy and acquisition criteria for the artifacts to be collected, and started building exhibits. She organized a series of lectures to capture the stories of key industry pioneers, which were published in the The Computer-Museum Report (1980-1998). The principles and practices she put in place have remained almost unchanged for the museum's 30-plus years.

Most computer manufacturing had left New England for the West Coast by the late 1990s, and the museum continued to receive support from the city, state and Boston companies, Gwen penned a memo to the executive committee sounding a warning that the institution had become "isolated" and that Digital had purchased from RCA.

"It's been wonderful, it's enjoyable, it's a thing that I am most adept at," said Bell. "It also provided the basis for collecting and preserving the artifacts and stories for this wonderful and unique place."

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By Jim Keogh

Tony Connors, Ph.D. ’05, answers history’s call

ONY CONNORS, PH.D. ’05, made his living in the software industry, but a career spent developing the technologies of the future could not blunt his appreciation for the past.

Far from it.

Connors’ longtime passion for history led him to earn a master’s degree from Harvard University Extension School, a process he began when he was in his late 40s. Despite an already hectic work and family schedule, he then enrolled in doctorate studies at Clark, earning his Ph.D. in early American history at the age of 59.

"It started as sort of a hobby, but I wanted to do more than that. I wanted to truly understand history," he says of his decision to return to school. "And to feel that I understand history meant I had to test it academically."

Of course, acquiring historical knowledge is one thing, applying that expertise in a contemporary setting is an entirely different challenge. After spending 30 years in software management, most recently at Oracle Corp., the East Providence, R.I., native moved in 2006 to the Massachusetts coastal town of Westport, a place he’d visited frequently while growing up. He joined the local historical society, serving as president the past four years, and he is the only trained historian in the group.

When Westport’s oldest home, the 18th-century Handy House, was put up for sale in the summer of 2010, Connors led the society’s effort to preserve the house. He eventually convinced town-meeting voters that spending $375,000 to preserve a valuable historic asset during tight fiscal times was a wise investment.

The staff of the local daily newspaper, The New Bedford Standard-Times, took note of Connors’ actions and named him its 2011 Westport Man of the Year.

In an interview with the newspaper, the historical society’s vice president, Betty Shafe, noted that while many people were involved with preserving the Handy House, “Without [Connors] endeavors to make it happen, it would not have happened.”

“It’s been wonderful, it’s enjoyable, it’s a thing that I must know," Connors says of his work. “I wanted to play some sort of role in capturing the town’s history and making it available to other people.

“One of the things I found when I was young was that the town had history — Westport was a whaling port back in the 19th century. But I never knew that a small town can have such varied and rich history. So when I moved here, I thought about volunteering, something I can do and care about, and the historical society was an obvious choice,” he says.

Connors was drawn to Clark by the prospect of studying under Drew McCoy, the Jacob and Frances Hiatt Professor of History. He’d read McCoy’s two books on early American history, and he’d had McCoy recommended to him by his Harvard professors.

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“Was in the field of geography and she enrolled in Clark’s Ph.D. program, earning her doctorate in 1967. She went on to do city planning in Boston and served on the faculties of Harvard and Pittsburgh University.

At this time, Gordon was working for Digital Equipment Corporation in Maynard, Mass., an industry leader in the early days of computers. Concerned that no institution was making a serious effort to preserve artifacts and stories for the information age, Bell says. “It also provided the basis for collecting and preserving the artifacts and stories for this wonderful and unique place.”

By Gitanjali Laad, M.S.P.C. ’12
class

notes

from the Historical Society of Cheshire County in

disappeared from New England. It includes

chronicles the railroad culture that has now

Foster’s Boston and Maine Railroad, “ which

JOHN B. HENCH

ELIOT GOLDMAN

KIRBY FARRELL

HANK MESHORER

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HANK MESHORER recently completed a successful cross-country ski trek to the South Pole.

KIRBY FARBELL has published “Biercentennial Style in American Culture,” which explores the way extreme behavior is disguised in everyday experience in post-Vietnam-American culture. The book’s chapters range from military violence in the Vietnam War and economic arm, to binge additions and apocalyptic religion.

MARTIN GARMENT retired in December 2012 and after 46 years in Wisconsin, moved to Palm Springs, Calif.

ELIOT GOLDMAN retired from SAP Business Objects in January 2011. He writes, “My wife and I continue to make our home in Paris, where we have lived for the past 12 years.”

JOHN B. HENCH received the 2011 DeLong Book History Book Prize from The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing, for “Books as Weapons: Publishing, Propaganda, and the Battle for Global Markets in the Era of World War Two” (Cornell University Press, 2010). The chair of the Prize Committee, Professor Maria DiBlasio, said the book is “about war but it is also a book about the diplomacy of books. As an international and comparative history of wartime publishing, it presents deeply contextualized accounts, offering multiple contemporary perspectives, and a true mark of scholarship that constructs the book trade as an international phenomenon.” John spent 33 years on the staff of the American Antiquarian Society, an independent research library in Worcester. He retired in 2006 as vice president for collections and programs and resides in Shrewsbury, Mass.

BRADFORD G. BLOGETT has published “A Harm Foster’s Boston and Maine Railroad,” which chronicles the railroad culture that has now disappeared from New England. It includes photos taken by Foster during her 41 years of employment with the B&M. The book is available from the Historical Society of Cheshire County in Kiene, N.H. (boscon.org). Brad retired from his post as Massachusetts state ethnologist in 2002.

ALLAN G. SAVAGE retired in June 2011 from his position as senior technical information specialist at the National Library of Medicine. He has returned to his previous vocation as a professional chess teacher and chess journalist in the Washington, D.C. area. He can be reached at allansavage@ McClis.

STEVEN A. KANDARIAN has been named to the board of directors of The American Council of Life Insurers, whose member companies provide millions of Americans with financial protection and retirement security. Steven, who last May became president and CEO of MetLife Inc., will serve through 2014. He also serves as a member of MetLife’s board of directors. Steven is a board member of the Damon Foundation, as well as a member of the Financial Services Forum and the Economic Club of New York.

JANE MIER was recently promoted to business manager for the Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island’s Narragansett Bay Campus. She finds it hard to believe that she has been involved with NSF for 40 of its 50 years of existence. In 2010, Jane was lucky enough to represent Clark at the inauguration of David Angel as Clark’s ninth president.

ANNA-LEA WILLIAMS, of Hamden, Conn., recently began her new role as an assistant professor of basic medical sciences at Quinnipiac University School of Medicine. She comes to Quinnipiac from the Dartmouth Medical School where she was a research fellow in cancer control. Over the course of her career, Williams has developed expertise in the behavioral factors that influence health. Her areas of research have included complementary and alternative therapies, palliative and end-of-life care, and the role of family caregivers. Most recently at Dartmouth she took part in a wide-scale intervention study in psychology, investigating how best to support family caregivers of adults with cancer. Williams received both her doctorates in clinical research and her physician associate degree from Yale University.

Hazel’s girls Hold court

A

n (McCormick) Early 46, Ruth-Buf briller Robinson 48 and M. Catherine Butler 48 were on hand for the May 21, 2011, dedication of a plaque mourning the late Hazel Hughes, Clark’s legendary dean of women and coach of the University’s first women’s basketball teams. Dean Hughes’ former players and students shared reminiscences during a presentation inside Room 001 of Jonas Clark Hall, aka the former Vormoor Gym.

PAULINE B. KALDAS has published “The Time Between: Place Stories That Viole w in and out of Egypt and America,” University of Arkansas Press, 2010. Her other publications include “Egyptian Compass,” a collection of poetry published by Custom Words; “Letters from Car rine,” a travel memoir published by Syracuse University Press; and “Dinant’s Children: An Anthology of Contemporary Arab American Fiction,” published by The University of Arkansas Press. She is currently an associate professor of English at

Hollins University in Roanoke, Va. Her website is paulinelakdas.com.

THOMAS H. HILLERY wrote and financed a psychological thriller starring Eric Roberts tilled “Proj ect Solitude: BURIED ALIVE.” The film is in distribution in domestic and foreign markets. It can be found at Amazon.com, WalMart.com and other outlets. To see the trailer, go to http://bit.ly/ULBO.

JENNY TULLCI ‘11 reports that her go-to novel, “High Desert Barbecue,” was published in November 2011. In the story, when a dangerously insane gang of mammal-hating extremists and federal bureaucrats with a bad case of mission creep hatch a plot to burn human habitat out of the forests of the West, the only people standing in their way are a misanthropic hermit, a subversive schoolteacher and an unemployed business writer with a taste for anarchy.

JULIE HAMMEL BROOKS writes and manages the blog for California’s Continuing Education of the Bar. Julie’s blog was just named a Top 100 Blog by the ABA (American Bar Association)’s Journal. She’s also a member of Jesus Christ to check out the blog at blog.cab.org.

ADAM W. COHEN was recently appointed as the director of the Federal Financial Security Program, and chief of the Special Operations Unit in the Office of Enforcement Operations at the United States Department of Justice.

KAREN DAFNO DIAZ is now the elementary literacy coach for the West Springfield, Mass., public schools. She has had three books published by Hansey Publishing.
ELLEN WALTHER SOUSA published her first book, "The Green Garden" (Bunker Hill, Nov. 2011) for New Englanders looking for ways to "green" their home landscapes. Ellen is a garden coach and ecological landscaping instructor based on a small farm in Central Massachusetts, and speaks regularly across New England about earth-friendly landscaping.

1991

Members of the class of 1991 came together to participate in the Seacoast Half Marathon in Portsmouth, N.H., on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011. From left: KRISTEN FOOTE, FRANCESCA MAPFEE-LAZEV and KERMI (SMITH) SINGH

NINE CLARKIES gathered on Manhattan's Upper West Side on Aug. 4 to catch up. (Standing, l. to r.) Steve Elias '91, Mark Petersen '91, Dan Weiss '91, Jamie Martinz Hoffman '90 and Stephen Sandor '91; (seated) Katharine Brennan '90, Adam Bacsak '91, Matthew Levine '91 and Josh Eisenman '91. Bacsak added a bit of Clark flair to this picture by Photoshopping the University's seal on his iPad.

1993

LYNNE WILLIAMS and her husband, Steve Swift, are thrilled to announce the birth of their son, Griffin-Williams Swift, on Dec. 20, 2010. Griffin was born at home, in front of the family's Christmas tree, and weighed in at 8 lbs. 2 oz. He joins big brother Phoenix Williams Swift, who was born on Sept. 4, 2006. Lynne lives with her family in Charlotte, N.C., and works round the clock as a stay-at-home mom. She was previously employed by Microsoft Corporation as a software support enginner (from 1999-2007). Lynne also ran her first half marathon (Thunder Road, in Charlotte) in November 2011 and can't wait for the next one!

JOSHUA SHIFRIN, Ph.D. '93, has written three books, the most recent published by Old Line Publishing. Set on the campus of Yale University, "Chasing Victory," is a psychological thriller with an emphasis on learning disabilities, a subject with which Shifrin is intimately familiar. A school psychologist for the South River, N.J., public schools, Shifrin specializes in learning disabilities, has published in The Journal of Attention Disorders, and has led presentations on the subject of ADHD. "I haven't seen many books with an emphasis on the underlying difficulties associated with a learning disability," he says. Shifrin's other books include "101 Incredible Moments in Tennis" and "Study Tips '10!" He lives in West Caldwell, N.J., with his wife and two children.

1994

LAWRENCE NORMAN '94, M.B.A. '95, a member of the GSOM Advisory Council and vice president of global basketball at Adidas, participated in a panel discussion on "Developing the Athlete's Brand" at the MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference.

DARUS SHIRAZI is executive director of Project GOAL, which has teamed up with the SportsCorps group and Sport and Development Project at Brown University. SportsCorps is composed of Brown students who wish to volunteer for sport-for-social-change initiatives. Project GOAL Inc. (Greater Opportunity for Athletes to Learn) is an after-school initiative that partners with the Central Falls School Department, SCOPE/Central Falls School District, and Rhode Island College's M.Ed. in Reading program. The mission is to facilitate the development of New England's disadvantaged inner city youth through after-school tutoring, health education, and socio-realted programs.

AVI Z. WEIDER's feature documentary film "Welcome to the Machine" is premiering in competition at the 2012 SXSW Film Festival in Austin, Texas. Only eight out of more than 800 submitted films were selected for this prestigious position. Produced, directed and co-edited by Avi, "Welcome to the Machine" explores our human relationship to technology through the personal experience of the filmmaker — the father of triplets. Avi also is the producer of the feature documentary film, "Danland," which premiered in January 2013 at the Starmeads Film Festival in Park City, Utah. The film, directed by Avi's wife, Alexandra Berger, follows amateur porn producer Dan Leal, aka "Porno Dan," and his search for intimacy despite his industry and in spite of himself. The official website is danlandmovie.com.

2001

CHERYLyn (FARMER) BLUMENTHAL married Joshua Blumenthal on July 16, 2011, at the MGAW Foursquare Reckst in Connecticut. Lien Witter '02 served as the maid of honor. Other Clarkies in attendance were Colleen McNeil and Beth (Noel) Woodward '91. Cheryllyn recently earned her personal trainer certification through the National Association of Sports Medicine.
FORBES TOASTS LUKE LIVINGSTON

Luke Livingston ’07 earned a spot on Forbes.com’s “30 Under 30” list in the Food & Wine category. Livingston, 27, is CEO of Baxter Brewing Company, which he opened in 2010 in a 250-year-old Massachusetts brewery in Northbridge. The company’s signature beer, Pelagic Pilsner, is named after a remote, large open expanse of ocean, much like the brewery’s expansive tapped beer menu. Baxter is one of the fastest growing breweries in New England and was named one of the “50 Best US Brewery Tours” by Craft Beer. Livingston has been noted as a shining example of the craft brewing industry, which is based on community and creative passion more than large-scale industrial production.

STAY CONNECTED

Alumni are always encouraged to send us their news for Class Notes. If you’ve got something you’d like to share with fellow alumni, visit the Clark Connect site (http://connect.clarku.edu), which keeps alumni informed on news, stories and personal and professional networking opportunities. There, you can find a Class Notes link to submit your information.

You can also mail your item to:
Clark University
200 Main St.
Worcester, MA 01610
Attn: Alumni Affairs

Please let us know what you’re up to!

AMANDA WITTMAN

Amanda Wittman, Ph.D., has joined the national staff of Campus Compact as manager of academic and strategic affairs. She provides leadership and strategic focus for Campus Compact’s work to embed and engage in local communities and to support and strengthen the role of higher education in the common good through research, policy analysis, and program development efforts.

SHAKE SULIYAYAN

and her husband, James Curtis, announce the birth of their son, Victor Drake Curtis, on Oct. 4, 2011.

2002

GEORGE H. HOMOLISKI

has been promoted to vice president and credit analysis manager in the commercial lending division of Middlesex Savings Bank. Homoliski oversees a staff of 16 analysts who assess loan applications from prospective and existing customers of Middlesex, a $4 billion institution with an extensive portfolio of commercial loans to a wide variety of business clients. Before joining Middlesex Savings in July 2011, Homoliski held a series of increasingly responsible positions over a decade of work at TD Bank. An avid golfer, Homoliski has also been treasurer of the Wachusett Food Pantry in Holden, Mass., for the last four years. He lives in Holden with his wife and son.

ELORA HALIN COWDORY

has published “Transnationalism Reversed: Women Organizing against Gendered Violence in Bangladesh” (SUNY Press, 2011). Dr. Cowdory is an associate professor of women’s studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

SERGE SHHAYDER

recently expanded his existing SAGACT tutoring and college consulting business (SergeConsulting.com) to a new website, BestEssayEditing.com. Best Essay Editing offers essay and resume editing services with a 48-hour turnaround.


2005

KELLI BLANK ’05, M.P.A. ’06, has been named director of human resources of the Worcester Art Museum. She was most recently the human resources generalist for WAM, where she has worked since 2003. Blank serves as chairperson of the Clark University Regional Alumni Committee and is a docent at Preservation Worcester. She is a Worcester resident.

REMEMBERING WALLY

Wally Bither ’33, one of the University’s most ardent supporters. Mr. Bither was the oldest Clark alum to attend reunion, which he did with astounding consistency over the course of his long life. Well into his later years he would drive up from his home in Florida with wife Hatle (picture to enjoy the festivities. At the May 20, 2011, Alumni Dinner, the former history major, retired teacher and World War II veteran was presented with a cake to celebrate his 100th birthday. Mr. Bither died two days before he would have turned 101.
2009
BILLIE N. KENYON '09, M.S.P.C. '10, married a fellow Clarkie, Cory Symon '08, on Aug. 28, 2011. RUMANKA PAVALOVA, M.B.A. '08, is the头晕 ming leadership of Young Deaf teachers when they are accepted into the NOAA Teacher at Sea Program, as well as share this knowledge with students and educators. The blog is posted on NOAA's Teacher at Sea website (teacheratsea.wordpress.com). 2008
EDNA BARNHART, M.B.A. '08, is a commercial lines underwriter for Liberty Mutual Group.

WALLACE F. BITHER '33
Bradenton, Fla., 12/5/2001
JAMES S. BECKMAN '35
Swampsport, Md., 10/13/2001
DR. RAYMOND HARRINGA '39
Ithaca, N.Y., 9/5/2001
GORDON H. BROOKS '42
Brewster, Mass., 11/24/2001
R. ALBERT SMITH '43
Worcester, Mass., 11/30/2001
RUSSELL WHEELER '43
Ithaca, N.Y., 9/5/2001
JEAN W. WILLIAMS '47
Lexington, Mass., 11/12/2001
JOSEPH W. KIRBY '48
Prescott, Ariz., 8/13/2001
WILLIAM AMADOR '49
Auburn, Mass., 9/14/2001
LOUIS J. WEINBERGER '57
Tucson, Ariz., 9/5/2001
NEAL BARTON '58
Lloyd Harbor, N.Y., 4/6/2001
RICHARD E. MCGROHON '59
Worcester, Mass., 9/14/2001
ARNOLD MILLER '59
Newton, Mass., 8/27/2001
J. DAVID FALK '60
Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., 11/12/2001
GREGORY J. PASCEN '60
LOUIS FRUNKER '61
RONALD C. SEMONE '60
Washington, D.C., 10/19/2001
STEPHEN P. CAHILL '60
Marlborough, Mass., 8/19/2011
JENKINTOWN, PA., 9/26/2010
RABBI DONALD J. POLLOCK '69
Brookline, Mass., 10/19/2001
WILLIAM L. HAIN '70
Baltimore, Md., 7/17/2001
GERTRUDE E. FOLEY '70
Shrewsbury, Mass., 12/13/2001
WILLIAM M. BERGER '71
Falmouth, Mass., 11/8/2001
GEORGE R. GORMAN '71
Worcester, Mass., 11/12/2001
WILLIAM A. JONES '72
Washington, D.C., 1/1/2002
WILLIAM A. JOSEPH '75
Torrance, Calif., 1/20/2001
JANE W. ANDERSON '76
Washington, D.C., 10/18/2001
ROBERT L. CONROY '79, M.A. '82
Boylston, Mass., 9/12/2011
DENIS F. RUFFERTY '79
Boynton Beach, Fla., 9/8/2011
ROBERT T. CONROY '79, M.A. '82
LYNDA D. PLANTE '79
SHERRY C. BEATON '80
Boston, Mass., 7/27/2001
JANE W. ANDERSON '81
Bangor, Maine, 7/9/2001
J. DAVID FALK '81
HAZEL SIMMONS '81
Washington, D.C., 1/22/2001
BRADFORD T. BEATON '85
JUNE E. PATRICK '85
Washington, D.C., 11/1/2001
RONALD D. SHAPIRO '86
Rockaway, N.J., 7/22/2001
GREGORY J. PASCEN '86
ROBERT C. MISCH, PH.D. '86
Wayland, Mass., 2/6/2001
IDA (SMITH) SCHAECHTER '87
West Hartford, Conn., 11/1/2001
JOSEPH W. KERN '48
Prescott, Ariz., 8/13/2011
DUDLEY, MASS., 8/19/2011
RALPH W. ELLIS '50
MARIE L. BEATTY '51
Fitchburg, Mass., 9/10/2001
WILLIAM L. HAITH '54
WILLIAM C. WALLACE '55
FREDERICK T. QUARTON, JR. '56
Paxton, Mass., 9/14/2001
MELVIN C. VAN DE WORKEEN '47
Turnwater, Wash., 12/13/2001
JAMES B. LEIBOWITZ, Nick Colony, Adam Tomczik, Sam Blier, and David De Angelo (all class of 2006).
Christine Lorenzo ‘91 has a bead on her career

Christine Lorenzo ‘91 wants to give you the evil eye. Or, so be more specific, she’d like to give you an evil-eye bead — something that, when worn as jewelry, becomes a “lucky eye” and wards off negative energies. She concocts the beads in her own jewelry company, which she founded just last June. She had been laid off from her job and was going through a divorce, so it was a tough time. Her daughters were the ones who encouraged her. “What it took was an amazing feat, Lorenzo also makes a point of contributing to those in need. “If you see someone who is struggling, we have a program here at the company that promotes its members and alerts them to extraordinary opportunities,” she says. “An education that allows you to be a chameleon is super important,” she says. “It’s important that you can adapt to your environment and that’s brought me to where I am now.”

Lorenzo, who still lives in Central Massachusetts, credits Clark with giving her the skills that have gotten her where she is. When she graduated in 1991, the job market was very much like today’s — uncertain. That’s when the value of her Clark years became apparent. “An education that allows you to be a chameleon is super important,” she says. “It’s important that you can adapt to your environment and that’s brought me to where I am now.”

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“I liked Clark so much,” Lorenzo says. “I’m not a person who went there knowing what I wanted to do. I’m very open to everything; I don’t have an Excel spreadsheet of what my life has got to look like. I’ve always been open to exploring the universe, and that’s brought me to where I am now.”

“Clark was a really great jumping-off point because there were so many great people from all over the world — and the faculty looks to expand the rest of her time to creating her jewelry line. “I’m very open to everything; I don’t have an Excel spreadsheet of what my life has got to look like. I’ve always been open to exploring the universe, and that’s brought me to where I am now.”

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The Higgins School celebrates 25 years, thanks to Alice

By Jim Keogh

A ROCKING CHAIR sits in the lounge of the Anderson (English) House. It’s very comfortable, a perfect seat to sit in and read a good book. Alice Higgins paid for the chair, but she wasn’t enamored with the furniture choice.

“She was upset with me because the chair has a bit of a rocker to it,” recalls English Professor Virginia Vaughan, who made the purchase. “Alice said she wasn’t ready for a rocker.”

No she wasn’t. The longtime Clark trustee (1963-1974) and benefactor was known for a dynamism that manished her generosity. The wife of one of Worcester’s leading industrialists dedicated herself to improving the University in such a rich variety of ways — through endowments, fundraising, and visionary leadership; she even personally planted tulips around campus — that her name has become almost synonymous in Clark lore.

Since the day she joined the board in 1963, finding a Clark story that doesn’t somehow wend its way back to Alice Higgins is nearly impossible. The rocking chair is, in fact, much more than a chair.

It was one of the first pieces to furnish the Alice Goodley Higgins School of Humanities, which she endowed with a $1 million gift in 1986. With a few chairs and a table set up in the Carriage House (the school later relocated to Dana Commons), faculty could engage in conversations over coffee or lunch. “Alice would always have you over to her house for a cup of tea to discuss an idea. She understood the importance of that,” says Vaughan, who was named the school’s first director.

 Vaughan realized that the idea for the Higgins School was first proposed by then-provost Leonard Berry, who wanted to find a way to maximize Clark’s potential by bringing together related programs, including the humanities.

Alice Higgins, who passed away in 2000, was committed to the idea that a college must educate the whole person. Her philosophy was woven into the Higgins School’s mission to develop innovative programs and curricula.

Higgins participants have explored subjects as varied as climate change, genocide, the history of world religions, the role of music and the arts in education, and many more. Fall 2010’s theme of “Slowing in a Wired World” invited participants to reflect on their own discourse and ways of thinking to take some of the toughest issues of the day, and explore them in conscious ways, where the ability to listen is as highly valued as the expression of one’s own thoughts. The symposia, lectures and workshops would encourage the development of the skills and mindsets to communicate respectfully across difference, no simple task in the take-no-prisoners age of instantaneous, polarized punditry.

Launched as a faculty compensation-based program required a good deal of discourse in its own right. With an executive committee at the core, and the contributions of a larger steering committee with 30 members at its largest, the various aspects of the Difficult Dialogues initiative (public symposia, courses with a DD emphasis, dialogue seminars, DD fellows, and more) evolved. Soon, students, faculty, staff and members of the public streamed into the Dana Commons “fishbowl” to steep themselves in the issues of the day, and to participate in dialogue.

“I made it a stipulation that if you got a substantial grant, you had to give a lecture about your research,” Vaughan says. “My first goal as director was to try and make the work of humanities scholars and students at Clark more visible.”

She and Higgins shared ideas, and as Vaughan remembers, “Alice said to me several times that there wasn’t any problem that couldn’t be solved if people would just sit down and talk to each other.”

She wasn’t alone. Following several more directors at the Higgins School, Sarah Baie, longtime professor in the Visual and Performing Arts Department, took the helm in 2004. She envisioned the school as “a kind of ideal forum. What if we could have the best kinds of exchanges humans could have? What if we could ask ourselves the questions we really need to address right now in our world? The humanities center is the best place within a university to create that kind of forum.”

In 2004, three years after 9/11 and with the U.S. at war in Iraq, Baie knew that while the Higgins School would continue with its core mission of supporting faculty research and other programs, it also needed to engage with contemporary issues. “We were living in a time where our national politics felt as difficult as they had in my lifetime,” she recalls. “We needed to be asking a lot of questions and creating opportunities for those conversations to take place.”

As Baie began to promote this engagement through Higgins programs, the Ford Foundation in the spring of 2005 put out a call for grant applications for bold ideas that colleges and universities create programs to skillfully address divisive issues, and issues of academic freedom. “When I saw the call, I felt immediately that it had our name on it,” Baie says. “I thought, ‘Yes, this is what we’re supposed to be doing.’”

Working in tandem with William Fisher, director of International Development, Community and Environment, Baie assembled an initial proposal, and Clark was chosen as one of 150 finalists from a group of 720 applicants. They then spent the summer crafting the final application and were selected by the foundation as one of 27 colleges and universities to receive funding for a Difficult Dialogues program.

The Higgins goal was ambitious: To create a culture of dialogue on the campus that encourages participants to reflect on their own discourse and ways of thinking to take some of the toughest issues of the day, and to explore them in conscious ways, where the ability to listen is as highly valued as the expression of one’s own thoughts. The symposia, lectures and workshops would encourage the development of the skills and mindsets to communicate respectfully across difference, no simple task in the take-no-prisoners age of instantaneous, polarized punditry.

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“We see it as a transformative process,” Baie says. “The implications of this work are serious for pedagogy, for student life, for campus culture as a whole, and of course for our participation in society and the world!”

The first year of Difficult Dialogues programming (2007) had an ambitious lineup of topics: the state of our democracy, race, religion and tolerance, and power. “But it worked,” Baie says with a laugh. “We’ve had a good deal of grace and synchronicity over the course of the project, likely the benefits of good listening, collaboration, and a project whose time was ripe.”

Baie has been fortunate with her choices of topics, often “catching the wave” of significant and timely issues. When President Obama was elected, “Race in the Era of Obama” became the focus of the program. Higgins participants have explored subjects as varied as climate change, gender and sustainability. Fall 2010’s theme of “Slowing in a Wired World” gave fresh focus to modern society’s reliance on instant communication, and delved into how the avenues by which our brains process information have been altered as a result.

Last fall, Difficult Dialogues threaded its theme “Educating... for what?” with Clark’s Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP) initiative, bringing together a rich group of speakers — from college presidents, to poets, to renowned activist Tom Hayden — to grapple with higher education’s role in preparing students for the 21st century world.

This spring, Difficult Dialogues takes on “agency” — in the broadest sense meaning the capacity to act, particularly timely after the emergence of the Occupy movement, and when many are feeling powerless in the face of current political, economic and environmental conditions. Faculty and students have incorporated Difficult Dialogues into their classrooms, with more than 25 courses emphasizing dialogic methods.

The Difficult Dialogues program continues to flourish, yet its original Ford funding ended in 2008. “We do it with mirrors,” Baie says. “The program has received some assistance from a trustee donor, and she continues to pursue additional funding to sustain the work. A Mellon planning grant helped support the ‘Educating... for what?’ series, and now Sarah Baie and team are applying for major Mellon funding to help perpetuate new Higgins School curriculum innovations and programs that will contribute to the LEEP initiative.

For 25 years, the Higgins School of Humanities has sponsored interdisciplinary seminars and convened innumerable public programs, conferences, faculty talks, exhibitions and community conversations. That legacy was recognized last fall, when the Higgins School held a celebration titled “Thanks to Alice.” The woman who eschewed the rocking chair was feted for her vision and philanthropy, which threw a spotlight on the humanities and led to an institution-within-the-institution that’s become a hub for the frank, civil exchange of ideas.

“I think Alice would be out of her mind with joy with the Difficult Dialogues program,” says Virginia Vaughan. “She’d be thrilled with everything that’s going on at the Higgins School!”
Chris Hohenemser’s physics of compassion

When the Chernobyl nuclear disaster occurred in April 1986, the Soviet government was reluctant to share its enormity with the world. But Chiehoph Lo, a graduate student of Hohenemser, managed to get his professor’s approval to publish his findings. Hohenemser diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, but he never let it stop him from doing what he loved — educating Clark students.

“He just didn’t want to give up,” says Anne Hohenemser, his wife. “Chris loved teaching, and I think that’s what kept him going as long as he did. He had a pretty unique style — always trying to get students involved in solving problems, giving them a way to think about scientific issues.”

DeCarolis echoes those thoughts. “As an undergraduate student, I couldn’t have had a better faculty mentor than Chris Hohenemser. He taught me that the most meaningful research comes from an interesting question. If your line of research isn’t motivated by a difficult and thought-provoking question, then probably isn’t worthwhile,” he says.

“I remember being astounded at his retirement to see how many lives he touched deeply as an academic advisor, and it was a key motivating factor for me to pursue a Ph.D. and, ultimately, an academic job myself,” says assistant professor in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at North Carolina State University. It is without exaggeration that Chris Hohenemser is among the most significant people to touch my life.”

When the multiple sclerosis made his commute to Clark too much to handle, and he was unable to function in the lab, the professor invited his students to his home for seminars. “We had a great big white board that lived in our barn, and we took it out when students came,” Anne Hohenemser remembers.

Eventually, continuing to work became impossible, and Hohenemser retired. “There was a real decline in his health to the last ten years,” his wife says. The couple decided the move to Eugene, Ore., to be near their younger daughter and her family, and also to enjoy the milder weather of the Pacific Northwest.

In Oregon, Hohenemser was able to do some outdoor photography, and also kept in touch with his academic colleagues and friends. “Chris was an amazingly energetic person,” Goble says. “He really had, in effect, two careers put together, so that he was a world-class physicist in his own territory with a group that had an international reputation — and he did that with a string of excellent graduate students who were established in labs across the country.”

“Through all that, Chris was a good friend, and a good colleague. He saw the University as an arena where you could learn important things about science just by looking at the environment around you.”

Thirty years ago, Cinema 320 came in out of the cold

One in an occasional series about folks who work in and around Clark University.

When he found himself shivering away at the ice in the toilets, Steve Sandberg knew it was time to find a new home.

He and his companion running the Volkening (roughly “by night”) film series in downtown Worcester’s ramshackle Paris Cinema typically screened movies for blanket-wrapped audiences in conditions that violated any number of health and occupancy codes. Worcester winters are rough, and when the heat in the room is being produced by the bulbs in the projector, something’s got to give.

It did, in the form of an eviction notice from the theater owner. Forced out into the cold (metaphorically anyway — nothing was colder than the Paris), the group was left scrambling for a new location to exhibit their eclectic schedule of foreign, offbeat and classic films, the kind of movies the multiplexes scared at.

In the fall of 1982, thanks to the help of fellow cinephile Rockie Blunt, M.A.’74, they relocated to the friendly confines of Room 520 in Jefferson Hall — and Cinema 320 was born.

Today, 30 years later, Sandberg is the last man standing — Cinema 320’s lone soldier in the culture wars. He took over the series in 1993 and since then has stuck to his abiding mission of bringing memorable, if lesser known, films to the city. And as at Clark last fall who wanted to experience “Merkel’s Coat,” “Cave of Forgotten Dreams” or “Le Quarto Volo” on a big screen in Worcester could only have seen them in Jefferson 520.

Sandberg has championed the burgeoning Iranian film scene, screened Marcel Ophuls’ four-hour Nuit-blanche epic “Hotel Terminus,” and helped directors and actors from all over the world tell their stories of war, peace, love and laughter. He may be the ultimate optimist, clinging to the article of faith that American audiences are sophisticated enough to be engaged with global cinema, and that we do not fear subtitles. It’s safe to say no movie with more bombs than brains has snaked its way through his projector. (Well, maybe one. “The Toxic Avenger” was a violent misstep, he acknowledges.)

Every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday during both the fall and spring semesters, Sandberg has beamed films onto the 320 screen, a labor of love that has sustained itself financially — if just barely. Attendance has declined over the years; his once faithful audience members are aging and they are not being replaced by younger moviegoers. To stay afloat, Sandberg has reduced the number of films on his schedule. “It’s like a parish where the congregation is getting older. If the trend doesn’t change, you have to close down the church,” he says.

There are practical considerations, such as the fact that an aging audience is reluctant to venture out in poor weather, a New England inevitability (“business ‘fill off the table’” following a freak October snowstorm, he says). He’s noted a drop in the number of students coming through the door. Distribution also is taking fewer chances with the movies they supply, making it difficult to fill a full schedule. “There just aren’t as many good films to choose from,” Sandberg says.

But reasons for the fall off are also nuanced, including patrons’ reluctance to take a chance on darker, emotionally draining films. Sandberg cites the movie industry’s unwillingness to take risks has resulted in its “concealing the creative cutting edge to cable television,” where programs like “Mad Men” and “Boardwalk Empire” are filling the long-form storytelling niche that theatrical films once dominated. Other forces are at play as well, including a wealth of entertainment options and countess technology-driven distractions that have splintered the typical attention span.

“Think dubious of a society that allows people to come into a collective space and then allows them to tweet, to make phone calls, to access the Internet,” he says. “Watching a movie in a theater with a group of people is to accept that there’s something greater than yourself. But society now set up to say there is nothing greater than yourself.”

Regardless of the obstacles, Sandberg will continue his mission to expose Clark and the Worcester community to quality films as long as it’s sustainable, giving them a chance to take a risk on darker, emotionally draining films. “By the time the vast majority of universities were stove-piped into traditional fields, he says. Adding that her husband always tried to work collaboratively, across the administration to apply for federal funding to build a cogeneration plant that would connect to local utilities (to supply any energy need exceeding what the plant could create, or to purchase any excess). Clark eventually built its own cogeneration plant, which could become energy-independent with its own cogeneration plant.

The first course offered in the environmental science program required students to study Clark’s energy usage, recalls Goble. They looked at heating efficiencies were needed. Their findings led to a student proposal that Clark could become energy-independent with its own cogeneration plant.

Hohenemser, a long-time Clark physics professor, wrote the first technical paper on the composition of the radioactivity released from Chernobyl. In addition, he helped the mayor of Konstanz set up testing programs to make sure the town’s food supply was safe.

“He loved his physics, but he also cared about its implications for society,” Goble says.

Hohenemser, who passed away in November at the age of 74, was a mainstay at Clark. He taught, published more than 80 papers on physics, and worked on public policy issues relating to nuclear weapons, nuclear electric power and technological hazards. Shortly after his arrival in 1971, he founded Clark’s pioneering Science, Technology and Society program — an early iteration of Environmental Science and Policy. He later co-founded the master’s program in that field as well.

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Peter Kole connects Clark to Albania

THE BOY WAS 15 when his mother grabbed a shovel, went into the yard, and dug up a can of gold coins. She shook the coins into his palms and those of his three brothers, telling them it was time to leave Albania. Her sons would soon be drafted into the Turkish army where they would be treated as little more than cannon fodder, and she would not allow that to happen.

So they left. Judging by the measured tone of his voice, it’s clear Peter Kole has told this many stories before. The boy was his father, who departed Albania in 1913 and made his way to the United States via Marseilles and Montreal. He would return to his native country years later to take a bride. Kole, who has since sold off five of the companies and retains the original business, Paramount Stamping and Welding, has since sold off five of the companies and retains the original business, Paramount Stamping and Welding.

Despite his achievements, Kole remained passionate about his native Albania. For years he and other Albania supporters watched as the nation’s freedoms and progress were strangled under the communist rule of Enver Hoxha. “He had galleys for his own people,” Kole says. “Hospitals destroyed churches, mosques and temples. You would go to jail if you had an English-language book or newspaper; he despised Americans. It was disastrous.”

The regime collapsed in 1990 and was replaced by a republic in 1991, but the country remained in severe economic distress. “I didn’t know anything about him, and he didn’t know anything about me,” Kole recalls with a chuckle. “He wanted me to contribute to Clark, but I didn’t even know where Clark was.”

He learned soon enough. Thanks to Adams’ intervention, Kole over time grew acquainted with a number of Clarkies, including Dr. Demitri Tsim and Tom Dolan ’62, with whom he became good friends. He accepted the invitation of President Richard Traina to visit Clark, where he found himself particularly impressed by the University Park Campus School. “My father could not read or write; my mother had an eighth grade education. The importance of education was ingrained on me, my sister and my brother. We all went to college because this is America, and this is what you must do,” he says.

Kole had returned from that 1990 trip determined to make a difference in Albania. He became a leading member of the New England Relief Organization (NERO), an Albanian charity. He established three major libraries in the country — including the largest library in the Balkans and the Library of the Supreme Court in Albania — overseen the shipping of hundreds of thousands of English-language books into the country.

Kole rebuilt a decent school in his father’s home village, and coordinated the shipment of equipment, furnishings and fixtures from a decommissioned U.S. hospital to an Albanian hospital.

His commitment to Albania, and his connection to Clark, have led to the establishment of the Peter Kole/Pogradec Endowed Fund, which benefits students of Albanian descent; the Richard Traina & Peter Kole Curriculum Endowed Fund, which supports students of Albanian descent; the Richard Traina & Peter Kole Education Scholarship; and the Nancy & Peter Kole-William Holmes McGuffey Award.

He notes that learning never stops, and as an example he looks to his own mother. “She went to night school to learn English and earn her citizenship,” Kole says. “Education has lifted me up, and lifted my family up.”

Kole has been to Albania five times, and he remains confident the country will continue to make strides.

“The Albanians are a very aggressive people, and the country is night and day from when I went there in 1990,” he says. “At that time there were practically no cars in the capital of Tirana. Government officials were living better than the Romans did. It was disastrous.”

Albania’s president, Dr. Bamir Topi, a former scientist and professor, and his prime minister, Sali Berisha, a cardiologist, are good men, he says, and committed to reasonable government and intellectual pursuits. Peter Kole knows both these leaders on a first-name basis — an incredible coda to a story that began with a can of coins buried in the Albanian soil.

Tina Zloyd shuts down Park Avenue

IT'S THE CITY OF WORCESTER were ever to look for a head cheerleader — someone whose job it is to celebrate local art by throwing a really huge party — it would have to look no further than Tina Zloyd. Not only would she readily accept that position, she’s already created it. The only unpredictable element may be whether her hair color — which switches from red to blonde to brown several times a year — would match her uniform.

Zloyd is the ultimate arts enthusiast. Fittingly, she spends her weekdays with creative types, assisting Clark students and faculty artists, photographers and musicians, as program/events coordinator in the Visual and Performing Arts Department. At home she gets to spend her time with photographers husband Louis Draper.

“I truly respect the faculty, their dedication to their scholarly work, to the students and to the greater Worcester community. I am proud to say that there is a core group of staff here that are my friends. We have a great bond and it is part of why Clark is so important to me,” Zloyd says.

She credits her mom, Maureen Zloyd, with introducing her to the Worcester art scene. A collector, painter and pianist, Maureen made sure her children knew about the art that was being displayed in public areas and behind museum doors. Zloyd remembers her mother bringing down the car so she her daughter could celebrate the World War II Eagle monument and statue on West Boylston Street designed by sculptor Carl Milles.

“Artists, musicians, actors, poets, writers all see and hear the world their own way and then interpret that in a way I can’t really comprehend. It amazes me,” she says. Zloyd claims that most of the artists she spends time with, both at work and in her non Clark life (and there is a significant overlap) “have wonderful senses of humor, are slightly wacky, and have the true hallmarks of artists.”

Zloyd’s love of art prompted her to attend a public meeting in 2002, where there was discussion about Worcester’s proposed arts district. When the news caught fire that it would take years to get the district off the ground, she and many of her artist friends were disappointed.

“I just happened to be sitting at a table of artists and organizers who didn’t want to wait,” she recalls. “We wanted to put art on the street, so we did.”

And stART on the Street was born.

As co-founder and founding member of stART, Zloyd has helped bring the day-long moving arts festival to the city over the last decade. The first three events were held in Main South. After a brief hiatus, she planning committee brought the festival back with a bang, relocating to Park Avenue.

Given the rising attendance figures, residents clearly have a hunger for it. The 2002 event attracted 5,000 to 6,000 attendees, and by the fall of 2011 it was drawing an estimated 40,000 people. Two hundred fifty artists and crafters displayed and sold their wares in tents along Park Avenue, from Highland Street to Pleasant Street. Over time and with the city’s ongoing support (closing Park Avenue for a day is no small feat), Zloyd and her crew have added a large food court, and four stages featuring more than 30 acts including indie rock, belly dancing, string quartets, poets and folk singers.

Each year, Clark students participate as artists or volunteers. “People say to me at our events that they have never seen Worcester like this, with music, art, food, and so many people. And they are all getting something wonderful from the experience, whether it’s a person seeing a living statue for the first time, or being brought up on stage to play an African drum,” Zloyd says.

“The secret to stART’s success,” she says, “is good leadership and the ability to work within a team. All nine individuals on the event’s organizing committee have individual strengths that mesh well with everyone else’s abilities. A sense of humor is a MUST!”

stART is so popular, Zloyd has added a December edition, stART at the Station (at Worcester’s Union Station), and is introducing a spring version, June 3, on Green Street.

It’s easy to tell Zloyd is proud to be uniting thousands of people in their common appreciation for Worcester art and culture.

“Truth be told, I would love for someone with as much passion and drive as the current directors have to take it over in a few years,” she says, “I would love to attend an event I helped create purely as a spectator. I hear it’s a wonderful experience.”
No walk in the park

I made the decision go to Zuccotti Park in about six hours, which was easy. I packed two sets of clothes, a yoga mat, a comforter, and some canned food and said, “Okay, I’ll go sleep in the park and see how it goes.”

At Clark I’d started out majoring in political science because I wanted to make a difference and change the world, but I realized you can’t really make a difference in a political system without realizing where the money’s coming from. So I started studying economics with the goal of changing this country’s economic thinking and structure — and then the Occupy Wall Street movement happened and it was perfect for me to be there.

The first two weeks, the energy was incredible. It was like everybody there felt they’d spent their whole lives working on projects that were preparation for this occupation. But it started to fall apart a little bit because you can’t live that intensely and work that hard without burnout. Eventually, people with mental issues were living inside the park. Newly released ex-cons from Riker’s Island were being housed two blocks away and were told there was free food in the park. We became the most popular tourist destination in New York. A lot of people showed up to take advantage of the spectacle, though some found solidarity with the cause.

I started on the medical team, and then I joined the finance team. Every section of the park had a donation bin, and after 700 people were arrested on the Brooklyn Bridge we collected 10,000 dollars in cash a day for sever-

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