Clark University researchers are meeting the challenge of global climate change with a perfect storm of scientific rigor, moral conviction, and urgency.
With a nod to Clark tradition, the inter-class tug-of-war was revived for Spree Day 2013. The winners not only earned bragging rights, but avoided getting dragged into a pool filled with red Jell-O.
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Fire and Ice

From the Arctic Circle to the Yucatan Peninsula, from the frigid seas of Siberia to the scorched forests of Colorado, and in their labs and classrooms, Clark researchers are meeting the challenge of global climate change with a perfect storm of scientific rigor, moral conviction, and urgency.

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Letters to the editor are welcome.
Dear alumni, family and friends,

**H**ave you heard of massive open online courses? “MOOCs” offer anyone around the world the opportunity to take, for free, an online version of a traditional course. This morning I went online to look at the spring 2013 course offerings available through edX — a non-profit collaboration involving MIT, Harvard University, the University of California, Berkeley and other university partners. I could sign up for “Introduction to Statistics,” billed as the online equivalent of a 15-week course taken on the UC Berkeley campus every year by about 1,000 students. Or I could choose “The Ancient Greek Hero,” based on a course taught at Harvard. Students who complete and pass the course are eligible to receive a certificate indicating their mastery of the material. The courses do not yet carry academic credit and do not count toward a degree, though some MOOC providers are exploring this possibility.

What does all of this mean for Clark University and our students? First of all, it is important to remember that online courses are not new. At Clark, some of the courses in our accredited M.B.A. program have been offered in a blended learning format — where some coursework is completed online and other pieces of the course are presented in a traditional face-to-face classroom setting. The judgment our faculty members make is figuring out what parts of the curriculum can be taught effectively online, and what parts are better suited to the classroom. The online platform is effective for developing mastery of basic concepts, such as how to calculate a debt-to-asset ratio. When it comes to combining concepts and understanding implications, like how ratio patterns lead to valuation decisions, the real-time interaction between faculty and students is beneficial. Feedback from our M.B.A. students about online courses is quite positive. It seems clear that online learning will continue to grow rapidly and, over time, Clark will expand its online offerings, especially in professional graduate education.

What distinguishes MOOCs from other online courses is that they are both “massive” and “open.” That is, anyone can register (currently, in most cases, at no charge) and the courses are designed to handle very large numbers of participants — as many as 100,000 from around the world for some courses. Some commentators in the media have taken these features of MOOCs to be the basis for a profound restructuring of higher education.

For me, however, the most significant consequence of MOOCs is the considerable amount of resources being invested in understanding the context within which online courses are effective, and how we might develop technology-enabled courses in ways that strengthen student learning. For example, we know from research in the learning sciences that students benefit from rapid feedback on assignments. The platforms and some of the tools being developed to support online courses allow instantaneous, computer-derived feedback to students as they test their mastery of concepts and skills. This research will inform the decisions we make at Clark in coming years as to the role of online education in our academic programs.

It is risky to predict the effect online instruction will have on colleges and universities. In the past year the media have reported everything from the impending demise of the traditional residential campus experience to the prospect of dramatically expanding access to higher education around the world.

Here are the three issues that I am focused on as president of Clark University; how we address them will serve us well in navigating change and help us emerge as a stronger, more impactful university. First, how do we promote transformative learning and educational outcomes that fully prepare and launch our students for successful careers and meaningful lives? Our LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice) model offers a bold response to that question. Second, how do we ensure that the excellent education available at Clark is affordable and accessible to the talented students who seek to enroll here? We at Clark are working hard to contain costs and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of all that we do. Third, how do we marshal the research work of our faculty, and the contributions of talented staff, students and the entire Clark community, to ensure we make a difference in developing solutions to the world’s most challenging problems? Engagement with important problems locally and globally has been a hallmark of Clark over the decades, and connects strongly with our LEEP initiative.

I have no doubt that online education offers fresh opportunities for Clark to respond to all three of these core priorities. For example, are there prospects for students to take courses online, whether at Clark or elsewhere, that reduce the cost of education without undermining the transformative results we seek? Can we use online learning to enhance the influence of Clark’s world-class research in communities around the world? Can Clark strengthen its resource base and broaden access through new graduate programs taught predominantly online? All of this is but a means to an end. The key here is to remember that online courses are another vehicle with which to achieve the educational results and research impact that define the University’s mission. We must be open to taking advantage of the opportunities afforded by online education while remaining focused on our primary goals. A task force at Clark is developing recommendations on how best to do so. I look forward to sharing updates with you and welcome your comments and reflections on these ideas.

Sincerely,

David P. Angel
President

DAVID P. ANGEL
President
This is the sixth magazine we’ve produced since launching the redesign in Fall 2010, and each issue is accompanied by measures of panic, pain and, ultimately, joy once the final product rolls off the presses. (I will spare you the inevitable metaphor about giving birth.)

In the past I’ve enjoyed using this space to describe the process of putting the magazine together, offering back-room glimpses of how the stories are chosen and executed. Today, I’d like to turn the column into a bully pulpit of sorts to encourage your participation in two initiatives that we hope will enhance alumni connections and continue to paint Clark as an enviable destination for students.

When alumni magazine editors get together we typically exchange compliments about each other’s periodicals and then move right into commiserating about Class Notes. In the misty not-so-distant past when print was king, the Class Notes section in the alumni magazine was the only opportunity for Clarkies to share the news of their lives — a wedding, the birth of a child, a new job, a recently published book. But in the age of Facebook, Twitter, blogging and a host of other social media outlets, many people are now in a cycle of continuously updating their statuses, whether the message is momentous (“I just landed a job with NASA”), or less so (“Grilled cheese for lunch today”). As such, Class Notes submissions have declined markedly.

We’d like to reverse that trend, or at least slow it a bit. Consider that the messages you send out on social media are often being relayed to a tight circle of friends, while submitting a note to the magazine — which is received by the vast majority of alumni — dramatically widens that circle. I know as editor I love learning what Clarkies are up to and look to the Class Notes for story ideas for future magazines. The section is an essential resource, and it’s a lot of fun, too.

Here’s how to get your note published. Log on to clarkconnect.clarku.edu and click on the “Class Notes” link to submit your information. Or, you can snail-mail your note to: Clark University, 950 Main St., Worcester, MA, 01610, Attn: Alumni Affairs. You can also call 800-793-6246.

We enjoy knowing what’s going on in your lives. Give us the highlights; you can skip the grilled cheese.

One more thing before I let you go.

A couple of years ago we unveiled our Return on Education site (clark.edu/return-on-education/), which illustrates the value of a Clark education through the career and advanced-degree paths that our alumni have taken. The site has drawn robust traffic as well as interest from the media — Boston’s NPR station devoted an entire segment on it.

The section titled “Salary Potential” is critical. We understand that unless you’re a superstar athlete or a public official, the rest of the world generally doesn’t know how much you earn — personal income is a private matter. But prospective students and their parents, as well as the organizations that publish college rankings, do want to know how Clarkies fare in the job market based on the types of professions they enter and the salaries they can expect to earn. You can help us give them a sense of that by providing your employment information anonymously at payscale.com.

As with Class Notes, our Return on Education site works best with alumni participation and frequent updating. We’d like to know where life has taken you post-Clark. So please log on to the site and share where you work, the graduate school(s) you’ve attended, civic activities, etc. And don’t forget to tell us what your major was at Clark!

Thank you for listening. Now we look forward to hearing from you.

// Please email me at jkeogh@clarku.edu with your comments, suggestions, letters to the editor and, most importantly, your story ideas. All are welcome.
Choosing:
Braving new territory.
Separating the wheat from the chaff.
Standing up for what seems right.
Being you.

Be a Clarkie. Fund a Clarkie.

Choose to say yes to this bold mission right now!
clarkconnect.clarku.edu/choosing
YOUR TURN

Does Clark cut the mustard?

I was disturbed to learn in the Fall 2012 issue that Clarkies are eating 1,476 pounds of ketchup annually (p. 12). If healthy eating is the goal, the Clark community needs to know that “ketchup is now the leading cause of childhood stupidity in America” (National Condiment Research Council, 2012 Annual Report).

Mustard, on the other hand, is the condiment of choice for those who aspire to a higher physical, intellectual and moral lifestyle.

For example, Shakespeare mentions mustard in four of his plays* but never once lets ketchup into his elegant prose.

Of course, I am totally unbiased in bringing this to your attention.

Condimentally yours,

Barry Levenson ’70
Curator and CMO (Chief Mustard Officer)
National Mustard Museum
Middleton, Wisc.

* “His wit’s as thick as Tewkesbury mustard ...” Henry IV, Part 2
“What say you to a piece of beef and mustard?” The Taming of the Shrew
“Good Master Mustardseed, I know your patience well.” A Midsummer Night’s Dream
“Now I’ll stand to it, the pancakes were naught and the mustard was good.” As You Like It

‘Fantastic’ Downing Street

I read with interest the recent article in the Fall issue of the CLARK alumni magazine detailing the new changes on Downing Street and the Sanford-Johnson quad. When I visited clarku.edu/downingstreet I had to review the slideshow twice to really appreciate the changes. Really fantastic! I remember well the traffic on Downing Street and the difficulties/danger walking across it on the way to classes. I don’t know if there have been many accidents, but I know of one particular accident. Mrs. Terry Reynolds, long-time department of biology secretary and wife of Dr. John Reynolds, professor emeritus in biology, was severely injured several years ago while crossing Downing Street. It’s great to see the changes that were made to this area and the continued improvements to the campus.

Steven P. Lorton ’72, Ph.D.
Madison, Wisc.

What’s Annie’s secret?

As a foodie, I absolutely loved the latest CLARK alumni magazine with Padma Lakshmi ’92 on the cover and its teaser of being “The Food Issue.” I dove right in to read it. You interviewed Padma, Annie of Annie’s Clark Brunch, and Mark Bittman ’71. You showcased Ron Shaich ’76, founder, chairman and CEO of Panera Bread. Many of the pages talked food. But where were the recipes?

The articles were great but what a missed opportunity! The ability to make Annie’s tuna melt would have brought a little taste of Clark back home. Any chance you can include it in the next issue?

Alana (Huchital) Goodman ’92
Cupertino, Calif.

Editor’s note: We asked Annie Jenkins to share her secret for the perfect tuna melt, but she and her daughter Megan, who does much of the cooking, observe a strict policy that all recipes remain in-house. However, they said Alana has a standing invitation to visit their restaurant for the tuna melt — or omelet, or meatloaf sandwich — of her life.
A delectable magazine

I greatly enjoyed reading the Food Issue of the alumni magazine. I knew Mark Bittman was a Clark alum but didn’t know about Padma Lakshmi. Both of their stories are so interesting. In the 1950s, the restaurant now known as Annie’s Clark Brunch was operated by a dysfunctional family of eccentric people who often ignored customers to continue their squabbles. They also seldom cleaned out the fryers, so there was a strong odor of stale oil in the air. It permeated our clothes, so later in the day anyone we met knew where we had been.

I’m very pleased that Tom Dolan received a special award. Probably no individual has done as much for Clark over so many years. I got acquainted with him at reunions, when he accompanied his wife (and my classmate) Joan.

Finally, I was saddened to read that my favorite professor, Vernon Ahmadjian, had died. Biology majors like me who were interested in botany were without courses for two years after Dr. Potter retired. So we were delighted when Vernon was hired in our senior year, and his class filled up quickly. However, that happened in September 1959, not 1969 as indicated in the obituary. Several years later, I married his first graduate student and got to know Vernon as a friend. He was an excellent teacher and mentor and a fine person.

Keep up the good work!

Eileen (Carroll) Schofield ’60
Hartsdale, NY.
AFTER MAKING THE GUITAR GODS jealous at the Monterey Pop Festival in 1967, and before electrifying the Star-Spangled Banner at Woodstock in 1969, Jimi Hendrix took the stage in Atwood Hall on March 15, 1968, and left a rock legacy at Clark that reverberates still.

The Jimi Hendrix Experience concert marked the pinnacle of what many consider a “golden era” of campus concerts — a time when Clarkies got up close with famous (and almost famous) musicians of the groundbreaking ’60s and ’70s.

“It was such a different time,” recalls Robert Marshall ’69, whose photos of Hendrix are among rare artifacts from the evening. “Even very famous celebs traveled so differently. There were no entourages or security, no publicity people, no spin doctors ... There was a freewheeling informality. Jimi, Noel Redding and Mitch Mitchell, they just hung around backstage. People would come and go. There were no ID badges. We ordered out from Notis Pizza.”

Clark’s student organizers had gained a reputation for providing a ready and appreciative venue for many major acts on tour between bigger cities and arenas. Getting the Jimi Hendrix Experience in 1968 was a coup. Demand for tickets was high, so a second show was added for the same night.

By all accounts Hendrix came onstage very late, after the Soft Machine’s opening act. He had spent some time calmly chatting backstage with Clark students as well as a BBC crew who were filming a documentary. (Hendrix had already ignited fans in London.) In Atwood, his microphone didn’t work at first. “He played an entire set, singing, but no one heard anything except the instruments,” recalls Lawrence Breitborde ’71. “And it didn’t matter! It was amazing.”

In a review in The Scarlet, David Dronsick ’69 fairly reported the concert’s flaws, but had high praise for the student Social Affairs Board. He wrote, “If you were at Atwood, you saw, and now can tell others you saw, the man who is probably the world’s best guitarist.”

Robert Echter ’69 was chair of the SAB and is credited with orchestrating many memorable Clark concerts. “People complained about not getting big-name talent like other colleges, so I put out a referendum voted on by the whole student body,” he recounts. Students OK’d a $10 fee per semester, which they called the Rock & Roll Tax. It bought them first dibs on seating, often at a mere $2.50 per ticket.

The Hendrix concert “was a confluence of factors, people and hard work,” Echter says. “My year and the one ahead of us were at the forefront of the Baby Boom. We were born at the introduction of television to mass society. There were only three major TV networks and no videotape, so everyone knew what each other had witnessed, in common and in the same time. We were on the cusp of the cultural change.

“At a reunion a couple years ago, a lot of people were talking about the concert. I didn’t realize it had that big an impact on my fellow students,” Echter continues. “It was one of, if not the major experience of their time at Clark. It was a creative student enterprise. We were riding the wave of our generation. ... We brought a community together. This is a fact.”

Great musical acts have graced Clark stages long before and long after Hendrix. A feature story in a future CLARK magazine will recall some of those times. Tell us about your favorite concert experience at Clark by emailing jkeogh@clarku.edu.

If you missed the show in 1968, you might want to hear “The Jimi Hendrix Experience: Live at Clark University,” a CD released in 1999 by Dagger Records that includes parts of the BBC interview with Hendrix and such numbers as “Fire,” “Foxey Lady,” “Purple Haze,” “Wild Thing” and more. Robert Marshall’s pictures grace the CD cover and insert, and above on this page.
A s death encroached, Reed Powell savored the sun-bleached sky.

His mind frantically painted 22 years of joy and memory and regret on that blank canvas while the life inside him seeped out onto the grass below. On the side of that lonely Massachusetts road, devoid of hope, minutes dripped as slowly as hours. So he gazed up at that pale sky — his eyes singed by sunlight, his voice suffocated by blood, nerve endings revolting deep within his body — and waited for the final breath.”

So began the story that appeared in the NCAA magazine detailing Powell’s near-fatal motorcycle accident, his grueling recovery, and his miraculous return to the Clark basketball court where he had starred as an undergrad. Powell ’10, a Clark M.B.A. candidate, suffered life-threatening injuries when his motorcycle skidded and hit a telephone pole on June 18, 2011. Several times during his hospital recovery his heart stopped beating, and doctors needed to take emergency action to revive him.

Thanks to his punishing workouts, and supportive family and team, he was able to transform the body that was shattered on that June day into one that would allow him to finish his collegiate playing career and complete a comeback for the ages.

Read the story at clarku.edu/ReedPowell.
Rare books speak volumes

Jonas Clark loved books.

In fact, the founder of Clark University was so passionate about words and illustrations, both modern and ancient, that he accrued a personal library estimated at 10,000 books. In 1889, he donated some 4,000 of them to the University's library, and today an incredible historical and literary array is housed in Special Collections at the Goddard Library.

Many of those books, as precious and fragile as they are, are safely preserved in climate-controlled storage. But on Dec. 6, a number of Clark's most fascinating volumes were put on display for the Rare Book Open House, conducted by students from English Professor Meredith Neuman's Introduction to Archival Research seminar. Students shared examples of medieval and Renaissance books and explained topics from early paper making and typography to bindings and illustrations, to hand-press printing processes and manuscript reader annotations.

Clark archivist Fordyce Williams noted that among Clark's books are 40 "incunabula" — books, pamphlets or broadsides published in Europe after the invention of the Gutenberg press in 1455 and before the year 1501. One on display, "Nuremburg Chronicles" (1493), is the product of Anton Koberger, known at the time as "The Prince of Printing." (The oldest of Clark's volumes, Williams said, is a handwritten, hand-painted manuscript from 1275.)

Also displayed was the "Expositionis Evangeliorum dominicalium" (1480), a book of sermons that features a small, thin, semi-translucent circle in one of the book's pages, a phenomenon known as a "vat man's tear" — an imperfection made by a drop of sweat from a worker making the hand-laid paper.

Neuman's students have begun creating descriptions and databases of the Clark collection, enabling access for researchers all over the world. The University's original bibliophile would be proud.

Harry Potter had a magical impact on the publishing and movie industries ... but on the athletic fields? It's true. Quidditch, the chosen sport of everyone's favorite boy wizard, has been played on college campuses for several years, and in fall 2012 Clark launched its own club team (pictured at right). Several of the elements of the fictional game — most notably the brooms (though not the airborne variety) — have survived the transition from the page to the pitch. As a member of the Southern New England Quidditch Conference, Clark competes against the likes of Brown, Brandeis and the University of Rhode Island. And no, Hogwarts is not on the schedule.
IT’S GOOD TO BE ‘40’

What happens when you take the best of a liberal arts college and the best of a research university and mash them together? You get Clark. The university is in a field by itself.

So begins the Clark University chapter of the newest edition of “Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools That Will Change the Way You Think about Colleges,” released on Aug. 28. Clark has been included in the guide book since it was first published in 1996, and its continuing inclusion is testament not only to past reputation but to recent initiatives cited by author Masell Oswald, most notably Clark’s pioneering education model, LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice).

“For many years the book has been identified by hundreds of Clarkies as their first point of connection with the University,” said Don Honeman, dean of admissions and financial aid. “The most recent edition brings to life the Clark experience and emphasizes LEEP, our innovative approach to presenting a traditional liberal arts program that fosters the development of practical competencies and skills that will serve our students for a lifetime.”

Clark has been earning high scores in “Colleges That Change Lives” ever since the original author, the late Loren Pope, began writing about schools that fly under the national radar yet make a profound impact on their students. “Clark [has] something rare anywhere, but unique in New England: a four-star academic experience in a major research university,” Pope wrote, adding that Clark students have “the chance to do undergraduate research on big-league projects.”

In the new profile, Clark emerges as a place where intellectual engagement is the coin of the realm, and where ideas and issues become flashpoints for action. One faculty member quoted in the book summed it up best: “I was seeking interdisciplinary collaboration, and I wanted students interested in making a change in the world. I got both.”

LIFE AND DEATH IN DANA

For five days in December nobody dared sneeze in the lobby of Dana Commons, where The Venerable Lama Tenzin Yignyen painstakingly crafted the Inner Mandala of the Buddha of Compassion, a piece of spiritual art composed entirely of vibrantly colored sand.

The creation of the mandala attracted onlookers from the Clark community and beyond, who gathered to watch Yignyen work the sand into the intricate patterns that are elements of Buddhist initiation ceremonies and ritual practices. As with all mandalas, the version created by Yignyen was dismantled and, in a closing ceremony, the sand was then deposited in University Pond.

The birth and death of the mandala served as a reminder that an ending often can be accompanied by a rather fascinating beginning.
You, the jury

Todd Logan ’75 writes plays that he hopes will remain vivid for audience members after they leave the theater and get into their cars. That ride home, he explains, can be a magical time, when the emotions stirred by what they’ve just witnessed will spark discussions of the play’s themes, its performances, and the lingering questions about the characters’ fates beyond the script’s confines.

Logan brought that magic to Clark University in September when he presented two performances of his play “Defamation” in Michelson Theater during Parents Weekend.

The play centers on a court case involving an African-American woman from Chicago’s South Side accused by a white real estate developer from the suburbs of stealing his watch. She sues for defamation, and both sides square off in the courtroom. Once the trial is concluded, the judge hands the case to the audience, whose members are left to debate their own assumptions about race, class, and justice while faced with the additional burden of divining the truth in the he said-she said case. Logan led those discussions following the Clark performances.

He knew the deliberations would be lively and thoughtful.

“The format provides a powerful platform for dealing with hot-button issues that continue to divide our society today,” he said. “I want ‘Defamation’ to contribute to addressing difficult issues through civil discourse, which generates empathy and greater tolerance.”

Man of la hora

Clark professors have written countless books over the years, but how many can say a book has been written about them?

Graduate School of Geography Professor Richard Peet laid claim to that honor when “Richard Peet: Geography Against Neoliberalism” was published last year in Spain.

Núria Benach, professor of geography at University of Barcelona, visited Clark University in the autumn of 2010 to interview Peet and gather content for the book, which is the third in the series “Espacios Críticos” (Icaria Editorial). The series highlights prominent scholars and aims to make geographical radical thought more available to a Spanish-speaking audience worldwide.

“Richard Peet: Geography Against Neoliberalism” includes an anthology of texts written by Peet, as well as interviews, seven of his previously published essays translated into Spanish, and some of his new work on the global economic crisis. The book was launched in October with public lectures given by Peet in the Center of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona and at the Catalan Geographical Society.

“When we radicals moved geography from studying crops and barn types to urban problems and development, it turned out that the available stock of geographic theories couldn’t explain very much,” writes Peet.

In Spain, Peet lectured on austerity and class struggle. His timing couldn’t have been better. He recalls walking on La Rambla in Barcelona and encountering a massive demonstration against the austerity measures imposed by the European Union — “and it was the police who were demonstrating!”
The shock of his life

Mike Cole, M.S.I.T. ’10, manager of network operations at Clark, and his good friend, Jack, had played racquetball once a week at the Kneller Center courts for about eight years without injury or incident other than the occasional pulled muscle. Both men, in their mid-50s, were accustomed to vigorous exercise.

But on Dec. 19, after playing one game and just into the second, Jack collapsed. He wasn’t breathing and his heart had stopped beating.

Cole called out to Paul Milionis, University Advancement data manager, who ran to the office of Trish Cronin, assistant trainer and senior women’s administrator in athletics, and told her what had happened. Cronin raced to the court while Paul E. Phillips, swim coach and assistant director of athletics, called 911.

Student worker Mary Igo ’14 fetched Cronin’s first-aid kit and the AED, or defibrillator (one of two in the Kneller).

A retired master sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps and former police dispatcher, Cole had CPR training, and was performing chest compressions when Cronin arrived. At this point, Cronin says, Jack had labored breathing. She told Cole to stop the compressions while she placed the AED pads on Jack’s chest, noticing that he’d again stopped breathing. The device performed a computerized analysis of Jack’s heart function and it recommended that he receive a shock.

“Trish proceeded to make sure the area was clear, and administered the shock. One was all it took,” Cole says. “It was a pretty intense couple of minutes.”

Jack’s body convulsed and he began breathing raggedly and spitting up. Cronin performed chest compressions and kept his airway clear until the emergency crew arrived — with Igo and Phillips leading them to the court — and took him to the hospital. There, doctors discovered a major blockage that had caused him to go into cardiac arrest.

Cronin, a Red Cross instructor, says the response to the emergency was textbook and has generated positive conversation about creating action plans for any future crises.

“As an instructor you never know what’s going happen until you’re right there faced with it,” Cronin says. “Everything fell into the right path for Jack.”

After a rehab stint, Jack was well on his way to recovery. Thanks to the Clarkies’ quick actions, he can now tell the tale of the worst — and best — racquetball game of his life.

“Scrubs” star Zach Braff paid a visit to Clark in October to support Elizabeth Warren in her campaign for the U.S. Senate. The L.A.-based Braff quipped that he “closed up the hot tub, put down the Cristal, kicked Tom Cruise and Julia Roberts out of my home” and flew east to stump for the candidate.
From the Arctic Circle to the Yucatan Peninsula, from the frigid seas of Siberia to the scorched forests of Colorado, and in their labs and classrooms, Clark researchers are meeting the challenge of global climate change with a perfect storm of scientific rigor, moral conviction, and urgency.

BY ANNE GIBSON, PH.D. ’95
ILLUSTRATION BY ALISON SEIFFER
These fatal visions reflect our instinctive fear of a climate that's either “too hot” or “too cold” for survival.

When President Obama stated in his 2013 inaugural address that “We will respond to the threat of climate change,” many listeners were taken aback. Despite the looming presence of extreme weather events occurring across the United States and around the world in 2012, any mention of climate change had been conspicuously absent from the presidential campaign. That Obama and Mitt Romney chose to ignore the elephant in the room starkly illustrated how the debate over climate change has pushed many of us — whether politician, policy-maker or citizen — out of our comfort zones.

Contributing to that discomfort is the difficulty of reaching consensus on climate change. While climate scientists agree almost unanimously that the earth’s atmosphere is warming and is the result, at least in part, of human activity, many people refuse to accept that assessment. And those who do believe the evidence frequently disagree, often vehemently, on how best to address the problem.

Why is it so hard to find agreement? Conversations with the many Clark faculty investigating how atmospheric warming is playing out in diverse ecosystems and human populations reveal the mind-boggling complexity of climate change. And whether they are involved in the monitoring, management or mitigation of this global event, these scientists also recognize the need to bridge the significant communication gap between the scientific and lay communities before research can be put into practice. They’ve found the rhetoric can be fiery, the public’s reception icy, and a solution more necessary than ever.

WHAT’S FUELING THE FIRES?

When John Rogan unpacks his suitcase after returning from Mexico’s Yucatan, his clothes reek of smoke.

Annually since 2008, the Clark geography professor has painstakingly monitored the same plots in a subtropical rainforest where wildfires are so prevalent that members of his research team emerge gray with char after swimming in a nearby lagoon. The team’s research shows that while the number of wildfires has decreased thanks to a rigorous, government-imposed system of burn-permitting, the actual area of scorched forest has widened dramatically. The markers of climate change in this region — declining rainfall and frequent and damaging hurricanes — are increasing the likelihood that small fires set by local farmers as part of their traditional agricultural practices will rage out of control.

Rogan and his Clark colleagues Dominik Kulakowski and Christopher Williams are trying to understand why wildfires, and the resulting degradation or destruction of forests, are on the rise around the world. Natural to the life cycle of any forest are what scientists call “disturbances” — avalanches, insect infestations, storms that down trees and branches, fluctuations in temperature and precipitation, human activities, and even fire itself. A healthy forest can adapt to small variations in normal disturbance patterns, but if the frequency and severity of disturbances increase too much, or occur in concert, the effect on forests may be much more severe. Forest ecologists are carefully monitoring patterns of disturbance over time and across different ecosystems in order to correctly identify to what degree climate change or other factors contribute to larger and more frequent wildfires.

Beetle infestation, which has been unusually intense and widespread in western U.S. forests over the past few years, provides a good case study. When Kulakowski was a graduate student, it was accepted fact that forests affected by beetle infestation were more susceptible to wildfires. But when his research contradicted that conventional wisdom, he experienced not so much an “A-ha!” moment as a “What the hell is going on?” moment. Kulakowski recalls his mingled anxiety and excitement when his
analysis of the data showed no increase in fire after insect outbreaks.

“Needless to say, I lost a lot of sleep over this,” he says. “This was absolutely contrary to everything that had been published up to that point. But since then, our own research and that of a number of other research groups have time and again drawn similar conclusions in different ecosystems, and the scientific community is now looking at this issue in a different way.”

Kulakowski’s recognized expertise positioned him to testify at a 2010 Senate subcommittee hearing regarding a proposed bill to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire by treating insect outbreaks. In his statement, Kulakowski cited research pointing to climate change-induced drought, rather than insect infestation, as the driver of increased wildfires in the western United States. He cautioned against targeting insect infestation, saying that to do so “would be like beginning surgery on a patient before first having the correct diagnosis.” The bill later died in committee.

When wildfires take hold, more than nearby homes and livelihoods are at risk. Fires also have the potential to release large amounts of carbon stored in ecosystems, fueling further climate change as carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere rise even higher. As a researcher with the federally funded North American Carbon Program, Williams is part of a group of scientists tasked with quantifying fire-induced carbon emissions for the whole of North America. The team uses satellite imagery, field data from forest plots, and models to determine the net carbon impact of fires. At the fall 2012 meeting of the American Geophysical Union, Williams presented related research targeting the drought-stricken western United States, and he participated in a NASA-sponsored media briefing on “Fire in a Changing Climate and What We Can Do About It.”

According to Williams, carbon dioxide emissions from wildfires in the western U.S. have more than doubled since the 1980s. Drought is partly to blame, having become more frequent in recent years. And, Williams notes, “with the climate change forecast for the region, this trend likely will continue as the western U.S. gets warmer and drier on average.
If this comes to pass, we can anticipate increased fire severity and an even greater area burned annually, causing a further rise in the release of carbon dioxide.”

Last August, Williams co-authored a New York Times editorial that warned of a multidecade “megadrought” in the American West if fossil-fuel emissions go unchecked. He wrote, “[T]here can be little doubt that what was once thought to be a future threat is suddenly, catastrophically upon us.”

TREADING ON THIN ICE

The relationship between a warming atmosphere and wildfire outbreaks is just one example of climate-change impacts. Global warming is contributing to a very different, but equally complex response in the cryosphere — regions of the globe normally characterized by snow, ice and extreme cold.

While Clark geographer Karen Frey developed an interest in climate change at an early age, colleague Alex Gardner had already completed his training as a civil engineer before he became fascinated with glaciers during a hiking trip to the ice fields of Patagonia in South America. A desire to assess the rate and volume of melt from glaciers and ice caps in polar and mountainous regions has spurred Gardner to camp out on remote, ice-covered islands in northern Canada; Frey undertakes much of her field research on melting sea ice aboard U.S. and Canadian icebreakers, and on thawing permafrost from remote field stations in East Siberia and the Alaskan North Slope. Global warming is having its greatest impact in the far northern latitudes, and understanding where and how rapidly ice is melting there, and in other frigid regions, is critical to predicting the magnitude of future environmental change across the globe.

Using computer programs he writes himself, along with remotely sensed data from two satellites, Gardner can determine the amount of ice lost to melting. A Canadian by birth, Gardner is especially interested in ice melt in the Canadian Archipelago. This cluster of islands northwest of Greenland had received little attention, but a study led by Gardner found that, outside of Greenland and Antarctica, it was the largest contributor to sea-level rise from 2007 through 2009.

Results of the study were published in the prestigious journal Nature in 2011.

Frey calls permafrost, which covers approximately one quarter of Northern Hemisphere land areas, “a ticking time bomb,” because of the carbon locked inside. Defined as soil or rock whose temperature remains below 0 degrees Celsius (32 degrees Fahrenheit) for at least two consecutive years, permafrost can extend several hundred meters below the earth’s surface. When permafrost thaws, it provides food for bacteria, which in the feeding process release carbon into the atmosphere as either carbon dioxide or methane. Thawing permafrost also enables the leaching of soil carbon into local streams and beyond, ultimately making its way to the coastal Arctic Ocean and impacting biophysical processes in the marine realm.

Frey and Gardner also study how ice and snow function as the earth’s thermostat by reflecting the sun’s rays, thus keeping the earth from getting too hot. But as snow and ice cover contracts, and that vast whiteness is replaced by the darker, less reflective surfaces of soil, vegetation and open water, the earth absorbs more heat, which leads to more melting.

“When sea ice melts,” Frey explains, “it effectively replaces some of the brightest surfaces on the planet with some of the darkest. And that amplifies the warming. It’s like standing in the middle of a black asphalt parking lot. It’s hot. But if you stand in the middle of a bright white surface, sunlight is reflected rather than absorbed and that surface stays cool. That’s the difference between a sea ice-covered ocean and open ocean.”

Last year witnessed record lows for sea ice coverage in the Arctic — and as the relative balance between ice and open water shifts in favor of the latter, increased availability of the sunlight needed for photosynthesis spurs the growth of algae.

Scientists once thought that algae could not flourish under ice for lack of sunlight, but Frey was among a group of NASA scientists making recent headlines with their discovery of a huge bloom of algae doing just that. Publishing in the journals Science and Geophysical Research Letters, they found that as air warms, small pools of meltwater form atop the ice, acting as skylights to channel sunlight to the underside.

“Sea ice is the huge story for these [polar] ecosystems,” Frey says. “Everything is so tightly linked in the food chain, from microscopic algae all the way to the seal, walrus, whale, and polar bear.”
and the more you study, the more you realize how incredibly complicated these systems are, mainly because of all the interacting complexities that occur and all the interesting feedbacks that are so globally significant.”

ON THE FRONT LINES ... AND THE FRONT LAWN

Clark geographers like Robert Kates, Billie Lee Turner II, Roger Kasperson, Jody Emel, and Sam Ratick were in the national forefront of scientists studying the impact of human action on the natural environment, and in assessing human vulnerability to both environmental and man-made hazards.

They remain engaged in their research areas, while colleagues like Ron Eastman, Robert “Gil” Pontius and Colin Polsky have also taken up the challenge of identifying and quantifying risks posed to humans and ecosystems by a warming atmosphere.

Eastman earned worldwide recognition two decades ago with the introduction of IDRISI, one of the world’s first geographic information systems. Since creating IDRISI in 1987, Eastman and his team at Clark Labs have continued to augment the software with modules of special interest to researchers in such fields as conservation, ecosystem management, and land-use and land-cover change, including the ability to incorporate climate determinants such as temperature and precipitation into their analyses. His team’s primary focus is working with ecology organizations that want to identify regions where climate change may threaten biodiversity and species survival.

“We have very close partnerships — the strongest would be with Conservation International, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the Wildlife Conservation Society,” says Eastman. “Actually, we’re in communication with most [ecological] agencies worldwide. We let it be known that we’re here to make this suite of tools do what they need, and they’re free to make suggestions and give us feedback.”

Polsky and Pontius have employed IDRISI to aid their research on how climate change will impact the way people use land and water resources. Focusing initially on the Ipswich River watershed north of Boston, Polsky and Pontius have been using a combined social science/high-resolution-mapping approach to examine lawn-care strategies of suburban homeowners and spatial patterns of lawns by household and neighborhood. Alongside colleagues at the University of New Hampshire, they are also studying ways that lawn-watering practices and fertilizer run-off affect municipal water supplies and the ecology of local rivers and streams.

“Notions about what’s causing the water problem have not used a high-resolution geographic perspective, and we have been received with a lot of enthusiasm,” Polsky says of their work in the Boston-area towns. “One of the priorities of sustainability science is that you engage with the stakeholder at the beginning, middle and end of the project, otherwise the work is likely to just gather dust on a shelf.”

Lawn-watering makes for a contentious issue in many towns, and the stress it can place on local water resources in times of drought often results in restrictions or even bans. By modeling the process of suburban expansion in combination with expected water usage, Polsky and Pontius can create a picture of future water demand when average summer temperatures are expected to increase. They plan to expand the focus of their research to other metropolitan areas in the United States, where nature’s ability to produce water will almost certainly clash with the homeowner’s quest for the perfect lawn.

SEEING REDD

Several Clark scientists are exploring ways to adapt to or impede climate change here and abroad.
Geography Department Chair Anthony Bebbington, for instance, has been advising El Salvador’s Ministry of the Environment regarding legislation that would temporarily ban all mining in that country until conditions are in place to protect water resources and vulnerable landscapes, both of which are under increasing pressures due to climate change and patterns of development.

Clark Professor Jennie Stephens, whose focus is on energy technology innovation, traveled to the Society for Social Studies of Science Conference in Copenhagen last October to present her research on competing visions of a smarter power grid, perhaps one less vulnerable to damage by storms like Hurricane Sandy. She’s now conducting research for a book about how electricity in different U.S. regions is generated and distributed, with an eye to decreasing dependence on fossil fuels in favor of renewable energy sources, making energy delivery more efficient, and raising people’s awareness of their personal energy-consumption habits.

“Hurricane Sandy highlighted our vulnerability to climate change,” Stephens says, “and made this connection between energy and climate change more explicit. Our energy systems are vulnerable to climate change, and our energy systems and energy dependence are causing climate change.”

Climate-change mitigation faces a herculean challenge when it comes to persuading developing countries to invest in forest-loss prevention. A strategy known as REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) offers countries financial incentives to reduce their forest loss, and the attendant carbon emissions, through payments from wealthier nations. IDRISI provides tools that facilitate the planning and management of REDD projects by allowing users to estimate and map the impacts of alternative policies regarding deforestation, emission reductions, and revenue generation. Eastman and Pontius are consulting with REDD programs to establish the criteria by which mitigation programs can be certified effective in preventing forest loss.

“All of a sudden, the output from these models that we’re making right here at Clark is going to help determine how millions of dollars are going to change hands,” Pontius says. “Clark is playing a major role in this very controversial topic.”

COMMUNICATION, TRUST, AND THAT FOUR-LETTER WORD

We all remember the childhood game of “telephone,” where a whispered message is passed from one person to the next until the last person in line bursts out laughing at the now garbled dispatch. As any professional communicator knows, information delivery is a tricky business. Messages and media must be carefully targeted to individual audiences characterized by diverse needs, learning styles, intellectual abilities and attention spans.

Jim Gomes, director of the Mosakowski Institute at Clark University and former Massachusetts Undersecretary for Environmental Affairs, notes that science, by its very nature, is a work in progress, which can hamper the consensus-building needed to translate knowledge into action. In a presentation he gave last year at Clark titled “Yes We Can?? American Politics and Climate Change in 2012,” Gomes pointed out the scientist’s “commitment to the open-ended nature of science; that is, that conclusions are always
to some degree tentative and subject to revision should we acquire information.” Any uncertainty can play into the hands of people wanting to discredit the existence of climate change, he said.

Increasingly, climate-change scientists have become aware of the need to improve their communication strategies with non-scientists, a need that is being addressed by Clark faculty on a variety of fronts. Stephens has been examining how media outlets talk about climate change, noting their critical role in conveying scientific research to the lay community. In some circles, climate change has become the equivalent of a four-letter word, and Stephens explains that resistance to discussing the subject is sometimes overcome by reframing the conversation as a discourse about energy — a topic more widely accepted and less politically charged.

In 2010, Polsky introduced an on-campus workshop led by the Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea, titled “Communicating Clearly: Opportunities and Challenges for Scientists in a Changing World,” sponsored by the Marsh and Mosakowski institutes, and Clark’s HERO program. More recently, as co-convening lead author for the land-use and land-cover change chapter of the National Climate Assessment, one of his responsibilities is to make sure information is understandable to a lay audience.

Ron Eastman says one of his goals is to make IDRISI’s analytical tools usable by policy makers who are not experts on climate change. “To begin to look at the impact of future climate change on the natural resources of a region, you almost have to become a climate scientist,” he says. “We see our role as providing a more readily accessible set of tools that allows people to do this kind of analysis.”

Clark also assumes responsibility for communicating awareness of climate change issues to its students, and Gomes emphasizes that all students, not just those planning to become scientists, should be informed.

“I think it’s important that we train both the next generation of scientists, and, more broadly, the next generation of citizens,” he says. “Most of our students will not go on to become climate researchers, but all of our students will go on to live in this 21st century, and to be the people who are making decisions about who our leaders are, and, through them, what policies we will be pursuing.”

Susanne Moser, Ph.D. ’97, was instrumental in launching the field of climate-change communications. She is the former staff scientist for climate change for the Union of Concerned Scientists, and later a researcher studying communication and facilitating better interactions between scientists and nongovernmental organizations at the National Center for Atmospheric Research at Boulder, Co. Her training has allowed her to “translate and broker between people who speak English and people who speak science.”

It’s a skill that is even more critical today. “I think this is a crucial moment for climate-change communication,” she says. “It’s important not just to tell people that the sky is falling, but what they can do about it. And it better be commensurate with the problem. It’s not enough to tell people to change a light bulb. You need to make them feel that the action they take is making an important difference.”

Does it matter how clear the message is if the messenger is not trusted? Senior research scientist Roger Kasperson co-authored “The Public Acceptance of New Energy Technologies,” published this year in Daedalus, the journal of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. “Social trust provides the essential lubricant” needed to effect change, he writes. The article notes that “public attitudes toward technology have shifted in the United States. ... In previous decades and during the past century, public sentiment favored technology,” but now the public is “increasingly suspicious and hypercritical.”

The nerdy scientists on the popular TV show “The Big Bang Theory” give credence to Moser’s observation that the stereotype of the scientist as odd and/or out of touch still persists. The non-scientist may not understand the process of scientific inquiry, or may favor other ways of understanding the natural world. For those unfamiliar with the scientific process, belief in scientific research can require the same leap of faith that belief in a supreme being requires from others.

Stephens’ research highlights the need to consider regional differences in attitudes to energy and climate change.

“A lot of policy analysis is about technology feasibility and economics,” Stephens says, “but actually there are a lot of cultural, political and social aspects that have a huge influence on our decisions.”

NEXT STEPS

Many U.S. citizens and scientists have expressed frustration with the federal government’s inability to formulate timely, robust responses to what they see as an imminent threat posed by climate change. But Polsky observes that while action at the national level may stall, attempts to address climate-change events are taking place closer to home. Town officials in his lawn-care study, for example, are anxious to learn the conclusions of his research so they can better manage municipal water supplies.

“They’re taking their policies and mitigation and adaptation activities into their own hands at the state and local levels,” he says. “Even if Congress can’t seem to move forward very much, the rest of the country is doing it without Congress.”

As part of the research for her new book, Stephens and her team are interviewing energy-sector employees influenced by Hurricane Sandy to determine how connections between climate change and energy use are being made. It may be that climate change is viewed differently when one is personally impacted by drought, floods, crippling heat or storm damage, or when insurance companies no longer offer protection against weather events.

Moser sums up the motivational potential of personal exposure to extreme weather: “Watching the water lap at your doorstep is different from watching polar bears far away.”

The research continues apace. Clark scientists and observers will continue working on solutions and looking for change on the horizon — before the horizon itself is permanently altered.
A single mother with two young sons, Barbara Morrison ’72 struggled to sustain her family in Worcester’s toughest neighborhoods. In her memoir, she describes how she fought her way out of poverty and found professional success.

BY JIM KEOGH
photography by peter murphy
RITING A MEMOIR IS NO EASY THING. When pursued with honesty and courage it can expose old wounds and bring the author to uncomfortable places.

So why do it? Maybe to preserve a legacy, or recapture a forgotten time, or simply to settle scores.

Barbara Morrison had a personal story to tell, but her motivations for writing it were more complicated, and can be traced to the 2000 presidential campaign, when she noticed a hard-edged theme running through much of the national dialogue.

“There was a lot of negativity about poor people and how they were a drag on everyone else, especially the ‘lazy welfare mothers,’” she recalls.

As someone who’d grown up in an upper middle-class household in Baltimore, the daughter of a doctor and housewife, Morrison had heard a similar chorus. Once, as her family drove through a dilapidated Baltimore neighborhood, Barbara’s parents complained about the proliferation of the poor on the city streets. “What we need is a good plague,” her mother said.

But there was something else at play that made Morrison cringe at some of the sentiments being thrown around during that Bush v. Gore campaign season. Despite a successful career as a computer-security engineer, she knew better than most what it was like to literally count nickels and dimes to buy a can of soup, to be uncertain if she and her children would have a roof over their heads and heating oil in the tank.

At a particularly vulnerable time early in her life, Morrison, a single mother, had needed public assistance to help her family span the chasm separating mere survival and self-sustainability.

She recounted her journey in the 2011 memoir “Innocent: Confessions of a Welfare Mother,” which gained renewed traction this past November when Forbes.com published a lengthy interview with Morrison in which she refuted many of the prevailing notions about welfare recipients.

“After I got off welfare I never told anybody about it — the people I was friends with, the people I worked with,” she recalls today. “I didn’t want them to know about that part of my life because there was a stigma to it and I was afraid of how my kids and I, but

“The future tantalizes me. I’m afraid to reach for it. I’ve learned to live day by day and am afraid of the other.”

- FROM THE JOURNAL OF BARBARA MORRISON
particularly my kids, would be judged.

“During the 2000 election, when there was so much negativity out there, I began thinking what I could do, and I thought, ‘Well, I could tell my story.’”

She initially wanted to write a fictionalized account of her four years on welfare, but a friend pushed her to pen a memoir. To effectively combat the stereotypes, the friend insisted, Morrison had to tell the unvarnished truth about her own experience.

Morrison first took a stab at writing about other people she’d known on welfare, but the information was too scanty, the perspective detached. Members of her writing group maintained that Morrison’s own saga needed to supply the narrative arc.

“I didn’t even make an appearance in the first draft,” she recalls. “I’d be told, ‘This book needs more of you in it. What were you feeling?’ They really dragged it out of me, and it was hard because I’m a private person. The revisions were constant.’’

She used John Steinbeck’s “The Grapes of Wrath” as her guide. In his novel, Steinbeck tackled the great social issues of the day through the prism of the Joad family, forced to escape the Dust Bowl and migrate to California during the Great Depression.

“Steinbeck personalized the story through the Joads, and he made people really feel what they were going through. I wanted to do the same thing, believing that people would relate to one person rather than an anonymous blob of people.”

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Morrison came to Clark University in 1970 as a junior, transferring from a Maryland college at the urging of a friend who’d also applied, and enrolled as an English major.

“I enjoyed my classes. Professor Serena Hilsinger was a huge influence. She was the first person to get it through my thick skull that reading critically is different from reading for fun. It was a huge step for me to understand how a book’s structure can enhance the story.”

Morrison fell in love with a local man, “Lewis,” and after she graduated they married. They had a son, Jeremy. Life was hard, but manageable. The job market was flooded with baby boomers, and Morrison worked secretarial positions while harboring a desire to one day go to graduate school and become a teacher. But her relationship with Lewis was disintegrating, and while she was pregnant with their second son, Justin, he left. They later divorced.

Without Lewis’ income or having him around to help care for the boys, Morrison was left making one of the hardest choices she’d ever faced. She writes of that dark time:

“Getting welfare, I reasoned, was like getting unemployment; I had paid taxes for years and would again someday soon. It would be, as it was meant to be, a temporary safety net during a difficult time, as if we’d survived some natural disaster. Indeed, I felt like the victim of a hurricane. My life had been picked up and shaken around and dumped to the ground, leaving me without resources of my own to care for my children.”

And later, after she’d applied for assistance:

“The October wind rattled the windows, threatening our precarious refuge. Hazards of all kinds pressed in around us. In deciding to go on welfare, I had the sense that a door had slammed shut behind me and I was stepping out into the cold, setting off on a journey with no maps, without even knowing what my destination would look like.”

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Morrison writes unsparingly about living in poverty in some of Worcester’s tougher neighborhoods during the mid ’70s — of apartments with lead-painted walls and decrepit three-deckers that would mysteriously go up in flames a few streets away. After paying for the rent and heat she would be left with $10 to last the entire month; food stamps helped keep the boys fed, but fresh produce was a luxury (she and a friend started a garden on a city lot). She recounts the humiliating trips to the welfare office downtown, where some...
There is so little of me to hold up this great weight. Giving up would be so easy. Just stay in bed and sleep forever. But I’m no Briar Rose or Sleeping Beauty. No prince is going to come and wake me up. If I don’t keep this home together, no one will.

of the social workers were helpful, but others often acted as obstacles rather than conduits to the benefits needed to keep her family afloat. There were days of despair when she found herself fighting the stasis brought about by her circumstances. Morrison writes of circling want ads while knowing that until her boys reached school age she would be unable to work full time because there was no child care. By necessity she’d become adept at repairing her oft-broken-down VW Beetle and applied for a government program to earn a certificate in auto mechanics. No, she was told, it’s either beautician school or nothing.

There were good times as well. She found joy in folk dancing and in small pleasures, like watching her boys romp in Elm Park and Crystal Park (now University Park). Her receipt of a grant under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act to teach creative writing buoyed her spirits and gave her practical experience.

Returning home to Baltimore was not an option. Morrison’s parents had essentially disowned her once she went on public assistance — her mother believed Barbara’s presence would set a poor example for her five siblings. Over the years, Barbara maintained a tenuous connection with her family, but the estrangement persisted.

“It was not an easy life as some people would understand it,” she writes, “certainly nothing like my parents’ lives, wrapped in the cotton batting that a steady and sufficient income provides. It was more like that path up the mountainside, the mud occasionally after a rain but mostly okay. I had to keep going, hold my sons’ hands and ignore the steep plunge of the cliff falling off to the side and no guardrail to catch us, only the flimsy rope connecting us to our community of friends, struggling as we were on the same path.”

Morrison describes in her book what it’s like to be an “invisible” person in a society seemingly intent on convincing itself that you don’t exist. She remembers a friend named Melinda who talked of feeling dehumanized once she accepted public assistance. “When you go on welfare, the system tries to demean you, debase you, discourage you,” Melinda said. “If they could kill you, they might.”

She acknowledges that abuse within the welfare system does exist, yet marvels at the accepted notion that most people on assistance don’t want to work. Morrison and her friends on welfare created a support group — caring for each other’s children, chasing down leads, lending each other clothes for interviews — to try and give one another a leg up on securing a job.

A surprise overture from her mother asking her to come home set Barbara Morrison on a new path. Her siblings had moved out, her father was in poor health, and her mother said they wanted to spend more time with Barbara and the boys. Her parents’ attitude had clearly softened over time, and they were eager to reconnect. After some thoughtful consideration, Morrison accepted the offer.

“One of the difficulties I had writing the book was I didn’t want to blame anybody,” Morrison says. “People at the time acted in what they thought was the right way, even my parents — they were of their time. It all seems very negative now, but the way they thought about welfare, and about me being on welfare, was commonly accepted.

“Some people pointed out to me later that rather than go on welfare I could have forced my parents to take me in. But honestly, I was afraid of them; I was used to being obedient to them. When they said no, I took that as no.”

Back in Baltimore, Morrison earned her education degree and taught eighth grade in the city schools. Despite steady employment, the salary was meager — she earned $8,000 her first year and by 1985 her annual pay was still only $15,000. Her job status was shaky, too. Baltimore’s mayor laid off teachers every summer as a cost-cutting measure, rehiring most of them in the fall. Some of those years, Morrison wasn’t rehired, which meant money was always tight. Living at home supplied some cushion but was not a cure-all — she struggled to pay her parents room and board, and Jeremy and Justin still qualified for free lunches at school.

One day when she was at the bank, the computers broke down and the bank had to close for the day.

“I thought, ‘If I could fix computers, I’d have a job forever,’” she remembers. Morrison enrolled in a technical school and trained for six hours each night while teaching during the day. She was eventually hired full time to develop courses to maintain complex computer equipment, doubling her salary, though she supplemented her income by teaching a basic-skills class at the local telephone company. She and the boys moved out of her parents’
home and into a Baltimore row house. Jeremy and Justin thrived at school, and joined a local Episcopal boys' choir that paid them a small salary to sing. “They’ve worked since they were kids. I never had to give them an allowance,” she laughs.

Morrison later learned that she was hired largely because of her English degree, which allowed her to be the final arbiter over the grammar arguments that broke out when the engineers were writing their reports and composing lesson guides. She eventually moved on to a small family-owned company, where she still works, and shifted into computer-security engineering, a field that was emerging in the early 1990s. Morrison is now a “security architect,” diagnosing companies’ cyber-security problems then designing the strategies to address them.

Her initial assessment about computers has proved prescient. She can fix them, and she’s never been without a job since.

Now in her early sixties, Morrison has known deprivation and prosperity, and that has inspired her to become a quiet crusader for those who are encountering the same kinds of challenges she endured. She makes herself available to speak at high schools and colleges.

“I feel a responsibility to share my story,” she says. “I think it’s good for sociology students and students who are going to become teachers to know something about the people they’re going to encounter, and to be aware that the stereotypes don’t fit.”

She returns to Worcester now and then to revisit old haunts and reunite with friends. And she continues to write, publishing two books of poetry and working on a novel in addition to her memoir.

Her sons have done well. Jeremy is in medical school with the goal of becoming a primary care physician in northern Vermont, where a crying need for family doctors exists. Justin is a web designer.

Morrison says her time on welfare made her a better person. She’d always been guarded, kept to herself. Her experience made her aware of the generosity of others and inspired her to reach out.

“There’s a term now that didn’t exist then: paying it forward. I can never repay the people who helped me, but I can assist others in whatever way I can. You know, even when you don’t have anything, you can help out each other.”

The woman who was once branded as “lazy,” a leech off the taxpayer, today says that the welfare system did what it was meant to do: It gave her family a chance.

“I didn’t feel guilty accepting welfare,” she writes. “I knew that the minimal investment that society made to keep us alive would be paid back thousands of times over as I, and soon my children, became taxpayers. That has happened. I may be the only person who actually enjoys April 15th.”
Professor Norm Apter received a devastating diagnosis just as he was about to launch his Clark teaching career. Returning to the classroom has been the fight of his life.

BY JIM KEOGH
photography by steven king
This spring, the 39-year-old professor of Asian Studies returned to the classroom to teach two courses, one that he designed from scratch during his medical leave. He’s done so while taking a trial drug that has shown promise in certain patients — “promise” being that trickiest of words, encouraging yet maddeningly vague.

Here is why the classroom is so important. It’s concrete. It’s present. It’s where he belongs.

Apter makes no apologies for being a Yankees fan in Red Sox country. He was born in New York, the son of parents who came together in that most Manhattan of ways: they met while working at Macy’s. But the Apters did not want to raise their children in the city and moved to Connecticut, then Seattle, before finally settling in Virginia. Apter attended The College of William & Mary, where he was drawn to Asian studies. He went on a class trip to Beijing in his junior year and began studying Mandarin, continuing his Chinese language studies his senior year. After graduation he spent a year teaching English at a Chinese university.

He earned a master’s degree in East Asian Studies at the University of Virginia, and pursued a Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles. His dissertation research on the history of social-relief programs in China brought him to the nation of Taiwan for long stretches, which included intensive language study. Through a friend he met a young Taiwanese woman, Eurydice, who would help him improve his Chinese communication skills. Their teacher-student relationship evolved into a friendship, which blossomed into romance. In 2003 the two were married in a small ceremony in Virginia, and later, in 2004, at a grand wedding banquet in Taiwan. “Eurydice has a sprawling group of relatives and friends, and I was the only representative on my behalf,” Apter remembers of the Taiwan wedding, adding with a smile, “I was certainly on my own.”

The couple settled in Los Angeles, where Norm worked as a teaching assistant and continued to write his dissertation. He taught four courses at Pepperdine University during the 2008-09 academic year.

“As a visiting professor, of course they stuck me with 8 a.m. classes every day,” he says. “But the reward was being able to drive up the Pacific Coast Highway every morning with the sun coming up over the Santa Monica hills. What a great place to be.”

The mole appeared on the back of his right leg, about two inches above the knee. It was dark but not exceptionally large, and while Apter was concerned he also had practical reasons for not getting it examined.

His Pepperdine gig was a temporary position, and just as he entered the job market the economy went into free-fall. Apter was left without a teaching post for a year, and that meant no health insurance. When he landed the position at Clark for the beginning of the 2011 school year, he and Eurydice poured themselves into making the move from Los Angeles to Worcester that spring.
“Getting estimates from moving companies, packing everything up — it was a stressful time,” he recalls. “We were a bit nervous [about the mole], but it didn’t occupy central space in our thinking. We decided that as soon as I got started at Clark and my health insurance kicked in, I would go to a doctor and get it checked out.”

Over the course of the summer, the mole grew and changed shape, then became ulcerated. “If I’d known the characteristics, I would have realized this was a harbinger for bad news,” he says.

In early September 2011, a dermatologist excised Apter’s mole and sent it off for a biopsy. On September 9, he was diagnosed with melanoma.

Apter describes what some call the “mad rush,” the stretch of time between the initial diagnosis and the start of treatment: “Everything is confusing. You’re getting different reports and dealing with different experts.” He was cautioned not to consult the Internet, where worst-case scenarios often prevail, though he did read some disturbing statistics about survival rates.

Early scans revealed the cancer had advanced to Stage 3; it has since progressed to Stage 4. The original tumor appeared modestly sized on the surface yet extended deep into the thigh, like an iceberg, and had spread to the femoral basin of lymph nodes in his leg. He underwent a nine-hour surgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital where two sets of lymph nodes were removed, leaving him with seven-inch scars in his thigh and abdomen. Two drains were installed to release the lymphatic fluid, leaving Apter weakened and walking with crutches.

Apter was forced to take two weeks off from teaching, but he had prepared by pre-taping lectures that were shown to his students. When he returned to the classroom, he wore sports pants and loose shirts to cover the drains — “I didn’t want to freak out my students,” he says — and persevered throughout the semester, despite the drains frequently clogging, which caused his leg to swell and left him so exhausted that he was forced to lecture sitting down.

In January 2012, Apter began a trial drug called Ipilimumab (he notes that traditional chemotherapy and radiation typically are not effective against melanoma) through the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. He received two infusions with little trouble, but by mid-February the worst of the side effects laid siege, inflaming his stomach and lower intestine so severely that he had to be removed from the drug and put on a course of steroids to combat the infection.

In his darkest moments, Apter had formidable allies at Clark. He credits History Department Chair Amy Richter for compassion and creativity in accommodating the scheduling challenges that his periodic absences created.

And then there’s Paul Ropp.

Apter came to Clark to replace the retiring Ropp, who had been the face of Asian Studies at the University since 1985. The two have become close, with Paul and his wife Marjorie hosting Norm and Eurydice for dinners, taking them on hikes and tours of local sights, and introducing them to...
a wider circle of acquaintances. When Eurydice got her driver’s permit, Marj hopped in the car to teach her the secrets of navigating through Massachusetts’ unforgiving traffic.

“My personal situation only catalyzed the relationship,” Apter says. “Paul and Marj have provided us amazing support and assistance, which has been crucial for us, having come to a new place and not having any roots here.”

Ropp, now a research professor, emerged from retirement to fill in when Apter was forced to take leave from the classroom. He feels a kinship with the young professor, whom he had a hand in hiring.

“I understand Norm’s passion for teaching,” Ropp says. “You spend years building an expertise in a subject area, and you have a hunger to share it with students. So it’s no surprise that Norm showed up in the classroom in hospital garb with a drainage bag on his leg, ready to teach.

“The way he’s handled this has been an inspiration. He’s faced mortality with more grit and grace than anyone I’ve ever known.”

Melanoma travels in the blood with no discernable pattern or clear destination. Where it will take up residence in the body is as impossible to predict as a lightning strike. Apter went through a series of CT scans, the last one in June 2012, that were clean, although he was warned the cancer had a 60 to 80 percent chance of returning.

“I adopted a mentality that I would assume I’m okay until someone tells me otherwise. To a certain extent I adjusted mentally to my pre-cancer state. With each passing day, each passing week and month, I developed a sort of confidence. Of course, that’s very convenient until you get bad news.”

The June scan raised one potential red flag: a spot in his thigh that doctors speculated might be an enlarged blood vessel. On August 10 he underwent a more conclusive PET scan, and the results were devastating. The cancer had spread to other lymph nodes, invaded several glands, muscle tissue and two vertebrae, and settled in the pancreatic head. The tumors had grown 35 percent since they were last monitored.

Apter had gotten used to managing his expectations. He is a realist, a historian by training, who dwells in facts. Still, this was a blow.

“My immediate reaction was to have a panic attack in the room,” he recalls. “My heartbeat sped up, I couldn’t breathe and had trouble processing what I was being told.

“I didn’t cry, I didn’t get angry. But I couldn’t contain the uncertainties. I just didn’t know what I was dealing with and what the implications were. You’re climbing a cliff, trying to get a foothold so that you can look around, assess the situation and try to move forward.

“This is an unstoppable beast that if untreated will continue to grow. It’s like something has attached itself to your body and it will move through you with no feelings. All the things I tried to do — purify my diet, get exercise — didn’t really matter in the end. That was a sobering moment.”

He began a new trial drug — so new it’s nameless — that he describes as “genetic mutation targeted therapy.” Apter explains that clinical cancer trials go through three phases, with Phase 3 the closest to earning approval from the Food and Drug Administration as an accepted treatment with clear trends and known side effects. This trial was in Phase 1.

“I’m a guinea pig,” he says. “At this stage you’re going by anecdotes — how did it work for this person or that person. It’s hit or miss.”

A PET scan in late November offered a mixed bag of results. There were some new tumors, several of his current tumors had grown, some stayed the same size and others had shrunk. A follow-up scan in December revealed more of the same, and Apter was pulled off the clinical trial.

As of this writing he was gearing up for a new trial, but the exact course would rely on consultations with his oncologist and the head of Dana-Farber’s Early Drug Development Department. He notes that a four-week “washout” of the old drug from his system is required, and since coming off it his energy level is stronger, but his “lumps and bumps” — subcutaneous nodules — are growing at a faster clip, and some may need to be removed.

To this day, he insists, the only real discomfort he’s experienced has come from the treatments, not from the disease itself.

Apter is tall and lanky, with an open manner and an easy laugh. He talks about his health travails as calmly as he discusses his love for the jazz of Thelonious Monk and the books of Hunter S. Thompson. He can allow himself to be absorbed by his many interests (“I don’t find myself constantly living and breathing the cancer,” he says), but these days he’s more inclined to cut through the clutter of incompetence. “I find I have less tolerance of movies that I’m not into,” he grins. “If it hasn’t grabbed me, why am I wasting my time on it?”

The return to the classroom excites him. He’s teaching two courses, a survey of modern East Asia from 1600 to the present, and an upper-level course — the one he designed while on leave — focusing on the social and economic evolution of China since 1949.

“I’ve missed the engagement and discussions with the students,” he says. “Doing reading and research, even in an area of interest like China, is not
a good replacement. I’ve tried to attend department meetings, but there’s nothing like being in the classroom.”

A former runner, he now exercises on the elliptical machines in the Kneller Center, and tries to get a sound sleep, which he values not just for rest, but for replenishment.

One of Apter’s favorite authors is Christopher Hitchens, the barb-tongued British intellectual who died of esophageal cancer in December 2011. Hitchens, an avowed atheist, wrote a book called “Mortality,” a collection of columns about his experiences as he approached death. Apter, who describes himself as a “died-in-the-wool secularist,” refers to the book as his bible.

“Hitchens writes about something he calls ‘living dyingly.’ You want to be living and vital, but you also have to be realistic about where you stand. When you’re at the Stage 4 level there isn’t a cure; you are going to have this in some capacity for the rest of your life.”

He talks freely about death and legacy, and the need to define the cancer on his own terms. There is a clear-eyed equilibrium at play here, even as he discusses the challenges that he and Eurydice have faced with in-vitro fertilization. They had put off trying to conceive a child until they were settled in Worcester, but the cancer diagnosis came so fast they were forced to bank Norm’s sperm at a Boston hospital. His doctors have deemed natural conception too risky due to the experimental drugs Norm is taking.

There are hurdles to pregnancy involving health and cost, but the couple hasn’t dismissed the possibility.

“Ultimately, it was Eurydice’s decision that if I’m not around she’d be okay with raising our child,” he says. “She’s been adamant from the beginning that it’s what she wants.”

He could be forgiven for asking that most cosmic question: Why me? But he never does.

“When I was feeling healthy I never asked, ‘Why not me?’ when other people had a disease. It makes no sense to ask the ‘Why me’ question now. Nobody knows.

“I’ve given up trying to figure out how this came about. I have no history of melanoma in my family; I don’t know if I was exposed to too many UV rays as a kid, or if there have been contributing environmental factors. I firmly believe there’s a scientific explanation, and it might be a perfect storm of things that led to it.

“I don’t like the description that a person ‘battles cancer.’ Cancer battles you, and you do what you can to survive. For me it’s a matter of managing what I can control, but also being in tune with the things I don’t have any say over. At 39 years old, there’s nothing special about me. I’m simply coming to grips with these things at roughly half the age of when a normal person does.”

In early November, Norm Apter hiked into the Joshua Tree National Park in Southern California on a two-day jaunt with a friend. The only other creatures joining them among the rocks and brush were a few mountain goats and birds.

As darkness fell and the moon rose over the desert, Apter and his buddy struggled to set up the tent (“It hadn’t been used since the Clinton administration,” he laughs) but after two frustrating hours they tossed it aside and crawled into their sleeping bags. Despite the wind and the biting cold, they were comfortable under layers of clothing.

Nature put on its finest show for them. Bands of light shimmered on the horizon, while directly above the stars blinked, but not like they do in the city where they fight the disruption of man-made glow. Here, they sparkled like thousands of sequins sewn onto a black velvet curtain, an artwork of elaborate constellations.

“I’d never seen a sky like that,” Apter says. “It was the kind of thing that puts you back in touch.”

It was a good night.
As international head of antiquities at Christie’s auction house, G. Max Bernheimer ’82 straddles the ancient and modern worlds.

BY JIM KEOGH

ILLUSTRATION BY PJ LOUGHRAN
In the winter of his junior year, G. Max Bernheimer was walking to class from his apartment on Loudon Street and stepped into a puddle. This was no rain-fed pool — this was a Worcester puddle in all its terrible glory, a deep ugly gash filled with melted snow and chunks of ice. Bernheimer sank to his shin in the frigid mess.

He sat fuming through class and then, water still squishing in his shoe, he marched into history professor Paul Burke’s office. “You gotta get me out of here,” he pleaded. To which Burke replied, “Don’t worry, I know what to do.”

The answer was a semester in the fall of his senior year spent at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome.

“As much as attending Clark was a life-changing event, the semester abroad was the icing on the cake,” Bernheimer says. “It was total immersion — living in Rome and studying art history and archaeology. We traveled all over the city and into southern and central Italy. I saw so much. I wasn’t looking at slides and books anymore; I was looking at the real thing.”

The ancient realm continues to be a very real thing for Bernheimer, who today is the international head of antiquities for Christie’s, one of the world’s oldest and largest auction houses. Bernheimer jets all over the world to meet with collectors of objects from the earliest days of recorded history in Greece, Rome, Egypt and the Near East, working to bring these treasures to sale at Christie’s in New York and London. Other sales are held in venues across the globe when the opportunity arises.
“My job is to source the material and travel to meet with private clients, dealers, museum curators. These are long-term relationships — rarely do you meet someone on a Thursday and sell their collection on a Friday. Sometimes it’s fifteen years before someone is ready to sell.”

Cultivating relationships is only part of the job. Bernheimer authenticates and appraises pieces, keeps up with all the market trends, stays current with the science behind authentication, and processes the materials once the client is prepared to sell. A sale is held in New York every six months, which means items have to be photographed and catalogued, and then Bernheimer shifts from acquisitions mode to “selling the sale.”

The numbers are impressive. This past December, Christie’s sold a pair of large Roman bronze sculptures for $3.5 million. “Bronze sculpture of scale rarely survives, so to have a pair like this was off the charts,” Bernheimer says.

His most expensive sale, however, occurred in December 2010, when a Cycladic marble figure of a goddess, dating to about 2500 B.C., fetched $16.8 million. “This was the best of the best,” he says. “Beautifully carved, well preserved, and great old provenance. It was just like a perfect storm of an object, and the market responded accordingly.”

Bernheimer uses the term “provenance” often in conversation, and in his field the word is gospel. Provenance refers to an object’s historical origin and pathway to its current owner. Establishing a piece’s provenance ensures validity and roots out any illegal or unethical influences in its acquisition.

“We must have substantive paperwork to document provenance, otherwise we walk,” he says. “Everything we do is so visible and in the public eye, so we have to be extra careful. We really want to be sure the products we offer are free and clear of difficulties.

“Of course, it’s also fun to do the research. Sometimes people don’t know what they have, and we’re able to make discoveries about provenance. Other times the discoveries happen by accident — you’re looking for one thing and find another.”

The original Haus Bernheimer in Munich catered to the rich and powerful.

The FAMILY BUSINESS
Max Bernheimer’s personal provenance reveals a passion for antiquities that is entwined with the family DNA. He is the fifth generation of Bernheimers to be active in the art-dealing world, dating back to his great-great-grandfather Lehmann Bernheimer, who as an industrious young man left his small German town to sell shoelaces on the streets of Munich. With the money he earned he opened a textiles business in 1864, traveling to Turkey and other countries to buy his goods. He eventually came to specialize in oriental carpets, and later expanded his inventory to include Renaissance furniture and antiques, such as tapestries, sculpture and ceramics.

By 1900, Haus Bernheimer had grown to become arguably the most important art business in Germany, purveyors to the Court of Bavaria, and counted among its clients members of the European aristocracy and American magnates. Lehmann’s three sons eventually became partners in the firm, which remained successful until war descended on Europe. The company building, which had stood since 1889, was damaged in 1938 during Kristallnacht (Crystal Night), a series of coordinated attacks against Jews throughout Germany that left the streets covered with broken glass from the windows of Jewish-owned stores, buildings and synagogues. The Nazis seized the Bernheimer building, the roof and tower of which were destroyed during the war.

In 1939 Lehmann’s three sons were taken away to the Dachau concentration camp.

“Fortunately, at the time, Dachau was a work camp, not a death camp, and they were eventually able to get out,” Bernheimer says. Some family members fled to Venezuela, others left for Cuba. Max’s grandfather, Paul, one of Lehmann’s sons, and his wife Louise made their way to Norton, Mass., where they opened a small antiques shop. (The Venezuelan branch of the Bernheimers returned to Germany
In 1963 Paul and Louise brought Bernheimer’s Antique Arts to Harvard Square in Cambridge, an enclave of commerce and culture — both high and low — in the shadow of the nation’s most renowned university.

Bernheimer’s was not your typical antiques shop. In fact, Paul and Louise insisted the word “antiques” didn’t do their eclectic offerings justice.

“The shop was very museum-like, though on a more modest scale,” Bernheimer says. “They sold antiquities; they sold Chinese things, Japanese things, European works of art, pre-Columbian things, Native American objects, African art. It had to stay modest because local people generally won’t spend a large sum nearer to home. The big collectors typically buy when they’re traveling. So if they come to New York, or they’re in London or Paris, they buy something major. But they won’t necessarily buy it locally.

“That being said, the shop had a huge following, and people loved my grandfather. He was this gracious, white-haired old gentleman with a thick accent — think Einstein. If someone came in to look around — even somebody he’d never met — and showed interest in an object he would put it in their hands and say, “Take it. Pay as you can, in installments if you have to. Do what you need to do. But I want you to have it.”

Bernheimer’s Antique Arts founder Paul Bernheimer.

LORD OF THE RING

Max grew up about an hour away in Mansfield, Mass., but when he was old enough to drive he would visit his grandparents’ gallery to dust the cases and do other odd jobs. His education in antiquities had begun.

“The physical handling of the objects, even without knowing what I was looking at, really contributed to training my eye. I started to learn from that tactile interaction — the texture, the weight, the smell of all these things. That was my grandparents’ doing. They planted the seed.” To this day, Max wears a special ring, given to him by his grandmother when he was a teenager, which features a Roman stone engraved with a lion and mounted in a gold setting. The stone dates to the mid-1st century B.C.

“I can remember being bored in high school, sitting there looking at this stone on my finger and thinking, ‘Who owned this? How was it made? Why was it made?’ The ring inspired me.”

Despite the artistic influences in his life, Bernheimer wasn’t sure what he would study in college, or even where he would attend. The second question was answered the day he visited Clark in the early spring. The sun was shining, Frisbees were flying and the buds were poking out on the trees.

“The campus was alive in sort of a textbook way,” he recalls. “I thought, ‘This is where I want to go.’”

Bernheimer’s first class was Professor Burke’s Introduction to Greek Art and Archaeology. He was instantly smitten.

“I just had no idea someone could know so much about the remote past,” he says. “[Burke] brought this history to life, and I fell in love with it; I couldn’t get enough.”

From that point on he enrolled in every ancient history and art class that was offered, and when those options were exhausted he did independent study “until there was nothing more for me to take.”

He graduated with a history degree in 1982 and had planned to take a break before launching the next phase of his life. But two days before commencement his grandfather had called. “He said, ‘I know you wanted to take some time off, but I have an auction I need to go to. Can you start on Monday?’”

And so he did. Bernheimer ran the family shop for ten years as his grandparents eased into retirement. He also earned a master’s degree at Harvard, writing his thesis on ancient gems, a topic that had intrigued him ever since his grandmother had given him the Roman ring.

His migration to Christie’s was unplanned yet fortuitous. As Bernheimer, an avid Red Sox fan, puts it: “I got drafted from Double A to the major leagues.”
Though the art market was ablaze in the 1980s and early '90s, Christie’s had a dedicated antiquities department only in its London office, not in New York. To establish a beachhead on both sides of the Atlantic, the firm began searching for someone with that rare combination of market experience and academic training. In the course of the hunt, Christie's consulted with Cornelius Vermeule III, the curator of classical art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and a frequent visitor to Bernheimer Antique Arts. Vermeule called Max and asked Max's permission to recommend him for the job.

“I said it was okay, and I hung up the phone and literally couldn’t breathe,” Bernheimer recalls. “I walked out the door without explanation and thought, ‘What have I done?’”

Max was offered the job, and approached his grandparents with the news.

“I told them I have this amazing opportunity, but that I didn’t want to destroy their legacy,” he says. “They asked, ‘Is this something you really want to do?’ I said, ‘Yes.’ And they said, ‘Then do it.’ To get that kind of green light from my grandparents just made it so much easier.”

**TRAVELING THE HIGH ROAD**

Bernheimer closed the family shop to join Christie’s in 1992. He is based in New York, but spends much of his life in the air, traveling frequently to Europe and throughout the United States. He will also fly to Japan, Australia, Canada and any other corner of the globe where a collector is pondering the sale of a major piece.

Some of the trips are spontaneous. In December an art owner outside Denver sent Christie's photographs of an intriguing item. Bernheimer was on the first plane to Colorado.

“This is a very competitive business,” he acknowledges. “The first one to establish a relationship with a client, the first one to tell them what they have, is the one who is going to get the business.”

The Denver piece was a Roman sculpture that had been considered lost for the last 50 years, depicting the gods Eros and Psyche in an embrace. Bernheimer recognized it from a drawing he’d seen in a book (“Art historians generally have a pretty good visual memory,” he notes) and through his research he was able to establish a remarkable provenance that included past ownership by, among others, publishing magnate William Randolph Hearst and legendary English collector Thomas Hope. Christie’s had already sold the sculpture twice before, the first time in 1807 as part of the collection of Sir William Hamilton.

“In the literature the piece was only shown as a drawing and ‘location unknown,’” Bernheimer says. “We found it, and for the third time in its lifetime, Christie’s will have sold it.” The sculpture will be on the block for Christie’s June sale, where Bernheimer estimates it will net somewhere between $100,000 and $150,000.

And people will pay. His many years in the business have taught Bernheimer that the art market tends to remain bullish even in a down economy when folks may be looking to unload some or all of their collections.

“Right now we’ve been enjoying quite a robust market. After the crash of Lehman Bros. there was a little bit of a dip, but since then business has been booming because people with money may be nervous about other kinds of investments, so they're putting money into art. The level of interest in antiquities is huge, but it pales in comparison to post-war and contemporary art, which people are clamoring for.”
Sometimes a client will own a damaged object, and may be wavering on whether to have it restored. In most cases Bernheimer advocates leaving it untouched since a poor restoration can hurt the value. But if the damage is visually disruptive, a little work can be a good thing. Bernheimer recalls being presented with a Greek marble head that had a missing nose. “I advised the owner to have a new nose made, and the second it came back from the conservator’s workshop you could appreciate how beautiful the face was because the eye no longer focused on the cavity in the center.” The piece sold for double its low estimate.

Christie’s auctions proceed largely in the same fashion as they did in the mid-1700s, when founder James Christie presented London society the opportunity to purchase fine art. More than two centuries later there remains one intractable rule: the high bidder wins.

Of course, many of the bids are submitted by phone or online, which ensures anonymity. “The tools are getting better,” Bernheimer says, “but I would caution that if someone really wants something it’s best to leave a written bid, because if the phone line goes down or the computer crashes just as your lot comes up we can’t reopen it.”

When the Arab Spring uprisings unfolded across parts of the Middle East in 2010 and 2011, reports emerged that Egyptian museums were being looted. Bloomberg News in New York brought Bernheimer on the air to comment about the threats to some of the world’s oldest, most valuable antiquities. Today, he says, much of the material from those museums has been recovered and missing pieces have not appeared on the auction market.

“Part of the reason for that is you’d have to be absolutely crazy to offer something that is documented at public auction, especially one as visible as Christie’s, because everyone is going to recognize it. Nobody would be that silly,” Bernheimer says. However, the nagging fear is that some of the precious metal will be melted down and left untraceable. “Those are the pieces we worry about most.”

Three decades ago, Max Bernheimer could not have imagined the career path that would lead him from the classrooms of Clark to points around the globe; from the gallery of his family’s antiques shop to the homes and museums boasting some of the ancient world’s most storied treasures.

Bernheimer has seen so much; held history in his hands. But does he have a Holy Grail, a white whale — the one object that obsesses him? “No,” he says. “It’s about what’s coming next: what is that great object we’re going to see that’s so gorgeous and so wonderful? That’s the fun of it. That’s what drives me.”

“RARELY DO YOU MEET SOMEONE ON A THURSDAY AND SELL THEIR COLLECTION ON A FRIDAY. SOMETIMES IT’S FIFTEEN YEARS BEFORE SOMEONE IS READY TO SELL.”
Sometimes, all it takes is one.

Men’s tennis had just one winning season in the 17 seasons before Diego Angel ’13 arrived on campus in the fall of 2009. Since Clark became a member of the New England Men’s and Women’s Athletic Conference in 1995, only one player wearing the scarlet and white had been an all-conference performer.

Angel changed all of that with a career that has led the Cougars out of the league basement and closing in on the penthouse.

The 2010 NEWMAC Rookie of the Year quickly established himself as one of the elite players in all of New England.

“Diego’s impact on our program goes far beyond his success as our top player,” said head coach Mickey Cahoon. “More than anything, he has given our men’s tennis program credibility. His talent, work ethic, and commitment to constantly improving have helped to make his teammates better, pushed me to become a better coach, and brought such a positive visibility to our program.”

With a crew of underclassmen playing major roles, and veterans like Angel and classmate Dan Hall ’13 leading the way, the 2012 season became one for the ages. Cahoon assembled a recruiting class that joined the current crop of student-athletes to comprise his best collection of talent to date.

After a season-opening loss to Division II Stonehill College in October, the Cougars went on a nine-match winning streak that included a 4-0 mark during a spring break trip to Orlando and a 5-3 win over Holy Cross on College Hill.

All the while, Cahoon continued to work the recruiting trail in search of more top-tier talent to pair with his growing number of accomplished newcomers.

“I believe successful recruiting can only be accomplished with a team effort,” said Cahoon. “The unselfishness of our student-athletes in the men's tennis program the past five years has been paramount in making people feel welcome when they visit Clark. Although we participate in an individual sport for the most part, we treat our experience in a very team-focused environment, and the guys have an incredible bond.”

The winning streak came to an end with a narrow 5-3 home loss to MIT, but word about the team’s success had permeated the campus.
home matches during this period attracted parents, friends and other spectators who came out to watch the Cougars duel with the league’s elite.

A new streak was launched and even more people started to take notice. A 6-3 home win over Wheaton College was Clark’s first-ever over the Lyons and set the stage for a trip to the conference tournament.

After a season-ending loss to Coast Guard, the Cougars found themselves set to face the Bears less than four days later in the semifinal round of the league tournament. A perennial league frontrunner, Coast Guard was looking to return to the championship for the second straight season. This time, Clark came out on top thanks in large part to that crew of underclassmen. Joel Simonson ’15 clinched the victory at No. 6 singles and the Cougars advanced to the championship match for the first time in school history. A powerful MIT squad defeated Clark in the final, 5-0.

The team’s 16-4 overall record represents its third highest win total in school history, and the league’s coaches took notice. Angel was named Player of the Year, Cahoon picked up Coach of the Year and five others were named All-Conference.

Two more student-athletes with impressive credentials, Antoine Martin ’16 and Fernando Pinoargote ’16, arrived in the fall as first-year students and have already cracked the top six. The Cougars have loaded up on tough competition this spring with the hopes of preparing themselves to challenge for a conference title.

“Last season’s success and the recent change in our competitive culture can be attributed to our seniors, especially Diego,” Cahoon said. “Their leadership, passion for tennis, ambition, and belief that we can be successful have made a lasting impact on not only our program, but Clark athletics.”

White Out was a hit with students

On Jan. 23, the Department of Athletics sponsored an event dubbed White Out Wednesday for the men’s basketball game against national power MIT. The game, which was broadcast live locally on Charter TV-3, was the first chance for the University to showcase the redesigned main court floor and bleachers that were installed over the summer.

Students were encouraged to wear white shirts and sit behind the basket in the newly created student section. That section, which seats more than 150 fans, was also a part of the summer construction project and was in use for the first time ever. The section takes a five- or six-person crew 15 minutes to set up.

Giveaways of two flat-screen televisions and gift cards kept the crowd engaged during timeouts, and the University’s Dance Society performed at halftime.

“I’ve been here countless times,” said TV-3 play-by-play announcer Kevin Shea during the broadcast, “and I have never heard the Kneller rock like this.”

Watch those tweets

Kevin DeShazo, the founder of Fieldhouse Media Inc., based in Oklahoma City, recently spent a day educating Clark University student-athletes and staff on the positive impact and the dangers that exist with social media.

In recent months student-athletes from tiny colleges to major universities have found themselves thrust into the national spotlight due to their social media use.

Because of those instances, University Director of Athletics and Recreation Sean Sullivan thought DeShazo would be an ideal presenter to the more than 300 student-athletes at Clark. DeShazo has lectured across the country at all division levels about the power and pitfalls of social media.

“I felt as though he not only understood the online interests of today’s student-athletes, but could also effectively articulate to our team members the benefits of creating a positive online identity and the dangers of utilizing these social media platforms,” said Sullivan.

One area that DeShazo focused on was the effect social media can have on student-athletes after their playing days are over. He noted that more than 90 percent of employers research applicants by way of their social media profiles.

“Athletics are the window into a university, even at a small program,” said DeShazo. “Student-athletes are more visible than your typical student, and how they represent the athletic department and the university as a whole has a significant impact. Helping them understand that social media is a tool and not a toy changes the way they view and use social media.”
FIGHTING HOMELESSNESS IN WORCESTER

The announcement of a $450,000 grant from the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts sounded a clear and hopeful note at a press conference on “Addressing Youth Homelessness in Worcester,” held on Feb. 15 at the YWCA in Worcester.

Laurie Ross, Clark University associate professor and co-director of The Compass Project, presented a detailed report on findings from a 2012 point-in-time survey on youth homelessness, which was coordinated by the Community Roundtable on Youth Homelessness, The Compass Project, and Clark University.

In October 2012, young people were surveyed at city shelters, youth programs, outside of schools, in parks, and on the streets of Worcester. Out of the 753 young people (ages 13 to 25) surveyed, 120 (16 percent) identified as homeless.

“This pioneering initiative demonstrates how youth homelessness is indeed a problem,” said Ross.

Katherine Calano ’12, a Clark student pursuing a master’s degree in Community Development and Planning, served as The Compass Project’s outreach coordinator. She is one of many Clark students involved with the project, including those in Ross’ Community Needs and Resource Analysis course and IDCE Assistant Professor Marianne Sarkis’ course Social Network Analysis.

GOULD EARNs PHYSICS AWARD

The American Association of Physics Teachers announced on Feb. 22 that Harvey Gould, Clark University research professor and professor emeritus of physics, is the 2013 recipient of the Robert A. Millikan Medal in recognition of his notable and creative contributions to the teaching of physics. The medal will be presented during the AAPT Summer Meeting in Portland, Ore.

Gould has been a pioneer in computational and statistical physics education. Throughout his career, he has worked to develop collaboration and communication among his colleagues while supporting the common good, making unique and important contributions to the community of physicists and physics educators.

He began teaching at Clark University in 1971. In the early 1980s he made important contributions in the development of computer simulations for undergraduate physics lecture and laboratory courses, and, in particular, developed a laboratory-based course on computer simulation at the undergraduate and graduate levels. For the last three decades he has done research in condensed-matter, statistical and computational physics.

BATA NAMED LEEP CENTER DIRECTOR

Michelle Bata joined Clark in February as associate dean and director of the LEEP Center.

“I see the LEEP Center as both a destination and an active player in the Clark community,” Bata said. The center is a prime component of Liberal Education and Effective Practice, Clark’s pioneering model for higher education.

Bata comes to Clark from Fordham University, where she was assistant dean and director of undergraduate research. She led the efforts as part of the University’s Career Planning and Professional Development Task Force to devise academic and life-building plans for undergraduate liberal arts students to achieve success at each college career stage. She also worked to revitalize the college’s advising programs, launch department-specific career pilot programs, develop a comprehensive undergraduate research program, and create a new position, the director of retention and student success.

Prior to joining the Dean’s Office staff, Bata was a faculty member in Fordham’s sociology department, where she chaired the graduate school and fellowship committee and won two grants to support the development of a capstone research seminar.

Bata received her bachelor’s degree in sociology and Hispanic studies from Boston College, and earned both her M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology at The University of Arizona. Visit clarku.edu/leep.

MOSAKOWSKI APPOINTMENTS

The Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise at Clark University named John O’Brien (below), past president and CEO of UMass Memorial Health Care, as the new Jane ’75 and William ’76 Mosakowski Distinguished Professor of Higher Education, and Faculty Research Fellow. O’Brien is a national leader in advocating for the health of vulnerable populations. He formerly served as CEO of the Cambridge Health Alliance and Commissioner of Health for the City of Cambridge.

Brown is an economic historian affiliated with the Clark program in Urban Development and Social Change. He also serves as a research economist with the Program in Cohort Studies of the National Bureau of Economic Research. His recent work has examined efforts to revitalize Worcester’s Main South neighborhood, and his research as Mosakowski Fellow is expected to focus on the problems and opportunities of America’s mid-sized cities.

$600,000 FOR HUMANITIES PRESENT

In September, Clark University was awarded $600,000 from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support Humanities Present, a new initiative of the Higgins School of Humanities that promises to have a critical impact on the Clark curriculum and to contribute to Clark’s Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP) model.

Humanities Present is an institutional and curricular initiative that advances the pivotal role of the humanities in liberal education and builds on Clark’s commitment to a strong humanities presence within the curriculum and in the campus culture as a whole.

The Humanities Present programs will enhance humanities practices across the curriculum and strengthen the foundation for Clark’s exceptional liberal arts education and the innovative work of LEEP.
Published and Presented

1. FAMILY VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES: DEFINING, UNDERSTANDING, AND COMBATING ABUSE // Denise Hines, Research Assistant Professor of Psychology, ed.; co-authors Kathleen Malley-Morrison, Leila B. Dutton

This second edition presents students and practitioners with a thought-provoking examination of maltreatment in families and delves into “less understood and more controversial forms of maltreatment,” including the maltreatment of male partners, of parents and siblings, and within LGBTQ relationships. It also features two new chapters: one on racial-ethnic issues in family violence and one on dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking within student relationships during college.

2. GEOGRAPHY AND THE CLASSICAL WORLD: UNEARTHING HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY’S FORGOTTEN PAST // William Koelsch, Professor Emeritus of History and Geography

The book is the first full-length study of the emergence of classical geography — the geographical study of the ancient Mediterranean, in particular the worlds of ancient Greece and Rome. With adventurous beginnings in the Society of Dilettanti, the subject once flourished in both Britain and America, as geographers, explorers, classicists and historians all contributed to its rise. In recovering this field of inquiry, Professor Koelsch has written a pioneering work that will be of interest to historical geographers, classicists, historians and students of the classical tradition.

3. WOMEN IN CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS FILMS OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM // Ya-Chen Chen, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Chinese Language Program, Foreign Languages & Literatures

A look at underexposed gender issues focusing mainly on contradictory and troubled feminism in film narratives. In the cinematic world of martial arts films, one can easily find representations of women of Ancient China released from the constraints of patriarchal social order to revel in a dreamlike space of their own. They can develop themselves, protect themselves, and even defeat or conquer men. Chen calls this phenomenon “Chinese cinematic martial arts feminism.” She reveals the presence of a glass ceiling marking the maximal exercise of feminism and women’s rights that the patriarchal order is willing to accept.

4. STILLNESS AND CHANGE // John Aylward, Assistant Professor of Music, Visual and Performing Arts Department

“Stillness and Change” is the debut CD from composer John Aylward; it is conducted by world-renowned composer and conductor Matthias Pintscher and features soprano Jo Ellen Miller. Aylward’s music has been praised for its rhythmic vitality, rigorous formal qualities and its lyricism. This recording includes some of his best chamber works including a song cycle based on the poetry of Louise Gluck, a piece for violin and cello, and the title track, which is a large-chamber ensemble work.

5. INDUSTRIAS EXTRACTIVAS, CONFLICTO SOCIAL Y DINÁMICAS INSTITUCIONALES EN LA REGIÓN ANDINA // Edited by Anthony Bebbington, Higgins Professor of Environment and Society and Director of the Graduate School of Geography

The book is based on the premise that the expansion of extractive industries in Latin America, and especially in the Andean and Amazonian regions, is occurring on such a scale, and with such velocity, that it is transforming societies, political economies and the territories in which this investment is taking place. Combining case studies and comparative analyses of the interactions among states, companies, nongovernmental agencies, peasantry and indigenous populations, the book asks if socio-environmental conflicts over the extraction of natural resources can actually lead to progressive changes in the institutions through which the natural resource industries are governed.
LETTER TO ALUMNI:

During the February Alumni Association Executive Board (AAEB) meeting, I had the privilege to hear an update from President Angel about the state of our alma mater. I am thrilled to report that more college-bound students are discovering Worcester's gem, as evidenced by this year's dramatic 30 percent rise in applications. Clark's continued focus on liberal education in combination with enhanced opportunities for real-world applications (also known as the LEEP model) is clearly making a difference.

Standard & Poor's recently cited the aforementioned rise in applications, along with increases in both undergraduate and graduate enrollment, positive operating performance, assets versus liabilities, conservative budgeting, and relatively low debt in relation to the size of the endowment in its decision to upgrade the University's credit rating from A to A+. This upgrade will allow Clark to borrow at lower interest rates and to pay less for credit enhancement.

I am proud to say that Clark's administration is also paying close attention to affordability. Despite the rising costs associated with the University's operations, President Angel is committed to cost containment. The administration has eliminated $1 million from its operating budget this year and plans to continue this practice moving forward. While spending is being reduced, Clark is still committed to its need-blind admissions policy (admitting students based on their academic qualifications regardless of their financial need) and the University will spend about $50 million per year on financial aid. This ensures that the best and brightest students who deserve to come to Clark have the opportunity to pursue their passions, whether in our renowned psychology program, our internationally recognized geography program, or in the other robust disciplines the University offers.

I hope you will take the opportunity to return to campus May 16-19 for Alumni Weekend/Reunion 2013. Whether you live 30 miles, 300 miles, or 3,000 miles away, Reunion is a wonderful occasion to remember your time at Clark while you reconnect with old friends, make new ones and see all the changes on campus. This year's Reunion will feature thought-provoking sessions by alumni and faculty covering a wide range of timely topics. But the big highlight of the weekend is the keynote address by Jeff Lurie, Class of 1973 and owner of the Philadelphia Eagles, so be sure to reserve your spot at the Friday night dinner before it sells out!

A lot of great news is emerging at Clark, and as President Angel noted during the AAEB meeting, “We have a lot of work ahead of us as we continue to strengthen our programs and reputation.” Please join me in applauding President Angel and the Clark faculty and staff for all of their accomplishments by investing in the University through your personal philanthropy. Each and every gift to the Clark Fund is our vote of confidence in Clark University and makes a real difference in our alma mater's ability to attract, educate and empower the next generation of Clarkies, who will continue to challenge convention and change our world.

I look forward to seeing you at Alumni Weekend/Reunion 2013.

Sincerely,

SHAKÉ SULIKYAN '01
Alumni Association President
Wilson honored for scholarship on race

BOBBY M. WILSON, M.A. ’73, PH.D. ’74, grew up on a tobacco farm in North Carolina and attended college about 40 miles from his boyhood home. So when the time came to pursue graduate studies, his first inclination certainly was not to relocate to the heart of New England. But the chance to study geography at Clark University was too good an opportunity to pass up, even if it did mean getting adjusted to some very unfamiliar surroundings.

“I will admit it took me about two years to get my footing in Worcester,” he laughs. “I suppose it’s what you might expect for a black person from the rural south coming to Massachusetts at that time.”

Wilson also found his footing professionally, fashioning a career that recently was celebrated by his peers. The veteran professor in the Department of Geography at The University of Alabama was named the recipient of the 2012 Presidential Achievement Award, given by the Association of American Geographers, for his career-long dedication to anti-racist scholarship in geography.

In announcing the award, the AAG stated, “For four decades, Bobby Wilson has been devoted to empirically rich, politically engaged, and theoretically sophisticated scholarship ranging from issues of housing, urban revitalization, economic development, and social justice for black communities, to sophisticated theoretical appraisals of capitalist processes, social engineering, and neoliberalism.”

The AAG cited Wilson’s extensive work focused on the Civil Rights Movement: “Two major volumes, ‘America’s Johannesburg: Industrialization and Racial Transformation in Birmingham’ and ‘Race and Place in Birmingham: The Civil Rights and Neighborhood Movements’ illustrate his profound contribution to understanding the geography of Birmingham. As the titles convey, his work addresses both the large-scale processes of economic, political, social transformation, and the on-the-ground social movements that respond.”

Wilson received the award in early April at the AAG’s annual meeting in Los Angeles.

A graduate of North Carolina Central University, Wilson came to Clark University in 1969 at the urging of his mentor, Dr. Theodore Speigner, and Dr. Saul Cohen, head of Clark’s Graduate School of Geography.

At Clark he was awakened to the possibilities of geography by the likes of professors Anne Buttimer and Richard Peet. “The idea that geography could be focused on issues like social inequality and poverty struck my fancy,” he says.

Wilson is noted for his work in exploring issues of housing, urban revitalization, economic development, and social justice for black communities. During his doctoral studies at Clark, Wilson coauthored his first article, “Symposium: Black perspectives on Geography,” which chronicled the efforts of Donald Deskins Jr., an influential geographer at the University of Michigan, in bringing together African-American geographers whose understanding of the discipline and its priorities represented the first public statements of anti-racist geography.

In 2001 Wilson was honored by the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers for research on the social geography of race in Birmingham. He also has been honored by the Jefferson County Historical Commission of Alabama for outstanding achievement in historic preservation.

The AAG also recognized Wilson’s contributions to anti-racist practices in geography, as well as his efforts to help minority students at historically black institutions thrive in the field.

Over the years he has served on numerous committees and boards to address questions of racism and access within the institutional framework of the discipline of geography. He has worked with the Birmingham Regional Health System Agency, Rosedale Community Development Corp. in Birmingham, Birmingham Board of Zoning Adjustment, and was a founding president of the Fair Housing Center of Northern Alabama.

Wilson has been a faculty member in The University of Alabama system for more than 35 years.
From tragedy, a Hero rises in Colombia

When the baby died in her arms, Catalina Escobar ’93 knew she had to do something.

Volunteering in a hospital in Cartagena, Colombia, Escobar was helpless as the infant passed away. She later learned that the child could have been saved if his mother had been able to afford the $30 needed to pay for life-saving medication.

A short time later, Escobar experienced a tragedy that hit even closer to home. Her 14-month-old son, Juan Felipe, died in a freak accident when he fell from the balcony of their eighth-floor apartment in Cartagena.

Escobar then made a decision that changed her life and the lives of thousands in her city. In 2002 she launched the Juan Felipe Gomez Escobar Foundation, which works with some of the most marginalized populations in Cartagena: impoverished teenage mothers and their children.

For her tireless work on behalf of the poor, Escobar was voted one of ten CNN Heroes in 2012 (out of 45,000 nominees). She received the award, and the $50,000 prize that went with it, at a star-studded event that aired live on CNN on Dec. 2.

The award is great because it opens doors, Escobar says. But, she adds, “You don’t work to be a hero — you work for humanity.”

Her foundation (“Juanfe” for short) has lowered the infant mortality rate in Cartagena — the highest in Columbia — by 80 percent in the first six years of operation. (A staggering 30 percent of all pregnancies were to teenagers; the foundation helps girls between the ages of 12 and 19.)

“What perpetuates extreme poverty is teenage pregnancy,” Escobar explains. “We need these girls to break the poverty cycle. We give them the empowerment tools to move forward.”

In Cartagena, two-thirds of the population lives below the poverty line, with one-fifth in “extreme misery” — and 90 percent lives within 5.8 square kilometers. There can be upwards of 16 people living in one small house, and children routinely witness different family members having sexual relations. Girls often start being touched inappropriately at 6 or 7, and graduate into sexual relationships by the time they enter puberty, Escobar says.

“They see sex [at a young age] as a normal thing,” she notes. “They don’t know anything else.” Of the girls who enter the Juanfe programs, 70 percent have their first pregnancy between age 14 and 16. Eighty percent have been sexually abused.

The foundation built, equipped and operated an intensive care unit at a public hospital to provide health care to babies and their teen mothers, but Escobar realized the problem was bigger and raised funds to build a center where the mothers could get additional assistance. The girls are recruited after they become pregnant for the first time. Juanfe can only accept 450 girls, though there are about 5,000 teen moms in Cartagena every year. For the first six months they receive health care, intensive counseling and education.

The second part of the program takes longer. The girls are given training and assistance to graduate from high school, with the goal of getting them into a normal trajectory of teenage development. Many times, however, their own family members will try to bring the girls back into their old lives because “they never had the opportunities themselves,” Escobar says. The foundation deploys staff in the community to counsel families.

The Juanfe goal is to interrupt the standard cycle: When a girl gets pregnant, she drops out of school. The next year she’ll typically be pregnant again, and the year after, Escobar observes. And those babies will grow up poor. “Within two to four years we take them out of extreme poverty — if they follow our strict protocols,” she says.

To date, the foundation has had “high social impact,” Escobar says. The teen mothers leave their children in an on-site day care center while they receive counseling and skills training. The center feeds about 650 girls and their babies daily, and 4,200 mothers and their children have been rescued from extreme malnourishment.

Prior to starting Juanfe, Escobar ran a successful medical product company. A business major with a minor in economics, she says that while Juanfe may be a social foundation, she runs it like a major corporation. To secure funding from sources like the Inter-American Development Bank, she is seeking partnerships with academic institutions — including MIT’s Poverty Lab — to conduct studies that back up her statistics.

“The only thing I know in life is philanthropy and business,” she says. Her father was an entrepreneur who ran his own economic group. Her older brother studied business at Clark, and after spending some time in Europe post-high school, Escobar followed him to Worcester. “I love my Clark,” she says, recalling fond memories of living in Dana and Hughes halls.

Escobar was happy to get to know the other CNN Heroes in the days leading up to December’s televised tribute. The bottom line for her was not winning an award, but rather shedding light on the good works being done by a corps of “regular human beings.”

“We’re just crazy people who are trying to change the world,” she says.
STANLEY SULTAN, emeritus professor of English and distinguished literary scholar and writer, died Feb. 4 at his home in Rosindale, Mass. He was 84. Having taught briefly at Smith College, Professor Sultan joined the Clark faculty in 1959, where he served as a dedicated and wittily outspoken professor of English literature until he retired in 2005. He also had a significant impact on the Clark community in general.

Known as Stan to all, he served Clark on critical committees, but also never tired of partaking in Clark life as a true, impassioned citizen. He and his wife contributed, for example, to funds awarding excellent students, but wanted his part to remain anonymous. In addition to his tireless devotion to Clark, Professor Sultan published numerous books, articles, and chapters of literary criticism of note, including a path-breaking interpretation of Joyce’s novel in “The Argument of Ulysses” and comparative studies of modernist fiction, drama and poetry. His reputation led Professor Sultan to present papers and keynote addresses at universities and conferences both nationally and internationally.

In addition to being a significant scholar, he was also an award-winning writer of fiction, with short stories and excerpts from his novel “Rabbi: A Tale of the Waning Year” appearing in notable collections and public readings. Professor Sultan was deeply committed to social justice; he was a long-standing member of several human rights organizations, including the Democratic Socialists of America, which recently honored his service with the Eugene Debs-Norman Thomas-Julius Bernstein award.

A lifelong sailor and lover of travel, good food, and Jewish humor, he leaves his devoted wife of nearly 50 years, Betty H. Sultan, his loving children James L. and Sonia E. Sultan, grandchildren and siblings. The family asks that donations in Professor Sultan’s memory be made to Clark University, c/o University Advancement Office, 950 Main St., Worcester, MA 01610. A memorial was held in Tilton Hall at Clark on April 5.

JOSEPH CURTIS, emeritus professor of biology, died on Jan. 22. He was 81.

After leaving the U.S. Navy, where he had been a combat information center officer and operations instructor at Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I., he earned his Ph.D. in biology from Brown University. He completed a National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Fellowship before joining the Clark faculty. He was a professor of cell biology for 35 years.

At Clark, he became known as a passionate and talented educator who challenged his students to meet high academic standards. He advised many undergraduate and graduate students who went on to pursue careers in medicine, scientific research and teaching. He was also actively engaged in research, publishing numerous articles in refereed medical and scientific journals.

As a boy, Joe worked on local farms, an experience he replicated for his children by leasing and working land in Leicester, Mass., while they were growing up. He also enjoyed hiking and skiing the Presidential Range in the White Mountains and working as a camp counselor on Lake Winnipesaukee, N.H.

A memorial service was held on March 2, 2013, in Tilton Hall. Dr. Curtis’ family has established a scholarship in his name at Clark. Contributions may be sent c/o Carole Allen Scannell at Clark University, University Advancement, 950 Main St., Worcester, MA 01610.

JOHN JEPPSON II, former chair of the Clark University Board of Trustees, died peacefully on Feb. 10. He was 96.

A second-generation Swedish-American, his grandfather, John Jeppson, was one of the founders of Norton Company, which later became a worldwide abrasives manufacturing company. Following in the footsteps of his father, George N. Jeppson, as president and CEO, John led the company through years of expansion until his retirement in 1985, when he became honorary chairman of the board and director. He joined Norton Company as an industrial engineer and worked his way up through the ranks of employees. He always felt that this gave him a practical knowledge of the company and its people seldom shared by today’s corporate executives.

John attended Amherst College and Harvard Business School from which he graduated in 1940. Complementing his distinguished academic career, he ran track at Amherst and excelled in the high hurdles. He competed in the Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden and was a contender for the next Olympic Games, which were canceled with the outbreak of World War II. He retired from the Navy as a lieutenant commander in 1945.

John’s great love for the city of Worcester was manifest in the many civic organizations that he both supported and in which he was actively engaged. Along with his work on the Clark Board of Trustees, he was president of the American Antiquarian Society, president of the Worcester County Music Association, trustee of the Worcester Art Museum, member of the board of the American Red Cross, and a member of the board of United Way of Worcester, among others.

MARCIA V. SZUGDA-EMANI, a former administrative assistant at Clark, passed away on Jan. 12 from complications of metastatic breast cancer. Marcia began working in the Communications department in 1987 before joining the Environment, Technology and Society Program in 1988. She greatly enjoyed working with students and faculty in the ETS Program and the Graduate School of Geography. She also helped in the establishment of an Environmental School at Clark. Marcia’s passions included gardening, gourmet cooking, reading, and visiting Bermuda, especially the Pompano Beach Club. She is survived by her husband of 19 years, Dr. Srinivas Emani, M.A. ’90, Ph.D. ’01. A memorial scholarship fund has been established in the Graduate School of Geography in Marcia’s memory, c/o Marcia V. Szugda-Emani Environmental Scholarships, University Advancement Office, 950 Main St., Worcester, MA 01610.

ANDRES E. SABALLOS, who worked in the Physical Plant Department for 10 years, died on Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Anna V. (Lopez) Saballos, who is also employed in Physical Plant. They have three daughters, Jacqueline X. Saballos, Jessica J. Saballos and Yajaira B. Rodriguez, and three grandchildren.

Mr. Saballos was born in El Salvador and moved to the United States in 1980. An avid soccer fan who played semi-professionally in his native country, he was the happiest when he was cracking jokes with his family and friends as well as the students and faculty at Clark.

PAULA M. FERRARO, who worked in Physical Plant, died on Nov. 22, 2012, in her home.

She was born in Worcester and lived in the city her entire life. She worked at Clark for 25 years, leaving due to illness in 2011. Paula loved spending time with her family, doing her yard work and gardening, and she enjoyed bingo.

She leaves a daughter, Jayda Ferraro; two sons, Donald R. Ferraro Jr. and Jason Ferraro; five grandchildren; her sister, sister-in-law and father-in-law.
Ed Quinn ’50 supplied a bird’s-eye view of WWII

Like many military veterans, Edward Quinn ’50 has saved old photos from the days when he was deployed overseas. But his collection also contains original watercolors, wartime memorabilia, and images that are unlikely to be found in many scrapbooks, except for those compiled by a circle of soldiers that grows smaller as time marches on.

Quinn, 88, served three years during World War II, working much of that time in an Air Force photo lab on the Pacific island of Tinian, whose location — about 1,500 miles from Japan — made it a critical U.S. outpost during the war. The Worcester native loaded film into cameras mounted on racks inside the B-29s that took off from Tinian on U.S. bombing missions over Japan in 1945 and 1946. Once the bomber doors opened, the cameras automatically started snapping. The black-and-white photos from those missions that he and his fellow members of the 313th Bomber Wing developed were used to document the damage inflicted on Japanese cities, and served as aerial reconnaissance to collect intelligence in the Pacific theater.

Quinn stopped by the CLARK magazine office recently to show off his thick album, which teems with one-of-a-kind aerial photos, but which also includes pictures that he took on Iwo Jima following the siege (he could still hear U.S. soldiers trading gunfire with Japanese troops inside the island’s caves) and snapshots of life on Tinian.

Drafted in 1943 when he was an 18-year-old student at the Massachusetts School of Art in Boston, Quinn went through basic training in Miami before studying camera installation, technique and repair in Denver. Only twice during his time on Tinian was Quinn ordered not to report to the lab: Aug. 6, 1945, when the Enola Gay dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, and again on Aug. 9, when a second bomb fell on Nagasaki. Both missions, launched from Tinian, were so top-secret that a separate crew was used to rig and load the cameras onto the planes.

After the war, Quinn earned his bachelor’s degree in business and marketing at Clark, an M.B.A. from the University of Michigan, and went on to run his own Boston advertising agency for many years. A widower who has two children and four grandchildren, Quinn now lives in retirement on Cape Cod.

“I attended Clark with a lot of returning G.I.s,” he recalls, adding that he especially enjoyed attending sports events. “We had a real competition going with WPI.”

Quinn has donated his scrapbook to the Dennis Memorial Library in Dennis, Mass. ☎
Out & about
From Israel to Santa Fe, you never know where you’ll run into a Clarkie

1. The Clark University swimming and diving team recently was hosted for dinner by Andrew Miller ’91, his wife Jill, son Noah, 11, and daughter Keaton, 9, at their house in Norton, Mass. Keeping alive a tradition that dates back more than a decade, Andrew invites the team every other year after it competes at Wheaton College, which is only a few minutes from his home.

2. Clarkies (l. to r.) Sarah Joplin ’95, Kelly Hart ’95, Jamie Doyle ’95 and Amanda (Gulezian) DeBurro ’96 recently reunited in Santa Fe, N.M., to celebrate their collective 40th birthdays and carry on a tradition of get-togethers they established in 2000.

3. Alan Sharaf ’72, M.A. ’76, Ph.D. ’78, and Larry Hershoff ’72 recently visited Israel, where they were able to visit some of the programs supported by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, of which they are members.

4. In December 2012, a group of Clarkies ran the Rock ‘n’ Roll Las Vegas Marathon and Half-Marathon together. Among those participating were Kristina Siladi ’06, Ben Rubinger ’04, Jerome Boutaud ’05, Ryan Small ’07, Cory Leonard ’08, Emily Tremaine ’07, M.A.T. ’08, and Becky (Mayer) Smith ’07.
1952
ELLiot baker’s one-act play, “A Blind Date,” was recently published by Off the Wall Plays, an Internet publishing company. Elliot is a retired clinical psychologist who has developed a second career in playwriting. He and his wife, Sara, an environmental artist, moved a year ago from Boston to Miami Beach.

1953
Dr. Harry Briggs received the Distinguished Service Award from the Yale Medical Alumni Association at his 55th reunion in 2012. He continues to teach anatomy at Yale Medical School, saying that “It’s still a lot of fun!” Harry is a former trustee, serving on the board from 1979-1989 (and his brother, Charlie, was a member of the class of 1939). Harry, pictured with wife JoAnn (p. 54), recently had some luck on a fishing trip, coming home with a “gigantic” 6 ½-pound rainbow trout.

1955
Dr. Herman Stekler was recently honored at a forecasting forum held at the headquarters of the International Monetary Fund, on the occasion of his 80th birthday. In addition, George Washington University has announced an initiative to rename the Research Program on Forecasting, part of the Center for Economic Research in the Department of Economics, as the H.O. Stekler Research Program on Forecasting. An announcement of the honor notes, “Herman’s lifelong love of learning has forever influenced those around him.” He has published more than 100 articles and, during his 19 years as professor at GWU, provided inspiration to a new generation of researchers through lectures, articles, mentoring and co-authorship of 19 articles with...
students. The H.O. Stekler Research Program on Forecasting supports research, teaching, and dissertation supervision in economic forecasting. In sharing the news of this honor, Herman wrote, “The education that I got at Clark really contributed to my success.”

1958
NORMAN BOUDREAU and his wife, Carol, received the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award from the Catholic Schools Department of the Diocese of Worcester in November 2012 for their role in the formation of the St. Paul Catholic Schools Consortium of Northern Worcester County. Norman, a retired president of IC Federal Credit Union, is a trustee of HealthAlliance Hospital, a director of IC Federal Credit Union and a director for the Montachusett Regional Technical School Foundation.

1965
DR. PHILIP B. DURGIN is in Kabul, employed under a one-year contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to help construct wells at Afghan National Army and Police sites throughout northern Afghanistan.

1966
DR. ROBERT BROOKS, M.A. ’66, PH.D. ’69, a clinical psychologist on the faculty of Harvard Medical School, is the author or co-author of 15 books. His most recent is “Raising Resilient Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.” It is the fifth in a series published by McGraw-Hill, which also includes “The Power of Resilience: Achieving Balance, Confidence and Personal Strength in Your Life.”

1970
LEE KASSAN is now the editor of GROUP, a peer-reviewed scholarly journal about group psychotherapy. He had been the associate editor since 2001. You can visit his website at leekassan.com.

1975
DAVID L. RANSEN earned his Ph.D. from Cornell University then spent nearly 25 years as an active academic psychologist employed at Tulane University, Harvard Medical School, and Louisiana State University, and consulted extensively for numerous organizations including ETS, Gallup, Opinion Research Corp., the Louisiana and New Jersey departments of education, and Sesame Workshop. He then returned to graduate school for another terminal degree in marriage and family therapy, and completed the internships and residency requirements for state licensure in Florida. He now operates a growing private therapy practice in Delray Beach, Fla., where he enjoys the sunshine, the beach and the lifestyle in that largely artist-colony community.

1977
JOHN WEISS received the Joe Posner Award from the California Employment Lawyers Association on Oct. 6, 2012. The award is presented annually in memory of CELA co-founder Joe Posner, who educated and energized other lawyers to pursue effective advocacy for those in weaker positions in life, particularly employees. John shared an office with Joe for many years before Joe’s death. One of the forms nominating John for this award read, “He helps, he gives, he shares, he mentors and he never asks for or seeks recognition. He is such a humble man with a great intellect and soulful presence.” John’s law practice in Encino, Calif., specializes in employment litigation.

1978
AMY R. NOVICK recently opened Haynes Novick Immigration, a full-service immigration law firm located in Washington, D.C. Amy has been practicing immigration law for more than 25 years. She lives in Bethesda with her husband, Tom Clark (“Great last name,” she notes), and her two children.

1982
MICHELLE G. HUTCHINSON, president of Wordhelper.com, has edited 13 books, including 2012’s “Dear Kate: Reflections on Risk and Rewards After the Storm,” by Brad Fortier. Nobel Prize-winning economist Dr. Harry Markowitz calls “Dear Kate” “inspirational” and says, “Between its covers, you will find wisdom about life in general and financial planning in particular.”
1983

ELIZABETH GLIXMAN has published “I Am the Flame,” a poetry chapbook. It includes poems that focus on her ancestors, mostly women: aunts, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, etc. “We all have ancestors,” she writes on her blog. “Some we know and see often, some we know and never want to see ... and others we never knew who lived long ago in places we never visited. We are connected to them all via DNA, learned behaviors, culture, hopes and dreams. The poems in ‘I Am the Flame’ are universal. They show what connection can mean.” For more information, or for the link to purchase the book on Amazon.com, visit her blog at elizabeth-inthemoment.blogspot.com.

Alumni from the class of 1983 recently reunited for a fabulous weekend together! Pictured (p. 55, from left) are SONIA (GARDNER) LASRY, JANET (AZIZ) BRATTLOF, TERRI (HERUBIN) PANDOLFI, POLLY (GARDNER) SCHIAVONE, FERN (GOLD) GRILL and JEAN WAXMAN.

1984

T. F. SCOTT DARLING III has been appointed the head lawyer of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Previously he was the deputy chief of staff and assistant general counsel of the MBTA in Boston. He also worked at the Conservation Law Foundation and Freedom House, and on the Central Artery and other large development projects as an in-house attorney at Fort Point Associates. Scott received his master’s degree in public policy from Tufts University and his J.D. from Suffolk University.

1987

LISA STERN BURCH was appointed the first director of sustainability and social responsibility for the North Shore-LIJ Health System, the world’s third largest, nonprofit secular health care system in New York. She is responsible for weaving sustainability and social responsibility into the fabric of the health system, establishing system-wide goals and processes to monitor ongoing progress. Lisa earned her master’s degree in public health from Hunter College in 1992 and in 2011 received a certificate in corporate citizenship management from the Boston College Center for Corporate Citizenship at the Carroll School of Management. Lisa lives on Long Island with her husband, David, and two children, Sarah, 12, and Sam, 9.

1989

SUZANNA “TAFFY” LEFKON BREIT welcomed twin boys, Matthew and Spencer, on Oct. 2, 2012.
Carl J. ’43 and Virginia (Hamel) ’46 Stringer have been longtime donors to Clark, giving generously through The Clark Fund and the Carl J. and Virginia Hamel Stringer Endowed Scholarship Fund, which they established in 2000. Since that time, seven students have benefitted from their gift. The Stringers have also thoughtfully provided for Clark through their estate plans, earning them membership in the University’s Legacy Society. In addition, the Stringers are members of The 1887 Society (for consecutive donors of five years or more), and lifetime Jonas Clark Fellows.

“We married when I returned from two years in the South Pacific after World War II, and Ginny had graduated with the first class of women at Clark in 1946,” writes Carl, noting he and Ginny celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary last year. “We were the first in our families to receive college degrees, and the value of education endured for both of us. Today, our four daughters and our grandchildren have college degrees.

“Paying for an education during our Clark years, while difficult, was possible with summer work and campus and off-campus jobs during the school year, and the scholarships received by Ginny. This is practically impossible today, given present-day tuition costs relative to possible job earnings. Thus, many students leave college owing a lot of money. To reduce this burden on qualified scholars, we established our scholarship fund. It will continue to provide help long after we are gone.”

The Clark community is deeply grateful that Carl and Ginny have chosen to support their alma mater in such meaningful and significant ways.

Editor’s Note: As this issue of CLARK alumni magazine went to press, the Clark University community was saddened to learn of the passing of Carl Stringer Jr. at the age of 90. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the Stringer family.
She wrote the book on coaching students

High school seniors have it pretty easy. They’re on the downward slide of adolescence, and all that remains is the task of picking out a college at which they’ll spend the next four years. Nothing to it.

Yeah, right. Enter Jill Greenbaum ’78.

The college search is a time of “teens and parents in turmoil,” she says.

When her own daughter was a junior at a small private high school in New Jersey, Greenbaum didn’t feel that the school’s guidance counselor “got” her. So she developed a coaching program to help students, and parents, navigate the complex, competitive college search process. Last year she published “How to Major in You and Find the Right College,” which charts a path for students to follow as they go through the process — and which features Jonas Clark Hall on its cover.

“I coach students at the beginning of the college search and selection process,” Greenbaum says. “It could be a senior in August or a junior planning ahead.” She provides guidance and structure but doesn’t do the work for the teens. The coaching sessions are one-on-one, in person — or via Skype. She likes to be able to see a student’s body language as part of their discussions.

“I don’t think you can pick the right college unless you know yourself,” Greenbaum says. Her book includes five active steps, which she calls “Making the GRADE”: goalset, research, analyze, decide and evaluate. The program focuses very heavily on the question of “Who are you?” Once that’s answered, students can research where they want to go.

In addition to her coaching and writing, Greenbaum has worked with Clark’s Alumni and Parents Admissions Program for several years, and was an active participant in Clark’s Facebook group for the families of admitted students in the class of 2016. Last year, she offered workshops for parents at Admitted Student Open Houses. Parents must learn to think about themselves in a different way when their children go off to school, she says. “I believe the students are stepping into adulthood,” she says. “Let your teen travel on their own, do their own laundry, cook their own food. Shift your mindset and help them transition to college. They need to do the rest for themselves.”

Parents need to do something for themselves as well. When her daughter left home to attend Clark, Greenbaum and her husband enrolled in a ceramics class. “We’re not going to have a hole in our lives,” she explains. The students aren’t the only ones entering a new phase of life.

For more information on Greenbaum’s programs, visit majorinyou.com.
2000

SETH McLAUGHLIN was awarded the annual Distinguished Employee Award at The Washington Times, a daily newspaper based in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 15, 2012. He spent the year traveling with the U.S. Republican presidential candidates across the United States, from the cornfields of Iowa to most of the state primaries, through the conventions and concluding with election night. Seth began his journalism career at The Suburban News (now the Lakes Region Weekly) in Maine, and covered the Rhode Island State House for the Providence Journal for two years.

2002

SUZANNE (SHOWSTACK) ADAMS ’02, M.P.A. ’03, and her husband, Ryan Adams, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Blake Charles Adams.

2005

KAYLA CARLSEN has been appointed as senior specialist and head of sales of the American Art Department at Bonhams, the only auction house in the country that presents five sales dedicated solely to American art each year. Kayla previously spent more than six years at Christie’s in New York, where she ultimately directed its mid-season sales of Fine American Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture. She interned with the curatorial department of Olana, the home of artist Frederic Edwin Church, and completed the fellowship program in American Material Culture at Historic Deerfield in Deerfield, Mass.

ALEX McGOWEN earned his master’s degree in education, with concentrations in children with special needs and early childhood policy and leadership, from Mills College on May 12, 2012. He accepted a contract position as an early childhood policy consultant for First 5 Alameda County during the summer, where he conducted policy analysis on the 2009 Trailer Bill, which changed eligibility for Early Start, California’s major early-intervention program affecting 5,000 young children and their families statewide. He is now employed as a Case Manager II at Regional Center of the East Bay, where he helps adults with developmental disabilities maximize their independence and ensure that delivery of services to them is well coordinated. Alex is also in the process of publishing his thesis, an analysis of public school programs for deaf and hard of hearing children age 5 and under, as an article in a research journal.

CARLA J. POULOS and BRIAN J. PIETRANTONIO are proud to announce the birth of their son, George Ajax Pietrantonio, on Sept. 22, 2012, in Olympia, Wash.

2006

ALEX LEIBOWITZ ’06 and LARISSA (PRICE) LEIBOWITZ ’06 of Chicago were married on Sept. 22, 2012, in Chicago. The wedding was officiated by Shawn Goodspeed ’06. Alex is an underwriter in the Real Estate Finance Group of CIBC. Larissa is an attorney in the Banking & Finance Group of Mayer Brown LLP. Pictured are Class of 2006 members in attendance (p. 50, from left): Sam Blier, Danny Harris (M.B.A. ’07), Larissa and Alex Leibowitz, Shawn Goodspeed, Adam Tomczik (M.A. ’07), Nora Lynch, Liz Garrett and David Kramer.

SOMA GHOSH ’02, PH.D. ’06, and her husband, Partha Dhar, welcomed their first child, Aadrika Dhar, on Sunday, Dec. 23, 2012.


MARYANN (CHRISTENSEN) JOHNSON ’07 and ROBERT JOHNSON ’09 welcomed their twin girls, Ashley and Claire Johnson, on Oct. 25, 2012.
RACHEL SCHOPPE ROGERS was married to Justin Rogers on Sept. 15, 2012, in Gloucester, Mass. (p. 55).

EMILY TREMAINE ’07, M.A.T. ’08, and RYAN SMALL ’07 were married on June 20, 2012, in Killington, Vt. Clarkies in attendance included Aaron Bernstein ’06, Kemji Nwokogba ’06, Kristina Siladi ’06, Jerome Boutaud ’04, Ben Rubinger ’04, Emily Brenner ’07, Jesse Dix ’07, Cory Leonard ’08, Matt LeBlanc ’04, Elizabeth Waste ’07, Becky (Mayer) Smith ’07, and Asher Cowan ’07.

2008

DAVID RAINEN ’05 married KIMBERLY (BUTLER) RAINEN ’08, on May 27, 2012, at the Ritz Carlton in Boston. Clarkies in attendance included (p. 55, back row from left) Tim Green ’05, Sarah Bush ’06, Laura Albano ’05, Charlotte Brookover ’08, Daniel DeSantis ’08, Maggie Rabidou ’08, Michael Moore ’08, Jen Sateriale ’08, Sara Nelson ’08; (front) David and Kimberly. David is completing the doctoral program in psychology at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, while Kimberly is completing law school at New England Law in Boston.

2009

LESLIE SWIEDLER ’09, M.S.P.C. ’10, and RYAN MCDONALD ’08 were married on March 1, 2013, in a ceremony at the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division. The couple met at Clark in 2007. Leslie graduated with a B.A. cum laude in communications and an M.S. in professional communications with high honors. She works as a media coordinator at SSGC Media in New York City. Ryan graduated with a B.A. in psychology and has an M.A. in forensic psychology from John Jay College. He is a project manager for clinical drug studies at NYU Langone Medical Center in New York City.

2010

LINDSAY GREENE has joined the global health and humanitarian aid organization AmeriCares as a development associate, where she will work with major donors to help people in need all over the world. Previously, she was a program and research assistant at Child Welfare Services at the Westchester Institute for Human Development.

ILANA OFFENBERGER, PH.D. ’10, was awarded the Radomir Luza Prize by the American Friends of the Documentation Center of Austrian Resistance and the Center Austria at the University of New Orleans, for “outstanding work in the field of Austrian and/or Czechoslovak World War II studies, particularly in the fields of diplomatic history, resistance and studies.” Ilana received the award for her dissertation, “The Nazification of Vienna and the Response of the Viennese Jews.”
PASSINGS

HUGO D. ANGELINI ’42
North Andover, Mass., 1/22/2013

EDWARD P. GUNTHER ’42
Basking Ridge, N.J., 10/12/2012

CHARLES S. MORGAN ’43
Norwell, Mass., 1/6/2013

CARL J. STRINGER JR. ’43
Norfolk, Va., 4/13/2013

REV. CANON GORDON S. PRICE ’44
Dayton, Ohio, 9/24/2012

ROBERT I. ANDERSON ’45
West Harwich, Mass., 12/3/2012

KENNETH A. BROOKS ’45
West Springfield, Mass., 1/4/2013

ESTELLE (DAVIS) KAY ’45, M.A.ED. ’66
Worcester, Mass., 6/12/2012

RUTH D. PRICE ’46
Dayton, Ohio, 12/5/2012

CHARLES W. PORTER ’47
11/30/2012, Hagerstown, Md.

DOROTHY A. ALFORD, M.A.ED. ’48
Springfield, Ill., 10/15/2012

JOSEPH H. CALLENDER ’48
New Rochelle, N.Y., 10/9/2012

MICHAEL A. ERREDE ’48
Shrewsbury, Mass., 8/30/2012

MARIAN (SPUNGIN) KLAMKIN ’48
Watertown, Conn., 12/13/2012

MARION L. MORIARTY ’49

JOHN A. SOBOL, M.A. ’49
Memphis, Tenn., 7/20/2012

ROBERT F. SLECHTA ’49, M.A. ’51
Bedford, Mass., 12/17/2012

CHARLES E. FLINT ’51
Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y., 4/21/2012

ALDEN A. LARSON, M.A.ED. ’51
Nashua, N.H., 12/22/2012

ROBERT E. LUND ’51
Harwick, Pa., 12/27/2012

HARRY G. SCHALCK, M.A. ’51, PH.D. ’60
Kennett Square, Pa., 12/19/2012

MOHAMMAD HASSAN GANJI, PH.D. ’54
Tehran, Iran, 7/23/2012

GENEVIEVE S. MISIASZEK ’53
Grafton, Mass., 8/14/2012

PAUL J. SORVO ’53
Centerville, Mass., 12/6/2012

LEROY H. HAM JR. ’55
Worcester, Mass., 7/9/2012

JOHN F. KILCOYNE, M.A. ’51, PH.D. ’60

TAMARA D. LASBERG ’56
Paxton, Mass., 10/8/2012

GEORGE R. MANNA ’56
Cumming, Ga., 5/25/2012

HELEN G. GOULD ’57
Madison, Conn., 8/18/2012

DR. MALCOLM I. PRICE ’57
Lunenburg, Mass., 8/28/2012

ANTHONY P. D’AMICO ’58
St. Augustine, Fla., 6/25/2012

PETER J. ELEFTERAKIS ’59
Dedham, Mass., 1/13/2013

ANDREW KALINICK, M.A.ED. ’59
Chatham, N.J., 7/21/2012

RICHARD D. MCGRATH, M.A. ’60
Westborough, Mass., 12/31/2012

JAMES C. LOUGHLIN, M.A. ’61, PH.D. ’65
Kensington, Conn., 8/22/2012

LLEWELLYN M. MULLINGS, M.A. ’61, PH.D. ’62
Longwood, Fla., 6/21/2012

ARNE J. KORSTVEDT, PH.D. ’62
Worcester, Mass., 9/12/2012

LAWRENCE F. PENDEY ’64
Princeton, Mass., 1/25/2012

CAROL G. POLAKOFF ’64
Long Beach, Calif., 10/20/2012

JOHN A. RAABE ’64
East Hartford, Conn., 7/25/2012

JAMES C. LOUGHLIN, PH.D. ’65
Hartford, Conn., 8/22/2012

PATRICIA E. AVENI ’68
Dover, N.H., 9/25/2012

DAVID G. BUTLER ’70
Dudley, Mass., 11/27/2012

JOSEPH P. GIANETTI ’70
Shrewsbury, Mass., 8/11/2012

BRADLEY J. MCKENZIE, M.B.A. ’70
Sandwich, Mass., 8/5/2012

WILLIAM J. PHELAN ’71
Holden, Mass., 1/10/2013

ALBIN L. WASKEVICH ’71
Auburn, Mass., 12/25/2012

CONSTANCE I. PALMER ’72
Northborough, Mass., 12/6/2012

GLORIA S. SMITH ’72
Yarmouth Port, Mass., 10/5/2012

BARNETT G. LONSTEIN ’73
Worcester, Mass., 10/22/2012

ELAINE ROME ’75

HAO H. SUN, M.A. ’75, PH.D. ’77
Draper, Utah, 6/5/2012

MICHAEL GRAF ’79
Framingham, Mass., 10/20/2012

THOMAS F. CONROY, M.P.A. ’80
Venice, Fla., 11/4/2012

DAVID L. KUSINITZ ’82
Oak Park, Ill., 10/9/2012

DUDLEY H. SPEROS ’85
Westport, Conn., 6/7/2012

SANDRA A. PACKARD ’87
Holden, Mass., 9/12/2012

DAVID E. SMITH ’91
Los Angeles, Calif., 12/3/2012

WENDY J. GATES, M.B.A. ’93

SCOTT A.S. CERRATO ’98
Meriden, Conn., 7/6/2012

SAMUEL BEGNER ’98
Atlanta, Ga., 10/28/2012
Jim Collins’ career has paid dividends for Clark

Talking about himself is not one of Jim Collins’ favorite pastimes.

Clark University’s executive vice president of planning and finance is reserved and thoughtful, and he prefers to spread credit and kudos to others rather than toot his own horn. Over the course of his long career he has helped Clark grow with a combination of strategic thinking and wise investing, much of that work accomplished on boards and committees that don’t generally earn widespread attention, yet whose accomplishments have been invaluable to the continuing fiscal health of the institution.

With Collins retiring in August after 34 years helming Clark’s financial ship, he recognizes it’s time to recall his time at the University, even if he’d probably rather be shooting hoops in one of the noontime pickup games he played at the Kneller for more than three decades.

A native of upstate New York and graduate of Cornell University, Collins began at Clark the day after Commencement in May 1979. He’d been working in the president’s office at Brandeis University, where he became acquainted with Jacob “Jack” Hiatt, M.A. ’46, chairman of the Brandeis and Clark investment committees. Both Hiatt and Larry Landry ’71, M.B.A. ’75, who was leaving the chief financial officer’s job at Clark for the same post at Swarthmore College, convinced Collins to apply for the Clark position. He did, and when he arrived on campus for the interview it was the first time he’d ever stepped foot in Worcester.

“I certainly feel privileged to have worked with a relatively small number of outstanding presidents,” Collins says during a recent interview in his office overlooking the campus green. He was hired during the tenure of Mortimer Appley, who faced a host of issues ranging from campus unrest to unbalanced budgets. “Mort had a tough job to do, and he did it without backing away from the heavy responsibility. The seventies were a very tough time for colleges across the country. We’d gone through three presidents in a very short span of time, and he took a lot of arrows to get us to some level of stability.”

He says Clark has benefited from strong leadership in the president’s office under Richard Traina, John Bassett and David Angel.

“David Angel has worked successfully to set the University on a great course, and I’m really pleased at the leadership that he has brought to get us on that course.”

Collins remembers some early lean years. In 1981, with inflation and interest rates at record highs, Clark struggled to make payroll and parents had difficulty making tuition payments. As the national and regional economies improved, the rates came down and financial markets improved.

Clark’s ability to weather rough economic patches has been a hallmark of its investment strategy, which stresses long-term growth over short-term gain, says Collins. In his early days, however, the strategy was more aggressive as Clark began building its endowment. Through shrewd management combined with some substantial gifts, the endowment has risen from $11 million to $345 million during the course of Collins’ career. The University’s fiscal philosophy reflects that of the Investment Committee and the succession of strong chairmen who have led it, he insists.

“The first Investment Committee I worked with was small, and they were a great group,” he says. “Jack Hiatt was chair, and Bob Wetzel and Tony Tilton were members. Jack had very strong opinions and tended to drive decisions, but he also had great respect for Bob and Tony. If the two of them disagreed with Jack, he listened to them.”

Collins recalls that in 1991 longtime trustee and Investment Committee Chair David Strassler, M.B.A. ’11, made a crucial contribution to Clark of Berkshire Hathaway stock. He advised that the University not sell it, given that the manager, Warren Buffett, was such a talented investor. The stock has risen in value from $2,800 to $155,000 a share, and the University is still holding most of the original shares.

“David suggested that I learn more about Buffett’s principles, so he gave me the annual reports, which were terrific. I went with David to Omaha for the Berkshire Hathaway stockholders’ meeting, and it was
clear that Buffett had a very strong value-focus. David is the person who promoted that the most here.

“Our portfolio has its relative advantages,” he continues. “We may underperform when the market is going up real fast, but we tend to outperform when it’s going down. The Investment Committee has had a solid risk-averse focus, which gives us a competitive advantage relative to our peers. Our record is good, and can be traced to the talent of people like David, Bob Hurst ’66, Larry Landry, right through to the current chair Bob Stevenish. Continuity is terribly important, and people like Tony Tilton, who has served on the Investment Committee since 1976, and many others, have helped us keep that long-term view.”

The economic meltdown in 2008 is a prime example of how the investment strategy helped Clark navigate choppy economic waters. On the operating side, the University fared relatively well, Collins says. Financial aid was given a little more freely and revenues flattened, but enrollment held steady. While investments dropped about 16 percent in the tumbling 2008-2009 market, many other colleges were experiencing losses in the 24 to 27 percent range.

“It was still a hit to us, no doubt about it. But the conservative approach from our Board of Trustees and Investment Committee on spending rates, investment practices and debt served us very well. The system was built in a way to withstand some shocks. You don’t only measure your success when things are going great; a better measure is when things are going badly.”

Throughout the conversation, Collins returns to the topic of the people he has worked with who helped make Clark hum. He talks of the string of “great hires” like Andrea Michaels, vice president for budgets and planning; controller Kathy Cannon; Jack Foley, vice president of government and community affairs; Lynn Olson, retired director of Human Resources; Paul Bottis ’84, retired director of Physical Plant, and those who have assisted in his office — Pam Moore, Danielle Manning, now senior vice president/treasurer at Suffolk University, and Jan Adamec.

Collins also cites the influence of leaders on the Finance Committee, like Ron Shaich ’76, Barry Rogstad ’62, M.A. ’63, and Mel Rosenblatt ’53, and the many key people who have devoted years of service to the Environment and Audit committees.

“I am very proud of the facilities improvements we made over the years,” he says, “beginning with the construction of the Sackler Sciences Center and continuing with such key buildings as the Higgins University Center, the Lasry Science Center, the Academic Commons and the closing and rejuvenation of Downing Street. These projects were carried out overwhelmingly by Paul Bottis [see page 60] and led by some outstanding chairs of the Environment Committee, like Mike Leavitt, Jim Harrington, Jackie Pfannenstiel ’69, Peter Klein ’64 and Larry Hershoff ’71.”

“All of these people embraced Clark University,” he says. “They provided leadership, made significant gifts, and did a fabulous job of transforming the University. It’s been a pleasure working with them.”

Collins is quick to note that he had plenty of fun in his 34 years at Clark. A sports enthusiast (the Department of Athletics falls under his purview), he was a regular at the Noonetime Basketball Association games that for many years attracted faculty, staff and students to the Kneller courts at high noon.

“It was a true passion of mine,” he says. “I got to meet an awful lot of great people through the NBA.”

Collins also speaks fondly of Clark’s barnstorming softball team of faculty and staff who in the early ’80s took on, and usually defeated, the likes of Brandeis, Bentley, St. Anselm and Babson. “We had a great time — and we were good,” he says.

Though he’s officially retiring in August, Collins has agreed to stay on for one more year as chief investment officer during the transition. At 64, he says, he’s ready for retirement.

“I think in the life of any organization, 35 years is long enough,” he says. “Organizations need to rotate people and ideas and ways of doing things. I was fortunate to follow Larry Landry and build on the good work he did, and having someone come in after me and do some things better and differently will be good for this place.”

President David Angel notes that Collins’ impact has been significant.

“For more than three decades, Jim Collins has been a stalwart of Clark University,” he says. “His considerable financial skills, his careful and discerning stewardship of University resources, and his commitment to this institution have had a tremendous impact on our mission to provide a transformative experience to our students. Jim’s contributions are evident throughout the campus, and will continue to be felt long after he’s retired. He will be missed.”

Collins likes to tell the “cake story.” When Clark’s endowment was nearing $100 million, Investment Committee Chair Michael Freedman ’64 promised his committee would serve cake to the Board of Trustees when that magic threshold was reached.

“He was true to his word, and we arranged to have a big cake,” Collins remembers. “The only thing is, not long after we had the cake the market fell precipitously and the endowment immediately dropped below $100 million. After that, Tony Tilton, Larry Landry and others would always ask Michael when we’d be having the next cake. But when the endowment went to $200 million and $300 million, we all decided we would never have cake again. It was bad luck.”

Still, as his retirement nears and the Clark community plans to honor Jim Collins, the astute investor might look into sinking some resources into sugar and flour futures. Because in addition to the warm wishes, the gracious thanks, and all those kudos that he’s deflected to others over the years, there undoubtedly will be a very big cake. ☞
From roof to road, Clark’s campus bears Paul Bottis’ stamp

SEPTEMBER 14, 2012, was sunny and warm, a gorgeous late-summer day on the Clark campus. For Paul Bottis ’84, it was even more than beautiful. It was perfect.

On that day, President David Angel officially dedicated the closed section of Downing Street, from Florence to Woodland Street, as a pedestrian plaza in honor of donors William ’76 and Jane ’75 Mosakowski. The Downing transformation was the capper of Bottis’ 25-year Clark career, a project whose completion allowed him to ease into retirement in December with a sense of satisfaction and finality.

That’s not a familiar state for Bottis, who as director of Physical Plant worked tirelessly to expand and beautify a campus that at one time would have been considered a liability but is now a clear asset. In his worldview, Clark is a living, breathing organism that benefits from positive change in both its outward appearance and the guts of its infrastructure.

He realized the potential the day he arrived as a union carpenter to help rehab the former Jefferson Hall. “I saw a huge opportunity here,” he recalls. “The place needed somebody with some vision who could look at what was needed and find a way to get it done.”

Bottis was hired in January 1977 and immediately began making his presence known. An early endeavor was painting the dorms and offices with bone-white paint that’s come to be known as “Bottis Beige” (supplanting “Bloodgood Beige,” the hue named for former chief financial officer William Bloodgood who, legend has it, bought a trainload of the stuff). “One of the first things I did at Clark was institute a professional painting crew,” he recalls. “The exterior of Jonas Clark hadn’t been painted in sixty years; students had been allowed to paint their dorm rooms any color they wanted. I think just these small kinds of changes right away helped make us more attractive to students.”

Bottis, who’d owned a home-building business, transformed his crew into an in-house construction company capable of executing major projects at a fraction of the cost of an outside contractor. He points to the rehabilitation of the Marsh Institute and Harrington House, and the closing and landscaping of a portion of Woodland Street that once encroached on the campus, as examples of his team’s handiwork.

His crew also worked in tandem with outside construction companies on everything from the building of the Academic Commons to the creation of the Downing Street plaza. The latter was something he’d wanted to tackle ever since a Clark administrative assistant was struck by a car while crossing the street. “Downing Street made no sense at all,” he says. “You had kids walking out of Wright Hall in the morning, earplugs in, thinking about breakfast, and they’d be crossing while cars are flying east up that hill with the sun in the drivers’ eyes. It was a mess, and I’m so happy it finally is fixed.”

Bottis has a reputation as a no-nonsense guy — he comes from a family of builders who value a strong work ethic. And his management style? He says he fashioned it from the principles he learned during his time as a U.S. Marine. “I’m not one of those guys who sits back and directs. If someone says, ‘We can’t do this,’ then get out of my way and I’ll show you how to do it. It doesn’t matter what the job is. If I see a new groundsman and he doesn’t know how to use a rake properly, I’ll say, ‘Give me the rake. Here’s how it’s done.’”

His commitment to Clark kept him constantly strategizing ways to improve the campus. “As a manager you look for department heads who bring you ideas about what we can do to make a difference,” says Jim Collins, executive vice president and treasurer, who worked with Bottis on numerous projects. “Paul had four or five of those ideas a week. He was good, but I don’t think people realize how good.”

When Bottis says he’s “left a good part of myself on this campus,” he’s not simply talking about the new buildings and reimagined spaces that he brought to fruition. He’s referring to the commitment to Clark’s success that emerges from Physical Plant with as much intent as any other department. “Ultimately it’s all about the kids,” he says. “We also help educate these students; they learn by how we interact with them and from the professionalism we show one another. It’s wonderful to see them come here and watch them grow.

“At reunion time my friends would say to me, ‘You must be bummed having to work during a beautiful May weekend.’ They were wrong. I wouldn’t have missed that for anything.”

President David Angel honored Paul Bottis at the dedication of the Downing Street plaza.
O
n April 29, 2010, one person after another approached the
podium set up on the campus green and spoke about a marvelous
gift that had been bequeathed to Clark University.

That day, then-President John Bassett announced the establishment of
the Ruth and John Adam Education Fund, made possible by John “Jack”
Adam’s generous gift of more than $14.2 million and intended to enhance
Clark’s nationally recognized model for urban secondary education and
reform, teacher-training and community education partnerships. Adam made the bequest — the largest single gift in Clark’s history — before his death in
2009 at age 94.

“Clark is ecstatic about receiving this extraordinary
bequest. Jack Adam came to believe that Clark
University, with its splendid education program, was
the right institution to improve the chances of our
least-privileged youth to have, through education, a
chance to be a success,” Bassett said.

One of the speakers on April 29, Massachusetts
Secretary of Education Paul Reville, said, “Lots
of people talk about community connections,
community support, and community development.
Clark actually does it and does it with relatively little
celebration.”

Adam was keenly aware of the “fundamental
connection between great teaching and college readiness and life
opportunities for all students,” says Thomas Del Prete, director of the
Adam Institute for Urban Teaching and School Practice at Clark.

Working closely with the Jacob Hiatt Center for Urban Education at
Clark, the Adam Institute has embarked on several initiatives.

The Institute helped three neighborhood schools qualify as Innovation
Schools under the 2010 Massachusetts “Act Relative to the Achievement
Gap,” providing them with greater school-based autonomy and
partnership support.

As with Clark’s longstanding involvement at the University Park Campus
School, the Adam Institute has begun a new partnership with Claremont
Academy, a similar neighborhood school with 440 students in grades 7 to
12. The partnership provides:

• Support for professional planning and learning (summer institute for
  the whole school and an ongoing seminar for teacher-leaders);
• Direct support for college readiness through an on-site seminar for
  12th graders and the “Main South College Success Program”;
• Support for a literacy teaching position during the initial rebuilding
  phase of the school;
• Support through its Master of Arts in Teaching program (a cohort of
  six graduate students are full-time at the school).

The Institute also is developing new neighborhood-based approaches
in addressing the challenges of urban schooling. The “Main South
College Success Program” coordinates support for college preparation
for neighborhood students from grades 1 to 12, with intensive programs
for 20 to 25 academically and/or personally challenged high school
students; supports cross-school professional planning and learning; and supports cross-school
elective and advanced-placement course options (a Clark M.A.T. student is teaching “Anatomy”
for University Park and Claremont students).

The Adam Institute and the Hiatt Center
are working closely together on two initiatives:
Inquiry into Educational Leadership Group,
to advance understanding of urban school
leadership, and Fostering Powerful Learning
and Teaching Practices in K-12 Education, to
investigate specific problems of learning and
pedagogical practice in urban schools.

These are fitting applications for Jack Adam’s
gift. He never hesitated to acknowledge the fine
teachers in his life, attributing much of his success
and commitment to education to them. A highly
respected business leader, philanthropist and former Clark trustee, he
would tell the story of Worcester teacher “Pluto” Cook, who in the early
1930s brought Adam, a bored and indifferent student, to hear a lecture by
a Nobel Prize-winning economist. That experience helped inspire Adam
to pursue a successful career in the insurance industry, and to become
a sharp-eyed observer of the American public-school system. When
Adam delivered the commencement address at Clark in 1974, he titled his
speech, “Private-Public Higher Education in Massachusetts – A Unique
Opportunity.”

Adam was president emeritus of the company now known as the
Hanover Insurance Group in Worcester. He was a member of Clark’s
Board of Trustees from 1975 to 1981, chairman of the Massachusetts
Board of Higher Education from 1972 to 1977, and president and a
founding director of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

He graduated from South High School and attended Clark from 1933
to 1934. He withdrew in good standing and went on to graduate from
Oberlin College with a degree in economics. Clark awarded him an
Honorary Doctorate of Law in 1974.

Ruth E. (Maddock) Adam, Adam’s wife of 55 years, died in 2001.
LEEP Pioneers blaze a new trail for higher education

NEVER DOUBT what 46 motivated Clarkies can do.

Last summer, the inaugural group of LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice) Pioneers worked closely with faculty mentors, Clark alumni and external companies on LEEP projects that spanned the full breadth of academic studies, from arts/humanities, to natural science, to social science. Products resulting from these projects included computer games, artwork, habitat-restoration proposals, course syllabi, smartphone applications, and documentary films and photographs.

But beyond that, the LEEP experiences helped prepare these undergrads for life after Clark by demanding not only academic excellence, but also resilience, persuasion, creativity, and the ability to demonstrate character when tested — critical workplace and life skills that are the tenets of LEEP, Clark’s new model of higher education.

MEET FIVE LEEP PIONEERS:

Amy Kapitan ’13 // National Grid and DPU Sustainability Hub Project

Environmental science major Amy Kapitan ’13 worked as a liaison between National Grid and stakeholders within Worcester and Massachusetts to develop plans for a Sustainability Hub. The Hub, which is part of the Department of Public Utilities pilot approved for Worcester, is a place where customers can go to have questions answered about the smart grid, smart meters, any related technologies, and sustainable energy in Worcester.

“National Grid is proud to be a partner with Clark University’s LEEP program, because we know the value of employees who can think critically, solve problems, and work effectively on a team,” said Marcy Reed, president of National Grid. “This was not a low-level experience; this was a real job with real responsibilities that we expect will help guide Amy as she launches her career.”

Joseph Danko III ’13 // Mapping Burn Severity Using the Composite Burn Index

Geography major Joseph Danko III ’13 worked with Professor John Rogan on a project aimed at restoring a 20-acre parcel of land owned by the EcoTarium, Worcester’s museum of science and nature. They developed a plan for a controlled fire on the parcel in order to restore one of the last surviving Oak Savannah tree habitats in Worcester. Danko’s project also helped jump-start a long-term partnership between Clark University and the EcoTarium.

Rebecca Rood Goldman ’14 // American Museum of Natural History Evolution of Terrestrial Leeches

Studio art/biology double major Rebecca Rood Goldman ’14 spent the summer studying the evolution of terrestrial leeches at the Richard Gilder Graduate School at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Guided by faculty mentor Susan Foster, professor and chair of Clark’s Department of Biology, and her supervisors at the museum, Rebecca married her interests in biology and art by working toward a visual display of photographs that exhibit the beauty of biology in a way that appeals to both biologists and non-scientists.

Kulani Panapitiya Dias ’13 // Sri Lankan Post-War Trauma and Victimization

English and psychology double major Kulani Panapitiya Dias ’13, of Sri Lanka, investigated trauma in post-war Sri Lanka under the dual mentorship of Assistant Professor of Psychology Johanna Vollhardt and Associate Professor of English Lisa Kasmer. She interviewed and surveyed both Tamil and Sinhalese individuals in the Sri Lankan war-affected areas of Jaffna and Galle to better understand the psychology behind how these groups cognitively disengage themselves from injustices and justify war atrocities. Dias hopes her research aids reconciliatory efforts in post-war Sri Lanka by helping to identify the obstacles that linguistically and socially propagate conflict and difference between native groups.

Alexander Kump ’13 // CBS Comedy Development Script

Theater arts major Alexander Kump ’13 worked for the Comedy Development Department at CBS in Los Angeles, under the direction of Clark alumna Wendi Trilling ’86. [Read about Wendi in the Fall 2011 issue of CLARK alumni magazine online at clarku.edu/trilling.] Alex’s responsibilities included reading and analyzing scripts. He also had the opportunity to sit in on pitches, tour studio lots, and see run-throughs of shows in development.

Alex was also guided by his faculty adviser Gino DiIorio, chair of Clark’s Theater Department: “Alex is a playwright, so he has mostly written for the stage. It was invaluable for him to go to California and be exposed to a different kind of writing — in this case television writing. For Alex this experience was a crash course in how television works.”

Get Involved

The 2013 LEEP Pioneers were selected this spring and will be matched with faculty, alumni mentors, and external alliance partners with similar academic and/or professional interests. Pioneers will also be assigned LEEP coaches, who will advise them on preparing their projects. If you are interested in mentoring a LEEP Pioneer, please contact Will O’Brien at wobrien@clarku.edu.

To watch interviews with 2012 LEEP Pioneers and read their blogs, visit clarku.edu/spring/pioneers2012.cfm.
ANY WHO TAKE A NEW JOB prefer to get their feet wet before drawing attention to themselves. That might have been true of a young teacher-scholar who had just landed his first tenure-track position as a chemistry professor at Clark University. Unfortunately for soft-spoken New Zealander Fred Greenaway, it was hard to be inconspicuous with a gigantic gauze bandage wrapped around his head.

That was the fall of 1981. Greenaway had been at Clark approximately one year, and by that time some of his colleagues knew about his passion for rugby, his native country’s most popular sport. And those who didn’t? Well, the cat was officially out of the bag.

“I was player-coach for the Worcester Rugby Football Club at that time and injured myself playing. Since I kept playing, in spite of wearing a helmet, I kept reinjuring my ear,” says Greenaway, who was left with a cauliflower ear. “I wore a bandage off and on for several weeks. People who knew me just shook their heads, since they knew I played rugby and occasionally appeared with minor scrapes and bruises. I was 34 at the time — a bit old for an active rugby player. Few of my colleagues had seen rugby, but all had an erroneous view that it was second only to boxing for hard knocks.”

Greenaway began playing rugby at age 6, and at a competitive level when he was just 13. After coming to the U.S. in 1973, he played, coached and refereed for seven years while a postdoc at Michigan State, then later at Syracuse University. When he arrived in Worcester in 1980, he played and coached for the Worcester Rugby Football Club for two years. His reputation in the sport had preceded his academic career at Clark.

“A professor at WPI was in the club and he knew my brother, so he knew I was coming to Worcester. I was being recruited before I even got here,” Greenaway laughs.

He eventually decided to focus on refereeing, which he did frequently up and down the East Coast and in Canada.

It wasn’t until a decade later that Clark students showed any interest in rugby. Once they did, however, Greenaway gladly coached the University’s men’s and women’s rugby teams for a few years in the early ’90s.

“Never really could sustain the numbers. So it kind of just lapsed,” he says. “The first year we didn’t win too many games, but the second year we certainly improved a lot. We had some tiny women out there playing and they were remarkably good.”

How does Greenaway keep pace with the young players for 80 minutes during a match, 160 minutes when refereeing back-to-back matches? He maintains himself in top physical condition, largely through a good deal of distance running.

“You need to sprint, and you need to keep up with the fastest players and just keep moving,” he says.

Greenaway took a break from refereeing from 1999 to 2004 while he served as Clark’s provost. He didn’t have the time to train and suffered from a bout of plantar fasciitis, a painful inflammation of the connective tissue on the sole of the foot, just as he was scheduled to referee his first international game.

“I just couldn’t do it. I couldn’t run. It was a big disappointment,” he says.

What does Greenaway find so appealing about rugby?

“It’s definitely a team sport. You absolutely can’t do anything by yourself. You learn to rely on other people,” he says. Greenaway notes that he met most of his close friends through rugby.

He appreciates the respect the players have for the referee and the clout the official wields on the field. Greenaway admits most of his chemistry students are aware of his pastime and joke with him that he’s a tough grader because he’s a ref. “I have really high standards,” he says unapologetically.

Staying active in the sport helps keep Greenaway sharp on the field.

“You get a feel for a game; you can sense when things are getting a little tense, when a player’s getting upset. You also know the tricks of the trade, and what is liable to happen. Experience helps a lot. That’s the only reason I can keep doing it at this age,” he laughs.

At 65, Greenaway estimates he’s spent a good half-century devoted to the sport. He’s not deterred that it takes him a bit longer to recover from a match.

“I still enjoy it and I can still keep up,” he says. “So I’ll keep going.”

His love for rugby is pure chemistry
Ah, 1908, when men were men, and women were ... men. In the tradition of the ancient Greeks, members of Le Cercle Francais, which would evolve into the Clark University Players Society, were required to play all the roles — male and female — in their productions, including in the comedy “Edgar et sa bonne” (pictured). The photo leads one to ponder: Which accessory made the greater impact, the wigs or the moustaches?

Dress rehearsal
MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CLARK LEGACY.

4 WAYS

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

2. GET INVOLVED
   Join your class reunion committee. Take part in your regional alumni community. Meet with prospective students in your area. Let us know about LEEP internship opportunities at your workplace, and more.

3. GIVE BACK
   Alumni participation rates in giving help Clark earn support for academic programs from corporations and foundations. Donor participation also impacts Clark’s national rankings.

4. STAY PROUD
   Show your pride anytime, anywhere. Submit a class note for CLARK alumni magazine. Attend University events, or go to a regional alumni event. Buy Clark gear — t-shirts, hats, stickers, mugs — and showcase them. You never know where you’ll meet a fellow Clarkie.

clarkconnect.clarku.edu
Philadelphia Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie ’73 will be the keynote speaker at the May 17 Reunion Weekend Dinner.

ALUMNI WEEKEND MAY 16-19
REUNION 2013

mark your calendars
The weekend will be here before you know it.
#clarkreunion2013