bounty in a box

BRAD MCNAMARA, MBA/ES&P ’13,
UROOTS THE TRADITIONAL FOOD SYSTEM
AS A KID, KEVIN CHERRY ’81 ‘HIT A FEW POINTS’ ON THE BASKETBALL COURT. DID HE EVER.

Kevin was so good in high school that he was recruited to Clark, where he scored over 1,000 career points and helped lead his teams to four straight berths in the NCAA tournament. His name now resides in the Clark University Athletics Hall of Fame.

But success was never automatic. One of seven children of a single mother, Kevin grew up in the Boston housing projects, putting in the hard work that prepared him to seize opportunities when they arose. The breaks he got, he earned.

The life lessons Kevin learned at Clark, the camaraderie he felt, and his enduring connection to the institution spur him to contribute both financially and by serving on the Board of Trustees.

"Clark provided me a quality education, gave me a world of opportunities, and helped inspire me to be the person I am. I’m proud to be a Clarkie."

Your gift to Clark will prove equally inspirational to students looking to excel in their own courts of endeavor, so that one day they can extend the favor to a new generation — an expression of their pride in being Clarkies.

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

College Campuses This Past Year have been witness to demanding conversations, protests and dialogue about race, diversity and inclusion. I applaud the Clark students, staff, faculty and alumni who, through multiple forums and meetings, have ensured that our own campus is part of this important period of reflection and response. Our community is also aware that the searching questions being asked of us today build on an important history of leadership by alumni and friends of Clark.

Issues of diversity and inclusion are integral to Clark University’s mission to educate undergraduate and graduate students to be imaginative and contributing citizens of the world. If we are to empower our graduates to achieve this mission, it is imperative that a Clark student’s education include sustained and productive interactions with people, perspectives and experiences different from their own. To achieve this result, Clark University must be a place where learning from difference is an embedded and intrinsic feature of the educational and campus-life experience.

In many significant ways, Clark is a diverse and inclusive community. Currently 23 percent of our undergraduates are students of color. A further 15 percent of our undergraduates are international students. Our campus is economically diverse. Students of many faiths and traditions are well supported. Tolerance and respect are core values of the institution and these values are stewarded through a variety of curricular and co-curricular initiatives.

At the same time, and like many of our peer institutions, we have much work still to do. What follows are three concerns that Clark is actively addressing as we seek to make diversity and inclusion a mark of excellence for our University. These concerns are not unique to Clark. To the contrary, they are manifest to varying degrees across all colleges and universities. This shared challenge makes Clark’s leadership all the more important as we pursue an inclusive democracy in our country.

The first responsibility is to afford students the immense benefit of studying within a diverse community. We meet this challenge by enrolling students from a wide variety of backgrounds. Over the next five years, we want to build on our recent progress in increasing student diversity. Equally important, we will seek to ensure that all students who enroll at Clark University have the opportunity to flourish and succeed, as measured, for example, by the graduation rates of our students. There are many factors that contribute to student success, including robust programming, excellent advising and faculty mentoring, and a campus culture where all students feel supported and valued for their contributions. We will elevate our work in all of these areas, including through efforts to enhance the diversity of our leadership team, our faculty and our staff who serve as role models and mentors for our students.

A second responsibility is to sustain a thriving and resilient culture of inclusion. Across college campuses, time and again, we hear stories of a lack of understanding or awareness of how our own actions are experienced by others within a diverse community. We need to strengthen the competence of all our community members to support a culture of inclusion as we prepare our graduates to flourish in a diverse economy and society. To meet this need, Clark is putting in place a comprehensive set of student programming, professional development for administration and staff, and faculty-focused workshops within academic departments. The University is also considering ways in which the curriculum might be further developed so that all students who graduate from Clark engage rigorously with issues of diversity and inclusion.

The third challenge facing universities is ensuring that the commitment to diversity and inclusion is built on the values intrinsic to liberal education. These values include a commitment to freedom of inquiry and expression, rigor of analysis in testing claims and assertions, listening and actively seeking out opportunities to learn from those with whom we disagree, and vigorous response to discriminatory practices, along with great care and clarity in defining and responding to acts of hate and oppression. This is not easy work. Not a month goes by without a controversy arising on a university campus where the relationship among these values is tested. However demanding this work may be, it remains the responsibility of universities to demonstrate how to learn from difference and thereby strengthen our whole community.

I am excited by the leadership Clark is already providing in addressing these challenges. As we move forward, we will prepare our graduates to be highly effective leaders in a diverse global society, and as we do so, we will elevate Clark’s reputation as one of this country’s more influential and impactful research universities.

Sincerely,

David P. Angel
President
A drawback of being new to a job is the lack of institutional awareness you bring to it. You don’t know the history, the players, the priorities, or where to get lunch. The only way to change those circumstances is to do your homework.

Prior to coming to Clark I was with a newspaper company for 23 years, most of them as editor. By the end of my tenure not only did I know where the bodies were buried but I knew the contents of their pockets. Metaphorically, of course.

Six years into my position at Clark I feel comfortably conversant with this place, but it’s taken a lot of learning. My teachers have been students, staff, faculty and, most of all, the alumni, who patiently answer my “What was Clark like then?” questions, giving me a cross-generational appreciation for how this University has evolved. I’m building my own institutional memory through their recollections.

Several stories in this issue have me thinking along these lines. The cover piece about Brad McNamara, M.B.A./ES&CP ’13, and Freight Farms, his mobile-agricultural company, involves a subject that’s come full-circle for me. More than three years ago I interviewed Brad, then still a GSOM student, inside a retrofitted shipping container in the parking lot behind the Clark Recycling Center. He and Freight Farms co-founder Jon Friedman had put together a business plan for this so-called Leafy Green Machine and were beginning to show prospective clients the capabilities of growing vegetables using hydroponics and LED lighting. Today, the company is a thriving enterprise with clients all over the country. McNamara’s goal: nothing less than reshaping the food system into one that’s more efficient, eco-friendly and local.

Stanley Gutridge ’45, one year shy of 100, sat with me in his room in a Worcester residential facility and recalled his days on campus in crisp detail (page 44). My favorite story is of him joining forces with fellow student Peg Russell ’46 to bring law and order to the library — located in Jefferson at the time — which had become more of a social hub than a place to study. I told Stanley how the first floor of the Goddard Library is now the Academic Commons, where conversations and group work are the norm, while the upper floors are devoted to quieter pursuits. He was okay with that. In fact, he loved the idea.

Then there’s Al Southwick ’41, M.A. ’49. Al is a longtime journalist and historian of all things Worcester, especially his alma mater. Several years ago Al wrote a wonderful piece for this magazine titled “Jonas & Stanley,” about the often contentious relationship between Clark University founder Jonas Clark and first president G. Stanley Hall.

When Al asked to author a piece in recognition of his class’ 75-year anniversary (page 54), I couldn’t say yes fast enough. As I knew he would, he taught me fresh things about Clark’s past, including the time President Atwood turned out the lights on guest speaker Scott Nearing, a radical socialist, earning Clark unwanted national headlines.

On a cold March afternoon I picked Al up at his house in nearby Leicester and brought him to campus for a photo shoot in front of Jonas Clark Hall. The legs don’t work so well these days, but he was game to be back on familiar ground. Once we had the shots, his attention quickly turned to the new Alumni and Student Engagement Center taking shape across Main Street. Like the good reporter he is, Al had plenty of questions: What’s the timetable for the opening? How will the building be used? Does it connect with the park? At 95, he was still doing his homework. What a privilege for me to be able to provide him with the answers.
Clark University has introduced a website redesign that proves “Challenge Convention. Change our World.” is more than just the school’s motto. Built on the Drupal content management system and using a leading personalization software developed by Acquia, the new site showcases Clark’s renowned research, transformative student learning, exciting campus life and the issues about which the Clark community cares deeply.

Through strong storytelling, vivid imagery and bold design, the site provides clear, colorful — and highly personalized — access to the Clark experience.

Fully responsive across devices, the redesigned site includes key information like Clark’s academic offerings, how to complete the application process and seek financial aid, and ClarkNow and ResearchMatters, which are “content hubs” that present daily news, stories, blogs and social media.

It also highlights what the University calls Passion with a Purpose, areas like Sustainable Environments, Social Justice, and Responsible Leadership, which bring the Clark community together for learning and action — in Clark’s hometown of Worcester, and across the world.

The site also features “My Journey,” an interactive and customizable tool that helps visitors quickly and easily find the information they need.

“It was important for us to create a differentiated experience that captures the essence of the University, and demonstrates the passion, commitment and impact of our students, faculty and alumni in our community and the world,” said Paula David, vice president for Marketing & Communications. “Future students want to know if Clark is a place that shares their values and is where they will feel valued. The new website not only makes it easier for them to get to the information they’re looking for, but also to reach a decision about whether Clark is right for them.”

The current site represents the first phase of an overall redesign of clarku.edu. Phase 2 will include fresh pages devoted to Alumni and Advancement while continuing to demonstrate why Clark makes an impact in the world through academics, research and cause-driven work.

The redesigned website was two years in the making, inspired by input from across Clark’s communities, including students, researchers and faculty, alumni and staff. The Marketing & Communications team also examined other cutting-edge sites in higher ed and incorporated technology at the vanguard of web design.

“The entire site is focused on action and bringing the authentic Clark experience to life,” said Matt Cyr, director of content marketing at Clark. “It marks a real departure from more traditional online experiences in higher education and provides us with new capabilities to interact with and respond to people who are interested in Clark.”

Sarah Cramer, editor-in-chief of the student newspaper The Scarlet, noted the new website’s appeal was about more than its vibrant look.

“It was that I actually knew many of the faces featured on the site,” she wrote. “Some of them are good friends I’ve watched live out the stories represented on the website, while others are people I’ve sat in class with or seen at the gym over these past four years. As opposed to the old site, this new site seems to be telling the Clark story that I am a part of.”

To have Clark University news delivered directly to your inbox, visit clarku.edu/clarknow and clarku.edu/researchmatters and click the “Subscribe” button.
Clarkies took the stage in the wake of tragedy

It was November of 1963. I was a sophomore at Clark and life was opening out for me. As I began to unwind the long thread leading toward my adult life, my sense of future was exhilarating. I would become a psychotherapist, heal myself from the ravages of childhood and learn to help others with my new knowledge.

That autumn we were in rehearsal for Arthur Miller’s “The Crucible.” Though my part, Rebecca Nurse, was relatively small, the role was pivotal. An old crone (no ingénue I), I had to establish myself as a force for wisdom and goodness in Salem, Mass., a village that in 1692 was caught in the monstrous grip of a witch-hunt. Written as an allegory of the McCarthy era’s finger-pointing and destruction of innocent lives, the young girls depicted in Salem became victims of perniciously vicious slander that led to their hangings. My final lines were a commentary on the evil outcome of scapegoating and mass hysteria.

Rehearsals had progressed nicely. Opening night was finally upon us. Several hours before call time, the horrifying news that JFK had been shot in Dallas spread across campus. As Kennedy lay dying, cast, crew and faculty barely gave our performance a thought. The cultural hero of our era was battling for his life in a Texas hospital. In a cinder block common room we called the “smoker” we numbly crowded in front of the dorm’s only TV, a small-screen, black and white set standing on the linoleum floor. We wept together when we heard Walter Cronkite announce the dreaded truth. The handsome king of our nation’s pride had died without ever regaining consciousness.

Shadows gathered on the lawn outside the dorm as the rising tide of shock and grief overwhelmed us. A decision had to be made soon about whether the Clark University Players would open “The Crucible” in a couple of hours. A few of the cast wrenched ourselves away from televisions in several dorms and met up at the student union. I noticed immediately that the jukebox was silent for the first time since I’d arrived at college. Our faculty advisor, Neil Schroeder, a recent Ph.D. from Yale Drama School, was waiting at a Formica table in a corner.

And so the debate began. Most of our small cluster of cast and crew felt it wise to cancel, reasoning that we were in the President’s home state so going on could be seen as particularly disrespectful. When our faculty adviser reserved his opinion, I surprised myself by risking a different idea. “The Crucible,” I ventured, “is about good and evil. It demonstrates how evil is contagious. Uncontained or uncountered, it will spread, infecting society, threatening life, liberty and destroying the constitutional right to pursue happiness. If we play tonight, the show can provide a parallel commentary on America’s tragedy.” I explained that perhaps this collective ritual could be a gift for our community. The vote was taken. To my amazement, we elected to open the show that night.

Like sleepwalkers, we prepared for curtain up. At show time, Atwood Hall was filled to overflowing with silent mourners. The curtain rose. One by one, the young Salem teens on stage were accused, condemned and taken to the gallows. The moment approached for my last ten lines, ending with these words: “There is another judgment waits us all!” As I spoke, I felt as though a lightning bolt was running up and down my spine from below my feet right through my head and back down again. These words were delivered in a deep, otherworldly voice I hardly recognized as my own.

Thirty years after “The Crucible,” at a Clark class reunion, I went to visit the, by then, almost blind Dr. Schroeder in his office on the third floor of the theater. He stood at the front of the large room chatting with other alumni. Suddenly, he interrupted his chat, calling out, “Who is that!? I know that voice!” Squinting, he repeated, “I know that voice! Is it Nancy Helman?”

Amazed, I stepped up close to him. “Yes. It’s Nancy. I’m here to thank you for a decision you made many years ago. I wonder if you know what it was.” Without skipping a beat, the aging professor said, “I think I do know. I allowed the cast leeway to open ‘The Crucible’ the night Kennedy was killed.”

“Thank you so much,” I said. “I’ve come to tell you how much I appreciate you. I now also realize how much you, not being tenured yet, were risking. You allowed us to make a decision which, at the time, was unusual and risky.”

“You are most welcome,” he answered. “And, thank you as well.”

Nancy Helman Shneiderman ’66
Berkeley, Calif.

Postscript: The above piece was written spontaneously months before I learned of Dr. Schroeder’s passing (see page 52). He was, like Rebecca Nurse, a quiet force for good.
Dr. Markle’s brilliance

As one student who was lucky enough to take a philosophy course with Dr. Gil Markle (In Memoriam, Fall 2015), I would like to bear witness to what can only be described as his brilliance. It would be easy to attribute his popularity to his good looks, charisma, the guests he hosted at Long View Farm, or even that navy blue Jag convertible he used to drive. But that would sell short the intellectual rigor, depth and standards he brought to his students at Clark.

Dr. Markle had an unyielding commitment to broadening his students’ horizons. He required critical thinking and did not tolerate anything less. He challenged us to meet the highest of criteria. His lectures were unforgettable performances, the likes of which I have never seen equaled in a classroom or speaker series since. He taught us to think outside the box before that phrase became a cliché. He approached his teaching as he saw it — part artist, actor, psychologist and salesman, he delivered all those things and more. Some of his lectures were multimedia events, but even without the bells and whistles he was riveting. He raised our expectations of ourselves through every interaction that we had with him. I remember once when our class was discussing death he stated that we all find it difficult to imagine life going on without us after we pass.

Indeed, professor. Indeed.

Ann Stanizzo Navon ’74
Swampscott, Mass.

Noah’s Clark bond

Noah Gordon has an even closer connection to Clark University (CLARK, Fall 2015). He married me! I was a Clark freshman when we met, and he was a familiar face on campus until my graduation. With or without the plug for Noah’s book, I enjoy reading the Clark alumni magazine.

Lorraine Seay Gordon ’51
Dedham, Mass.

Clark Newsmakers

THE CLARK COMMUNITY continues its worthy — and newsworthy — activities, with members regularly featured or mentioned in media reports around the world. Visit clarku.edu/clarknow for an archive with summaries and links. Here is a recent sampling:

U.S. News & World Report: Clark University’s pioneering model of higher education earned attention in the magazine’s “Best Colleges” guide: “Founded in 1887 as a graduate school, Clark University today is known for combining a liberal arts undergraduate education with hands-on, real-world learning. Clark recently has packaged that approach as LEEP for Liberal Education and Effective Practice, which focuses on getting students to put their knowledge into action and gain the capabilities employers seek through research, internships, service projects and study abroad.”


The Wall Street Journal: James Córdova (psychology) was featured in a popular column on couples’ “performance reviews.” The article resulted in coverage in a wide number of news outlets, including Psychology Today, Cosmopolitan, Good Housekeeping, Yahoo! Finance, MSN Lifestyle, Fox News and The Independent (London).

U.S. News & World Report: Ora Szekely (political science) was quoted in the story “After Paris and Planned Parenthood, a Fear of the Unknown.”

The Boston Globe: Adriane van Gils-Pierce, Clark’s director of study abroad and study away programs, provided comment for the article “Study abroad programs show durability in the age of terrorism.”

The Atlantic: Gary Chaison (industrial relations) remained a top source for business media, with his comments prominently featured in The Atlantic (“What Would It Take for the Economy to Be More Fair?”), Marketplace on NPR (“Everybody’s got an opinion on why wages are stuck”), and Bloomberg News.

The New York Times: James McCarthy (geography) offered his opinions on the Oregon standoff, also in VOX news and The Hill.

MSN.com: Robert Boatright (political science) commented in the story “Provocation, vitriol are Trump strategies, analysts say,” which also appeared in Yahoo! News and other media.

The Hill: Archivist Fordyce Williams described the Robert H. Goddard Collection at Clark for the “Cities Tour,” which also included interviews with history professors Ousmane Power-Greene and Janette Greenwood.


NPR: Film critic Bob Mondello offered some perspective on the box office success of the newest “Star Wars” movie, noting, at the time of his writing that “Gone With the Wind” is still the champ when figures are adjusted for inflation. Of course, moviegoers never had so much choice as they do today. “When I went to Clark University, there were two — count ’em, TWO — movie screens anywhere near our campus in Worcester, Mass., and for very nearly my entire freshman year — and believe me, I remember this — one of them was playing ‘Doctor Zhivago.’ The other was playing ‘Sound of Music.’”
Student research earns the city’s respect

When it comes to taking on some of the tougher issues in the community, Worcester has long had an ally in Clark University. Student research done in the city contributes vital information and also helps inform public policy.

And it starts early. In the first year, to be exact.

In the fall semester, six student-run teams in Professor Marianne Sarkis’ First-Year Intensive course, “Healthy Cities,” addressed two urban health issues — opioid abuse and sexual exploitation — and emerged with proposals to help Worcester combat these problems. The city’s Division of Public Health and the Worcester Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation commissioned the projects.

“I designed the class with a focus on quantitative reasoning and analytical skills, and I wanted the students to see that every piece of data tells a story,” said Sarkis, assistant professor of international development and social change. “A survivor of sexual exploitation and a public health outreach worker sat in on the class and advised students on their projects. The students heard the stories behind the data and theories. They saw how what they were doing in class could directly and almost immediately impact the community. It was a very powerful experience.”

The students “wove together a powerful narrative about urban health and health disparities,” she said. They presented their findings and recommendations to the Worcester Division of Public Health on Dec. 7.

To address Worcester’s opioid issues, Eric Keller ’19 and Elisabeth Wichser ’19 used GIS technology to “map” the city’s heroin abuse so that health experts, city councilors and the public could understand the impact on various neighborhoods and demographic groups.

Research by Keegan Daugherty ’19 already may be influencing the city’s decision-making, in part because of her internship with Matilde Castiel, M.D., Worcester’s commissioner of health and human services. Only two months into her first semester at Clark, Daugherty appeared before the Board of Health to present research and advocate for a needle-exchange program in Worcester. Research shows that needle-exchange programs can decrease risky behaviors and transmission of HIV and hepatitis C, as well as connect drug users to counseling and treatment, Daugherty told health officials.

“It was incredible to see a college freshman make this presentation as she did,” Castiel said. “She has a passion for public health, and it shows.”

Talking points

Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren delivered the March 14 Lee Gurel ’48 Lecture, stressing the federal government’s role in providing an equitable education to all children. In a follow-up press conference in the basement of Atwood Hall, the media peppered her with questions about whom she’d endorse for president, or if she’d consider accepting the vice president’s role. Warren wasn’t biting. “I love the job I have,” she said.
Remembering Myra

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft was the guest of honor at the Dec. 8 ribbon-cutting for the Myra Hiatt Kraft Footbridge in Worcester’s Elm Park, named in honor of his late wife. The rebuilt footbridge is an iconic element of the park, which was designed by the renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, best known as the father of New York’s Central Park. The December ceremony carried a distinct Clark resonance, as Myra Kraft once served as a Clark trustee, and her father, Jacob Hiatt ’46, made gifts that established both the Jacob Hiatt Center for Urban Education and the Frances L. Hiatt School of Psychology at Clark University.

Yes, a new “Star Wars” movie opened this past year and caused the appropriate sensation. But while the rest of the world was reuniting with Han Solo and Princess Leia, here in a galaxy close, close to home, Clark students were flexing their own science fiction muscles. On Dec. 8 in Razzo Hall, students from Professor Stéphanie Larrieux’s advanced-level digital filmmaking course presented their short film “Formative Terran Project,” shot entirely on campus on a micro-budget, but with one distinct benefit: students experienced the rewarding, sometimes terrifying, process of crafting an original movie on a tight timeline. Written, prepped, shot and edited in 15 weeks, the 11-minute film imagines a futuristic world complete with a robot who engages in hand-to-hand combat, a virtual-reality voice with attitude and a running theme about what truly constitutes a utopian society.

Aspiring filmmaker Jamie Lara ’16 noted: “It’s very rare that in a class you get to have a dry run for what you want to do with the rest of your life.”
Henry always had time for Clark

ANY ALUMNI HOLD deep affection for Clark University years after they leave campus with diploma in hand.

Then there was Henry Ciborowski ’50.

Ciborowski, who passed away Feb. 6 at the age of 90, left a legacy of passion for his alma mater that included leadership roles in numerous Clark organizations and a record of dedicated attendance at basketball games, reunions, and just about any other occasion where Clarkies gather.

But one thing always bothered Henry about his University: when he looked at Jonas Clark Hall he knew something was missing. In the summer of 1924, a violent storm had caved in a portion of the JCH roof and clock tower. The administration, fearful of a recurrence, later rebuilt the tower at less than half its former height, leaving only a single clock face rather than the four the tower once boasted (two are visible in this vintage photo). By the time Henry was on campus, the original clockworks, crafted by renowned clock maker Seth Thomas, were long gone.

His search for a replacement included clambering up a rickety 40-foot ladder to investigate the clock tower of the nearby Whittall Mill with his old friend Tom Dolan ’62, M.A.Ed. ’63. “He went up that ladder like a teenager. I was shaking in my boots,” Dolan recalls.

An avid and knowledgeable antiques hunter, Henry eventually tracked down and purchased the clockworks in Maine, then donated them to Clark.

Why go through all that trouble and expense? “The answer is simple, says Dolan. “He loved this place.”
Roommates Sam Kennedy ’18 (l.) and Samson Martin ’18 have been to the mountaintop (okay, it was a bunny slope), but it’s their descent that put them in the record books.

On Feb. 6 the pair earned Clark University the title of Fastest College Team at the U.S. National Toboggan Championships in Camden, Maine. It’s the second consecutive year Clark has taken home gold — last year Sam competed alongside his father, Doug, under the Clark banner. The unseasonably warm temperatures forced teams to shift their strategy. “Samson and I made some adjustments to our sled and sort of winged it,” Sam says. “Even though we had a relatively slow run overall, we managed to finish faster than the other colleges.”

Clark was ready for its close-up

When C-SPAN camera crews arrived in October to explore Worcester’s rich legacy for its Cities Tour series, they made sure to pay a visit to Clark University. Because, as C-SPAN discovered, there’s no history quite like Clark history.

The producers were particularly fascinated by the story of Robert Hutchings Goddard, M.A. 1910, Ph.D. 1911, the Clark physics professor who would become known as the father of modern rocketry. A crew spent nearly an entire day with Clark archivist Fordyce Williams, who had prepared a display from the University’s extensive Goddard Collection, which featured journals and diaries, letters, papers, photos, scientific equipment and even a nose cone designed for an early rocket test.

Correspondences on display included an exchange between Goddard and the author who inspired him, H.G. Wells. The C-SPAN crew was thrilled to see the first book that went to the moon — a special-edition miniature autobiography of Goddard that was carried aboard Apollo 11 by Buzz Aldrin, whose father, Edwin Sr., graduated from Clark in 1915.

Clark’s time in the spotlight also included interviews with Clark history professors Janette Greenwood and Ousmane Power-Greene. C-SPAN aired its two-part program on Worcester in December. Watch the segments at c-span.org.

A champion in our midst

When people hear the term “kung fu” they likely envision a furious Bruce Lee movie or the gladiatorial combat of an MMA bout. If so, they are missing out on the poetic grace and fluid dexterity of a practitioner like Cheyenne Lachapelle ’19, who has made martial arts her passion. Cheyenne not only has the heart of a champion, she has the trophy to prove it: in the fall, the Clark first-year student successfully defended her title at the 5th Annual New England Chinese Martial Arts Championship, taking first place in the Traditional Northern Women category.

Clark was ready for its close-up

A champion in our midst

Roommates Sam Kennedy ’18 (l.) and Samson Martin ’18 have been to the mountaintop (okay, it was a bunny slope), but it’s their descent that put them in the record books. On Feb. 6 the pair earned Clark University the title of Fastest College Team at the U.S. National Toboggan Championships in Camden, Maine. It’s the second consecutive year Clark has taken home gold — last year Sam competed alongside his father, Doug, under the Clark banner. The unseasonably warm temperatures forced teams to shift their strategy. “Samson and I made some adjustments to our sled and sort of winged it,” Sam says. “Even though we had a relatively slow run overall, we managed to finish faster than the other colleges.”
COUNTRY MUSIC STAR GARTH BROOKS performed at Worcester's DCU Center in February, but he didn't leave town before making a pit stop at the Kneller Athletic Center. Brooks visited Clark to cheer on the kids participating in his Teammates ProCamps football clinic, which was free to children from Worcester and the surrounding towns. Brooks was joined by New England Patriots offensive lineman Nate Solder, several hundred aspiring players, and a gaggle of iPhone-wielding parents angling for the perfect photo of the singer.

Friends in Clark places

Benchley backdrop

A DISPATCH FROM the
Who Knew?! Department: The former home of Worcester native and famed humorist Robert Benchley (1889-1945) once stood at the very Main Street location of Clark’s new Alumni and Student Engagement Center. Benchley, a prominent writer for The New Yorker and Vanity Fair, and later an Oscar-winning short-film director, may be best known as a founding member of The Algonquin Round Table, the celebrated group of New York City wits and intellectuals whose often vicious wisecracks became staples of popular culture throughout the 1920s. Another Benchley, Robert’s grandson Peter, found his own share of acclaim as the author of the bestselling novel “Jaws.” The Benchley house was torn down in the 1970s to make way for a parking lot that served St. Peter’s Church for many years.
Building a better leg

Dynamical jamming might sound like a music craze, but it’s actually cutting-edge technology that one day might enhance the fit of prosthetic limbs. Arshad Kudrolli, professor of physics at Clark, is working in conjunction with Harvard University colleague Chris Rycroft to determine what kinds of granular materials will make a prosthetic limb most comfortable for wear. The research team is investigating whether “dynamically jammed” materials, which are not of uniform shape and size and therefore fit together at odd angles, supply more durability as they are locked together under pressure. The researchers hope their experiments will lead to the creation of a more comfortable pad that fits between a person’s natural limb and prosthetic. “The idea is that the more jumbled they are, the better they will hold their strength,” Kudrolli says of the dynamically jammed particles. “If the material is jammed better, then you can put more stress on it, and it will hold its shape for a longer period of time.” The team is now seeking funding for the next round of research.

FROM THE PODIUM

Boston’s high tide
Sometimes you let the water in. So noted Julie Wormser, executive director of the Boston Harbor Association, as she addressed the issue of coastal urban flooding during a lecture hosted by the Higgins School of Humanities. Wormser said keeping sea water from encroaching into Boston will be more difficult as sea levels rise. A workable alternative is to create resilient designs of waterfront properties, including instituting “transitional zones” to absorb floodwaters and elevating vulnerable resources. “Boston will be different,” she said. “But it doesn’t have to be worse.”

Listen to yourself
Transgender rights activist Janet Mock packed Jefferson 320 for an incisive Q&A moderated by Higgins School of Humanities Director Amy Richter. Mock traced her personal and professional journey as journalist, best-selling author and popular TV host, and discussed her role as activist for LBGTQ issues. She offered insight into the unique challenges and vulnerabilities of marginalized and misunderstood groups. “The best thing you can do is listen to yourself and shut out the voices that constantly try to reboot the truths you may be afraid to recognize,” she said, drawing applause from the audience.

Fuel for change
Joseph “Yossie” Hollander, founder and chairman of the Fuel Freedom Foundation, paid a special visit to Clark in October to screen his organization’s documentary, “Pump.” The film chronicles the United States’ century-old addiction to oil, advanced by the collection of corporations known as Big Oil with the assent of the government. “Pump” explores alternatives to oil and gas that are working in other countries. “It’s about our love for the car, and how we’re being taken for a ride,” said Hollander in his introductory remarks. “The film is not against oil; it’s more about us.”

Doing what’s right
Robert Farris Moses received a standing ovation before he uttered a word. The raucous reception greeting Moses as he took the Razzo Hall stage to deliver the Oct. 8 President’s Lecture was a display of deep appreciation for the life and career of the prominent Civil Rights leader, who defied the violent racism of early-1960s Mississippi to register black voters. Moses cautioned that the country is moving backward in several areas as the Supreme Court appears to be trying to institute another era in which states’ rights supersede those established by the federal government.

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BRAD McNAMARA (R.) WITH BUSINESS PARTNER JON FRIEDMAN OUTSIDE A LEAFY GREEN MACHINE.
Behind the closed doors of the nondescript trailer in a city parking lot, leafy lettuces and bushy herbs sprout from vertical rows of gutter-like panels. The plants are fed nutrient-rich water while dangling strands of blue and red LED lights bathe them in an otherworldly pink glow.

There is no tractor. No barn. Not even soil. Yet by any definition this is a farm, one that will yield a harvest year-round, regardless of the season. The agricultural operation requires no special skills — just a willingness to embrace technology, and an awareness that a food source existing right outside your door is a pathway toward individual health and collective sustainability.

It’s called a Freight Farm, and it’s agronomy for a new age.
Freight Farms is a blooming business with roots at Clark University. Six years ago, co-founders Brad McNamara, M.B.A./ES&P ’13, and Jon Friedman prototyped a hydroponics farm, which they dubbed the Leafy Green Machine, in the parking lot behind Clark’s Recycling Center.

Their goal was to create local, mobile food economies by marrying environmentalism with entrepreneurial vision under the philosophy that sustainability is not a side line, it’s the bottom line.

Today, Freight Farms supplies 40-foot shipping containers retrofitted to grow vegetables and herbs in any location and climate. The company has sold more than 50 rigs across North America, most of them to customers with no farming experience but who see the value of a steady supply of fresh, readily accessible produce for their restaurants, college campuses, hospitals and food-themed start-ups. Google’s campus in Mountain View, Calif., feeds its employees from a Leafy Green Machine.

Freight Farms was bred from its founders’ dissatisfaction with the inefficient and wasteful process of transporting food from grower to consumer, sometimes across the globe. McNamara and Friedman aim to decentralize the food supply chain, bring production closer to the consumer, and dramatically lessen the environmental impact of the farm-to-table journey. “The food system is in need of modernization,” McNamara insists. “We are reducing the problem by reducing the miles.”

They are also using social media to form virtual farming communities. Rather than meeting at the Grange to talk shop, folks log on to Freight Farms’ private Facebook group to learn how others have handled challenges or achieved success from growing crops in a container. McNamara wants his farmers to feel freed up by their farms, not restricted.

“We chose Facebook because everyone’s on Facebook,” he says. “It’s not another thing they have to learn. We want to build tools that empower farmers, not things to make us cool.”

Headquartered on the edge of Boston’s Seaport District, Freight Farms features an on-site container that is a living lab where staffers conduct research on crops and yields, then relay that information to farmers, according to Caroline Katsioubas, the company’s community manager. Potential farmers participate in a two-day “farm camp” to learn how to operate the system. Green thumbs aren’t required. “Motivation is the number-one skill needed to grow their own food,” Katsioubas says.

David DuBois, CEO of Franklin Restaurant Group, anticipates the reliability and consistency his Freight Farm will offer his soon-to-open Tasty Burger restaurant in Boston. He plans to place a Leafy Green Machine atop his restaurant. “I can walk upstairs, grab some lettuce and put it on a burger,” he says. “It’s such an efficient tool.”

The desire for reliable year-round farming in places known for tough growing conditions is not lost on McNamara. He says the pressure on growers and distributors is increasing as the public develops a keener interest in locally grown food. Years ago, he notes, consumers expected less variety and poorer quality in the dead of winter. Now they demand the best, no matter the date on the calendar. “We want our salads in February and we want them to be good,” McNamara says. “At the end of the day, we have to grow high-quality food.”
Nick Pagan ’15, pictured in the Clark Cafeteria, holds a basket of lettuce he harvested from the University’s Freight Farm.
Even before he arrived at Clark to pursue dual master’s degrees in business and environmental science, McNamara had been experimenting with growing vegetables. Both he and Friedman had done consulting around rooftop greenhouse development and also were intrigued by hydroponics. McNamara notes that farmers have long figured out how to make do with available resources, finding what works in the face of unpredictable weather, pest infestations and a host of other obstacles. “When you give farmers a piece of equipment, they will get every ounce of value out of that equipment,” he says.

McNamara began to immerse himself in the science of growing, and was surprised to observe that as the New England temperatures cooled his windowsill crops continued to thrive. “My indoor lettuce was growing so much better,” he says. “I thought ‘This is crazy!’ and then became excited about the flexibility of controlled growing. The reason I was so enthralled wasn’t because I loved farming, it was because I liked the fresh lettuce and cucumbers I harvested that day.”

McNamara and Friedman launched a successful Kickstarter campaign to purchase a shipping container. They worked with Jenny Isler, Clark’s director of sustainability, who offered resources, advice and encouragement, and brought in student Eco-reps as volunteers. She also made the key donation of a parking spot on Maywood Street, behind the Recycling Center, to provide a home for that first container. Few knew that the two men entering and exiting the trailer were building a new model for automated agriculture.

The business partners spent six months building, dismantling and rebuilding at least five different versions of a Leafy Green Machine — “We tried every configuration,” recalls McNamara — before perfecting the systems and structures that evolved into Freight Farms. Among their earliest customers was Clark’s student-run food co-op, The Local Root.

How does a Freight Farm work?

Seeds are planted in peat moss “grow plugs,” and as they bud they are transplanted into recycled plastic mesh that is inserted into the growing towers. The towers are hung from hooks connected to a system that continually recirculates water. A high-efficiency LED lighting system mimics sunlight.

Hydroponics in itself is not new, but Freight Farms is wired for the 21st century. Environmental sensors balance temperature, humidity and carbon dioxide levels. With an internet connection users can monitor their operation anywhere in the world via computer. An iOS app makes it possible to adjust all the farm’s environmental components remotely.

As many as 7,500 plants can be grown in the 320 square feet of space in a Freight Farms trailer. According to the company, a Leafy Green Machine will produce the equivalent yield of an acre of farmland while using 90 percent less water and no pesticides.

All farmers begin growing with a standard protocol, making adjustments as their operation advances. That flexibility is key. Once a farmer has established a system, crops are staggered for a consistent harvest.

Ryan Sweeney’s Minneapolis-based business, Localize LLC, operates two Freight Farms. Sweeney had no agricultural background, but knew there was opportunity in growing 365 days a year. “I built a business around it,” he says. Now selling basil directly to grocers, Sweeney says the longest his basil sits on a shelf is three and a half to four days from harvest. “If you’re getting it from the growers in California, it won’t even get to the shelf in that time.”

Freight Farms has come full circle at Clark University. The scruffy two-man startup, which is now a thriving enterprise of 17 employees and counting, has reestablished its presence on campus.

On January 15, the University, in partnership with its Dining Services vendor Sodexo, received delivery of a Leafy Green Machine behind the Lasry Center for Bioscience. The farm provides Clark with fresh lettuce — about the most widely consumed vegetable at the University — whether two feet of snow blankets the ground or the thermometer hits three digits. Eventually, other plants like chives, basil and cilantro may be incorporated into the mix, according to Michael Newmark, general manager of Dining Services. Other options can include leafy
greens like kale, cabbage and Swiss chard; and herbs like mint and oregano.

Students are like any other consumers, Newmark says. “They’re demanding more and more locally sourced produce,” he says. “Having a Freight Farm on campus enables us to serve fresh lettuce in our dining operations the same day it’s harvested. Local now means right on campus.”

Clark’s interest in Freight Farms is about more than McNamara’s involvement. In 2013 the University signed onto the Real Food Challenge, committing to use 20 percent “real food” — food that is local/community-based, and ecologically and humanely raised — by 2020. New England’s seasonal variations mean Clark can’t just order the 500 heads of lettuce it requires every week from local growers, Isler says. The new Freight Farm, which Clark has leased for eight months, will likely go through one or two crop rotations to see if it’s suitable for a long-term investment, she notes.

Freight Farm production at Clark serves many purposes, including as a learning lab that demonstrates food can be grown in places otherwise inhospitable to farming. Once the Leafy Green Machine was made operational, graduate students Kamalan Chandran, M.S.I.T. ’16, and Rebecca Miller ’15, ES&P ’16, tended the plants daily and harvested the lettuce weekly. Coincidentally, Miller worked with McNamara and Friedman on the early Freight Farms prototype when she was an undergraduate.

“The best part of this is to bring it home,” Isler says. “The idea that this is an urban alternative for fresh and healthy food is huge.”

Jon Olinto, co-owner of b.good restaurants, formed a partnership with the owner of a Leafy Green Machine to have kale at his Boston locations during the colder months. In the summer, the restaurant will turn to traditional farmers for kale, but he hopes to use the hydroponics space for more delicate and less common greens like mache.

Olinto says having access to fresh kale in winter is wonderful, and he coaches his employees to understand the importance of the sourcing. “It’s pretty simple,” he says. “If you want someone to care about something, you show it to them, and then they can explain it to our customers.”

McNamara expects to see Freight Farms growers begin disrupting food distribution patterns. As he sees it, local distributors can rely less on what the larger food brokers offer, and now have the flexibility to develop specific relationships with farmers based on needs and demands.

“It would flip distribution on its head, where the local becomes the go-to,” he says. “There’s no denying the impact if we can stay in the community, keep food local and create food independence. We want the focus to be on the farmers and the people they’re feeding.”

Prof. Laurie Ross ’91, M.A. ’95, with Dayanara Negron and her daughter, Jediah Russell, outside the Main South Community Development Corporation.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATT HEALEY
CLARK + WORCESTER = COMMUNITY

THREE WAYS (OF MANY) THAT CLARK UNIVERSITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE CITY
The professors and students in Clark’s Community Development and Planning program learn from and work alongside members of the very community they want to transform. Their research not only pursues solutions to problems besetting urban neighborhoods, but also helps governments and nonprofits aspire to a more socially just world.

Associate Professor Ramón Borges-Méndez coordinates the graduate CDP program, part of the Department of International Development, Community and Environment (IDCE). He has also facilitated Clark’s involvement with the Boston Fed’s Working Cities Challenge in Worcester, which will design a workforce development strategy for the city’s food-driven economy. Part of a Boston Fed/Living Cities initiative, the project is also seeking to create a network of business-support services for ethnic restaurants and food retailers in Worcester’s commercial corridors, particularly in Main South. Borges-Méndez authored the project’s abstract, which was vetted by 21 local organizations and the Office of the City Manager, and he has collaborated with a host of local agencies as well as Worcester State College and Quinsigamond Community College.

Sixty percent of Working Cities would be dedicated to creating infrastructure and support to cultivate job and career-development opportunities for disadvantaged workers in the food-service industry. A specific piece involves developing a culturally competent platform for the city’s Inspectional Services, to make sure that ethnic restaurant owners understand what is required of them, Borges-Méndez explains. Other initiatives include culinary and food preparation workshops, and “A Taste of Main South,” modeled after the annual Taste of Worcester event where people can sample food from many restaurants.

The Working Cities Challenge project “presents a set of opportunities for students to connect with internships, directed studies, and field research,” Borges-Méndez says. It also fosters a “network of innovation” between the university and community.

CDP professors include alumni of the program. That’s intentional: CDP forges ties among faculty, students, projects, alumni, practitioners and the city. Clark alumni are a very important force at City Hall.

The program links Clark students with organizations in Worcester and beyond, and attracts resources. A proposal-writing
course taught by Professor Dorothy Swope that matches students to city nonprofits has accumulated more than $250,000 in grants for those organizations, Borges-Méndez says.

Along with Borges-Méndez, Associate Professor Laurie Ross ’91, M.A. ’95, and full-time lecturer Prof. Kathryn Madden are the core CPD professors. Madden recently taught a project-based course on the intersection of economic and community development in Worcester. “I want to make sure my students know they can make a difference by generating ideas and framing a problem — that you can change the direction of things,” she says.

As a Clark graduate student working with the Worcester Family Research Project, Ross was part of a team that followed approximately 400 families over several years to examine the causes and effects of poverty and homelessness on women and children.

“The babies had a perfectly normal distribution of intelligence,” Ross recalls. “Over time, we saw the older kids were skewed toward lower achievement and lower ability. That’s what showed me the effect of poverty on children’s development, and got me most interested in the connection between youth and community development.”

For ten years, Clark has been the research partner of Worcester’s Senator Charles E. Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative, which provides legislative funding to reduce gang violence across Massachusetts. Ross and her students have identified persistent trends of violence concentrated among African-American and Latino men. “The question was: If we’ve invested this much over the last six years, why are these trends continuing?” she says.

Her Needs Assessment and Practicum classes pursued an answer, first performing a comprehensive assessment of youth violence in Worcester and then using their findings as the basis for a series of community dialogues and meetings. “We now have a plan that’s in the process of being implemented, addressing the factors we found were driving violence,” Ross says.

The assessment found that about 30 percent of men most often involved in violence in Worcester had their first experience with police before the age of 12, often as a victim or as a witness to violence in their home. Further, at least 30 percent of those men also have their own children, which means family-focused early intervention.
intervention is needed to address the cyclical aspects of violence.

This spring, 400 Worcester police officers are receiving training from the University of Massachusetts Medical Center's Child Trauma Training Center — a recommendation resulting from the Shannon research. The goal, Ross says, is to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and families so that police intervention in what is typical adolescent behavior does not necessarily result in an arrest. “How can we divert these kids away from the juvenile justice system?” she says. “That’s a big part of what we’re trying to do.”

The assessment performed by Ross and her students came at the behest of Worcester Police Sergeant Miguel Lopez, M.P.A. ’01, manager of the city’s Shannon grant and the Safe & Successful Youth program. Lopez says the resulting plan, the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative, addresses the various sources of youth violence in the city.

“Laurie is incredibly well-respected and trusted by the command staff and chief,” Lopez says. “She has the ability to see multiple perspectives. And she didn’t just create the plan and walk away; she’s helping to implement it.”

In 2000, Ross became director of Worcester’s Hope Coalition, which works to reduce youth violence and substance use and promote positive adolescent mental health. Her first task was to recruit peer leaders to perform a youth needs assessment from which she developed a 14-week Youth Worker Training Institute, which she later brought to Clark.

Ross’s efforts have culminated in the IDCE’s newly created Certificate in Youth Work Practice. The program offers classes in nonprofit management, program evaluation and grant writing, and more.

“Worcester’s violence rate is quite low for a city of its size,” she says. “We have a very strong prevention sector. The more we can do to build the capacity of grassroots organizations, the less likely kids are going to fall through the cracks.”

INNOVATION EDUCATION
BY JULIA QUINN-SZCESUI ‘90

A unique group of schools in the Main South neighborhood, in close partnership with Clark University, is drawing attention for its laser-sharp focus on student needs.

The Innovation Schools neighborhood partnership, the first of its kind in Massachusetts, offers a new approach that allows schools to operate with more freedom and personalization.

“This is a pre-K-16, cradle-to-college approach,” says Ricci Hall ’97, M.A.Ed. ’98, principal of Claremont Academy. “It speaks not just to academic success, but the success of the whole child — social, emotional and career. This is bigger than the content we can teach them.”

Within close proximity to each other in the Main South neighborhood, Woodland Academy, Goddard School of Science and Technology, University Park Campus School and Claremont Academy implement promising new ideas and foster the autonomy that is a hallmark for any innovation school. Employing a layered mix of tailored educational approaches, community support, dedicated faculty and staff, and tenacious students with an eye toward success, these schools foster a dream of college education and turn it into a reality.

The principals of all four schools are Clark alumni. In addition to Hall are Daniel St. Louis ’00, M.Ed.’01, principal of University Park Campus School; Patricia Padilla ’95, M.A.Ed. ’99, principal of Woodland Academy; and Yuisa Perez-Chionchio, M.A.T. ’03, principal of Goddard School.

The Innovation Schools collaboration allows local students to take Clark courses and use campus facilities while still in high school. In turn, Clark students work at the schools as teacher interns and volunteers.

Claremont and University Park Campus School, both grades 7-12 schools, strive to qualify all students for college (including Clark, where they can attend tuition-free). UPCS has led the way in Main South for more than a decade, with almost all students qualifying for and attending college for at least two years. Claremont is following a similar path — all students from the class of 2015 were accepted into postsecondary education. Given the challenges many of these students face — financial, language-related, cultural — the numbers are impressive.

Clark’s long history of educational collaboration with Worcester Public Schools was launched with the 1997 opening of the University Park Campus School, the crown jewel of the University Park Partnership formed in 1995 between Clark and the city of Worcester to foster a vibrant Main South community. When the state introduced legislation in 2010 to provide for innovation schools, the Clark cluster already had begun to form.
“Part of the theory of action for UPCS was that the school could serve as a stabilizing force to keep people in the neighborhood,” says Thomas Del Prete, director of the Adam Institute for Urban Teaching and School Practice at Clark. “Education is a key part of rebuilding the neighborhood, and the Innovation Schools partnership is a key example of how neighborhood schools can work together to create a real educational opportunity for kids who need it.”

St. Louis says the teaching methods employed by innovation schools are not new in Main South. “Schools like us are taking the kids they have in front of them and innovating around those kids.”

St. Louis, who taught at UPCS as a Clark undergrad, says even before receiving the official Innovation Schools designation, University Park had found its groove. “When the legislation came through for us, it codified what we had been developing for a decade or so.”

The students, who are nearly all the first in their families to attend college, find the barrier to higher education isn’t as high as they imagined. By the time junior year rolls around, college seems like a logical step.

Innovation schools give their administration more flexibility within the school district’s standards and allow for more autonomy in specific areas like hiring, curriculum, budgeting and scheduling. For instance, an innovation school can redirect funds from one area to another to meet a need, says Hall. “We have been working for years now to position the schools in the immediate neighborhood to work in concert and build a pre-K-through-college education campus and corridor,” says Del Prete. “This is a neighborhood approach, not simply an individual school partnership approach. It’s building the sense that college is a normal aspiration and a goal for the kids in the neighborhood that is reachable and achievable.”

The process is made easier because the schools are so close to Clark University. Students from Goddard and Woodland, both elementary schools, funnel into Claremont and UPCS, where they have opportunities few urban students have — namely to feel a genuine sense of connection to a college campus. Visitors from across the country come to Clark to see how the partnership works and use the school’s model to inform their own approaches, reinforcing Del Prete’s belief that what is happening on the local scale will inform the national conversation.

While the curriculum, the budgeting, and the nitty-gritty details are the basis for innovation, it’s the way those details take shape in the school setting that makes the
difference, Hall says. The approach considers the students’ needs as they move toward adulthood. They need the book smarts, but they also need to be able to work on teams, to ask questions, and to take the diverse and specific culture of Main South with them on their journey.

St. Louis says the schools constantly renegotiate the best balance for their students. Staff debate standardized testing, and approaches to grammar and math to ensure they spark motivation in the classroom. “You’ve got to find out what is going to work for those kids,” he says. “You need to inspire them to see a better path for themselves that leads to something great. Our job as teachers, leaders, secretaries and custodians is to hold these kids to something better. That’s the innovation part.”

Both the University and the four local schools take their bond seriously. “Clark feels like they are us and we feel like we are Clark,” says St. Louis. “Our kids know they have a college path in place for them, and the partnership ensures that. There’s perseverance on the part of the schools to give the message that we will never give up on you.”

A low hum of chatter fills the dining room of the Worcester Senior Center as Anita Fábos describes the findings of Shared Worlds, a research project exploring the relationships between the city’s native-born and foreign-born residents.

But the voices buzzing throughout the room aren’t being rude — they are communicating. While Fábos speaks, five interpreters instantly translate her words for the non-English speakers in the audience.

Fábos, associate professor of international development and social change at Clark, and her research partner Cheryl Hamilton ’01, director of partner engagement at the International Institute of New England, note that language differences can impede relationships between natives of the United States and those who came from other countries. Most of the more than 100 people in attendance nod their heads.

A significant number of these people arrived here under difficult circumstances. More than 2,200 immigrants have resettled in Worcester as refugees, escaping war, persecution, and natural disasters in countries that include Iraq, Burma, Bhutan and, most recently, Syria. The city’s refugee population comprises just over 1 percent of the total population, but Worcester has taken in more refugees than any other city in Massachusetts.

Clark University works closely with three Worcester agencies — Ascentria Care Alliance, the Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center, and Catholic Charities — to provide guidance and research as the agencies help newly relocated refugees, or “forced migrants,” deal with issues like enrolling their children in school and finding a doctor.

“We have worked with [these agencies] to help them better understand what affects the path refugees take toward livelihood in Worcester: what are the issues, similarities and differences between different populations as they strive to find work and plan for their financial and family future,” Fábos says. Assistant Professor Marianne Sarkis has done work on health care and health expectations for incoming populations, while Associate Professor Jude Fernando works...
with community partners on microfinance projects, such as entrepreneurial pathways to business and employment opportunities for refugees.

Another project has brought Clark students together with refugees to discuss the barriers to attaining higher education.

In 2015, Fábos and her students researched the city’s refugee population and drafted a “demographic snapshot” in tandem with Clark’s Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise. The report identified areas for further research, such as looking at integration from the point of view of both refugees and Worcester natives.

That research led to the creation of Shared Worlds. The project takes an ethnographic approach that involves interviews with U.S.- and foreign-born Worcester residents to gauge their experiences and attitudes. “It’s about that complicated, intangible piece that we call ‘belonging,’” Fábos says.

She points out that even immigrants who appear completely assimilated — they work hard, own a home, send their children to college — may not feel they are a part of the city. “Integration is more than a one-way process,” she says. “You have to think about neighborhoods that typically had one kind of immigrant, and native Worcester residents are comfortable with that. But then come these immigrants who speak a different language, or have a different way of life, and that may give them pause. All of a sudden they don’t feel comfortable in their own neighborhood. Belonging goes two ways.”

Drawing on conversations conducted across the city and involving residents representing 44 different ethnicities and nationalities, Fábos, Hamilton and Clark students examine the question of what integration means today. “Maybe it’s a transformation that’s always been happening; maybe we’re not looking at anything new, but it’s the latest configuration of ‘becoming Worcester,’” Fábos says.

Ahmed al-Rubaye is program coordinator at the Refugee and Immigrant Center’s Worcester office. He says the research being done through Shared Worlds is valuable to the center’s work with refugees because little had been done to foster relationships between the refugees and native residents. “The refugees begin to understand there is a willingness to help them,” he says. “If they feel accepted, they will integrate faster” and will be more likely to accept assistance from the center.

At the Senior Center presentation, Fábos explains that both groups of residents have contradictory feels of belonging; some foreign-born people find the city unwelcoming, while others sense great tolerance and inclusion. Some native-born Americans confess that they feared changes to the city and their neighborhoods. Fábos cautions that those attitudes should not be attributed to prejudice — often they result from a simple lack of awareness about an unfamiliar culture.

A Spanish-speaking resident at the Shared Worlds event acknowledges that some immigrants are hesitant to connect with their neighbors because they are shy or nervous, or merely unsure how to communicate with them. Several longtime Worcester residents insist that the city is far more integrated than it was when they were younger, but it can still be difficult to get to know people from other countries.

Many key interactions between refugees and their neighbors occur at school or work, or through a child bringing home new friends from other cultures and backgrounds. “You just work them into your life,” Fábos says. “It’s a multipronged set of relationships and intangible connections that help you make meaning of your new life in a new place. It’s sharing your world.”
First, the view.

Massachusetts Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Robert “Jay” Ash ’83 occupies the corner office on the 21st floor of Boston’s John W. McCormack Building. Panning from due west to southwest, his windows offer an unobstructed view of the Longfellow Bridge, the entirety of riverfront Cambridge and the Boston Common. The office of his boss, Governor Charlie Baker, is just a short walk away, under the golden dome of the Massachusetts State House.

By Jeremy Shulkin ’07, M.A.T. ’08
Ash, 56, remembers his first time in this office two decades ago when he worked as chief aide to State Representative Richard Voke. Upon returning from a meeting, the legislator asked Ash for a recap. “I said, ‘Richie, I have no idea,’” Ash laughs. “I was enamored by the view.”

In ways both subtle and direct, some within his control and some beyond, and often spurred by his Clark experiences, Ash has made his way to this office with the skyline seemingly at arm’s reach. As the longtime city manager of his hometown of Chelsea — just north of Boston — he earned a reputation as a tireless innovator who pulled the embattled blue-collar city out of receivership and set it on a hopeful course for renewal. In his current position he is again receiving high marks, most recently for his part in the negotiations that lured General Electric to relocate corporate headquarters from Fairfield, Conn., to downtown Boston.

His mission is to balance the economic equation in the best interests of all Massachusetts residents, from the deep-pocketed who seek investment opportunities in the state, to those with nothing to their name, including a permanent address. He has known tough times himself — the kind you call upon when making difficult decisions; the kind that thicken your skin but hopefully don’t harden your heart.

Indeed, the key to Jay Ash’s success may lie in the fact that this view from the 21st floor was so hard-earned, and light years from the view he started with.

Ash jumped into politics as a 10-year-old living in Chelsea when he worked on school committee candidate Richard Clayman’s campaign. (“Richie Clayman, down the street,” Ash explains, as if everyone knows the guy. This, one assumes, is a Chelsea thing.) In 1976, Ash’s sophomore year of high school, he scoped out the local candidate for Congress, and after assessing the guy had no shot he went to work on Massachusetts Sen. Edward Markey’s first victorious run for federal office.

Less than two years later, Ash arrived at Clark, knowing only that he wanted to find a career in government and, in the meantime, play basketball. Basketball sorted itself out quickly. Ash, who stands 6 feet 7 inches, was a forward who also played a lot of center since the team’s starter often found himself in foul trouble. The Clark teams of the early 1980s were some of the best in the school’s history — they had size, speed and success. Ash led the Cougars to the NCAA Division III Elite Eight during his senior season, averaging 13.5 points a game for a team that amassed a 23-4 record. He earned the honor of captain, won the Fred C. Herbert Trophy and finished his career with a 54.2 percent field goal percentage after 73 games, currently good for eighth all-time at Clark.

“Jay was a consummate team player. His role was to rebound and defend,” recalls his coach, Wally Halas ’73, M.P.A. ’93. “When he had the perfect shot from within 16 feet he was supposed to take it. Jay’s attitude was, ‘Whatever you think is best for me and in the long run will help the team, that’s what I’ll do.’ He worked hard for what he earned, and he never took a bad shot.”

There was more than basketball at Clark. Jay met his future wife, Susan Carney ’83 (the couple have two sons). He was so committed to the University that he returned as a trustee for several years, departing the board when he accepted his state appointment.

“For me, coming out of Chelsea, I wasn’t sure who I was, but I knew I wasn’t like everybody else,” Ash says. “Clark really helped nurture the man I turned out to be.”

Part of this nurturing was provided by Sharon Krefetz, professor of political science, who taught Ash in her Urban Politics course and with whom he still remains in contact. (Ash returned to Krefetz’s classroom as a guest lecturer a number of times before her retirement last year.)

Krefetz’s class steered Ash toward an understanding of government that extended beyond electoral politics and embraced the idea of public service. “I give Sharon Krefetz the most credit for getting me to understand the public policy side of it,” he says.

Urban Politics famously ended each semester with a debate in which students argued between two forms of local governance: one led by an elected mayor and the other by an appointed city manager who handles the day-to-day tasks of running a city. Krefetz recalls Ash choosing to lead the manager side of the argument.

No one could have guessed that he would spend fifteen years at Chelsea’s helm, orchestrating the renaissance of a city so battered by political corruption and entrenched poverty that the state had seized control of all its municipal functions for much of the 1990s. Under Ash’s leadership from 2000 to 2014, according to The Boston Globe, nearly $1 billion...
was invested in Chelsea, including more than 2,000 market-rate residential units and an influx of companies like Home Depot, Starbucks and Market Basket. When Ash left the job, $500 million in projects were being planned, including four hotels and a $100-million FBI regional headquarters.

A study conducted by Northeastern University and the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston analyzed 20 of the state’s poorest communities, and found that Chelsea had experienced the biggest job growth, nearly 11 percent, from 2001 to 2013. This was at a time when statewide job growth hovered at less than 1 percent. Among those visiting Chelsea to see how the Ash administration accomplished it was Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen. Northeastern economics professor Barry Bluestone told the Globe, “Jay may know more about economic development and business attraction than almost anyone else in the Commonwealth.”

“He did such an amazing job that he caught the attention of people like Baker,” Krefetz says of her former student. “It’s really close to a miracle that Chelsea is in the decent shape that it’s in, instead of receivership.”

Ash approaches his oversight of housing from a rare personal perspective: as a teenager he endured periods of homelessness.

“We never slept out on the street, never slept out in a car, but when my parents split up we went to my mother’s friend’s house,” he says. For a while, Jay, his mom and his brother lived under the same roof with a family of seven. By the standards set by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, “I was homeless as a kid.”

Periods of “housing insecurity,” as Ash calls it, persisted into his adult life when his mother fell behind on rent and found herself losing her home. Ash, now solidly into his Clark academic and basketball career, informed Wally Halas that he would have to leave school to find a job. Halas convinced his player to make some phone calls, one of them
to a parish priest, who found housing for his mom. Ash could stay at Clark.

Since he took charge of housing and economic development for the state in January 2015, Ash has connected the two seemingly disparate silos through “economic self-sufficiency,” the notion that a person with a home, a job and an education not only benefits on a personal level, but is a contributor to the common good.

“When I talk about economic security, there’s my case,” he says, referring to his near departure from Clark. “My earning capacity would’ve been greatly reduced.”

But he cautions people from oversimplifying his political beliefs based on his backstory.

“You might read into it that I’m more likely to believe there should be more ample affordable housing. I’m not sure it does mean that,” he says. “The other side to that story is my mom was in affordable-subsidized housing the rest of her life, which was maybe 25 years, and I’m not sure that’s meant to be the way either.”

He adds, “There should’ve been something along the way to help her leave the public system.”

Even though Ash, a Democrat who personally experienced homelessness, and Republican Governor Baker, the son of a former U.S. deputy undersecretary of Health and Human Services, come from contrasting economic backgrounds, they seem to agree more often than not on the housing aspect of Ash’s job. Baker’s latest budget has changed the funding mechanism for assisting homeless families, and overall funding has increased.

“We both agree that having families spend weeks, months and in some cases over a year in hotels is not good for the family unit,” Ash says. “I think a common bond we share, the Republican governor and Democratic secretary, is that we see the things that government has historically done haven’t always worked, and yet people haven’t been able to get away from what hasn’t worked.”

Baker and Ash have cultivated their relationship over two and a half decades. Ash was working as Chelsea’s executive director of planning and development in 1991 when the city filed for bankruptcy and the state placed the community under receivership. Baker, who at the time was secretary of administration and finance for then-Gov. William Weld, made budget decisions that both impacted Chelsea and brought him in contact with local government employees.

The two grew closer over the years, and spoke regularly during Baker’s 2014 campaign for governor. Publicly, Ash could hardly keep his support quiet, even when asked to do so by the Chelsea City Council. He recalls a Boston Globe reporter asking him whom he’d support in the general election, to which Ash responded, “I’m not allowed to endorse anyone, but I’m looking forward to the Baker administration.”

Ash attended Baker’s election-night party, “sweating it out” as Baker beat then-Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley by 40,000 votes. Baker called Ash a few days later, making the Clark grad his first cabinet appointment.

Ash has attacked his first year with vigor. Colorful Post-it notes cover his office walls and dot the free-standing boards that bear charts and reports. Studies and other documents form piles on any available flat surface. He drives himself to each of his public events and proudly claims to have covered 9,000 miles in visits to more than 100 communities.

The position oversees a broad swath of government, distilled into three parts: economic development, affordable and low-
income housing, and consumer affairs, which includes business licensing and banking and insurance regulations.

Baker scored political points for reaching across the aisle, but those familiar with the job, and with Ash, credit the governor with more than just fulfilling campaign-trail promises of bipartisanship. Greg Bialecki, Massachusetts’ previous secretary of housing and economic development, sees a distinct commonality between Baker and Ash. “It’s the style of both of them that they are pragmatic and focused on solving problems,” he says.

Bialecki believes Ash’s experience steering Chelsea through rough waters brings needed perspective to the policies coming out of the State House, because he understands that while Massachusetts has made gains with economic development and housing, success is “unevenly distributed across the state.”

Ash uses the analogy of a relay race to describe his role: he inherited the baton from Bialecki and will pass it on to someone else later, but for now he gets to run with it.

“You have to keep your eye on the long term,” he says “but long term is in four-year increments here.”

Krefetz, for one, has long suspected Ash will run for elected office someday. “He really has excellent political instincts,” she says, and “he won’t compromise his principles.”

It’s a line of thinking echoed by others who believe Jay Ash’s public profile will only rise. Asked about his aspirations, Ash smiles, and offers a response of equal inscrutability to the one he gave the Globe reporter fishing for his endorsement for governor.

“I get concerned with low ceilings so I’m always looking for higher ceilings, and we’ll leave it at that.”

The view, it seems, might be endless.
THE PERFECT FIT

Charlie Bresler, M.A. ’83, Ph.D. ’84, walked away from a lucrative career and found a richer purpose.
George Zimmer, the gravel-voiced founder and CEO of Men’s Wearhouse, delivered the line in countless television commercials that touted his clothing stores, punctuating each ad with the promise, “I guarantee it.” Zimmer peddled suits, slacks, shirts and ties with the fervor of a guy selling Adam his first fig leaf — he was the face, strategic lead and soul of the company. But for many years, and in many ways, Charlie Bresler, M.A. ’83, Ph.D. ’84, was its spine.
Bresler joined Men’s Wearhouse in 1992 at the behest of Zimmer, a childhood friend, to start an employee-training program. He would go on to head human resources, stores, and marketing, and ascend to the position of company president. By 2008 he was a likely choice to be named the successor to Zimmer.

And then he walked away.

It turns out that while he may have liked the way he looked, Charlie Bresler didn’t like the way he felt. “When I stepped down in 2008 I wanted to do something more socially valuable,” he says, “and something in keeping with my values.”

He found his grail as executive director of The Life You Can Save, an advocacy and educational outreach organization that “raises awareness for the more than one billion men, women and children who live in extreme poverty.” Charlie and his wife Diana have been the primary funders of the organization that helps direct donations to seventeen distinct charities serving people who subsist on less than $1.25 a day, the global poor suffering from malnutrition, lack of clean water, disease and few educational opportunities.

To trace his journey from the corporate suite to the nonprofit world requires a step back. Bresler’s story involves reconciling the conflicting elements of his own nature — the radical with the capitalist, the family man with the executive — and aligning his values with his actions. The path was decidedly nonlinear and included a significant stop at Clark University.

The son of emotionally troubled parents (his mother was institutionalized when he was 11), Bresler grew up as an idealist intent on upending the worst impulses of the United States’ social and political order. He attended New York University, where he protested the Vietnam War and joined radical student groups as a “low-level activist.” He earned a master’s degree in history at Harvard while Diana did her undergrad work, and taught high school history for three years before leaving the profession. Bresler had become disillusioned by what he viewed as the skewed high school socialization process “where we teach students who is talented and who is untalented, who is cool and who is not cool.”

What followed was a period of his life that he often uses the word “wander” to describe. He “wandered” into a job as a teaching pro at a tennis club, where he was “kind of happy but not engaged in the way I’d been in the antiwar movement.” He then “wandered” into a job as a psychology technician in a day treatment center. “I carried a pager and did assessments of acutely psychotic people in emergency rooms, which I had no business doing because I had no background in it,” he says. “For about five years I was doing that and playing tennis. When Diana was accepted into medical school at UMass, I decided to get my Ph.D. in psychology at Clark.”

Here, he found Professor Jim Laird. “We got along incredibly well, and he wrote me a spectacular letter of recommendation that got me into Clark,” Bresler says. The two grew close, with Laird becoming a mentor, offering insight into the complicated subject of human personality. “I had an amazing experience at Clark. The philosophical approach as opposed to the more practical approach really resonated. It was a very stimulating time for me intellectually.”

After graduating, he took a job at the California School of Professional Psychology in Fresno — a bad decision, he acknowledges. “By that point I was not so clinically oriented, and I didn’t appreciate the orientation of the school. I really didn’t
know all that until I got there.” Though he wasn’t thrilled with his position, life was comfortable. Bresler, always a good athlete, began running marathons. He and Diana had two children, Noah and Kayla.

At the school’s urging, he secured a grant and opened an anxiety clinic, in which he taught graduate students to treat anxiety disorders from a behavioral perspective. The clinic thrived for two years until he and Diana decided to relocate to the San Francisco Bay Area. “I said to Diana, if you get a job there, I’ll just figure something out for myself. I thought I’d probably start another anxiety clinic.”

Enter George Zimmer.

He and Charlie had grown up together outside of New York City. Zimmer founded Men’s Wearhouse with a college friend in 1973, building it into a nationally recognized retail chain. In 1993, a year after the company had gone public, Zimmer approached his old friend with a request: Would Charlie create a training program for his employees?

The notion of doing something entirely new was tempting, especially given that Bresler had been pondering the possibility of earning more money. “The door was open to anything that was not an overt violation of my principles,” he says. Zimmer’s offer was compatible with his desire to provide for his family. He accepted.

“It turned out I was a good business person, and the sales training program raised the average transaction 13 percent, which is just enormous in retail,” he says. “It was luck, partly, but it was also the wonderful training I’d had at Clark that I was able to convert in a retail environment.”

His decision to join Men’s Wearhouse initially left his family “perplexed and critical,” Bresler recalls. Years later he would write a letter to his son, Noah, explaining (but not justifying) how he came to work in an enterprise that seemed such a dramatic departure for him.

“I spent all those years at Men’s Wearhouse being a dad, a husband, an executive. I had a very successful career, which, given my background, just seems weird,” he says with a laugh. “I found that I had natural leadership ability, which had become dormant during my high school years. I did the work, and I worked really hard.”

In 2008, after fifteen years with the company, Bresler entered Zimmer’s office and told him he was done. He wasn’t suffering from an existential crisis, but he knew he wanted to strike in a new direction. With the board’s approval, the two negotiated an agreement that allowed Bresler to become a consultant for Men’s Wearhouse, a relationship

“It’s important to keep the concept of perfection in front of you at all times, but realize you’re never going to hit it.”
that continued until last year. (Zimmer was ousted as CEO by the board of directors several years ago.)

The search for a new challenge led Bresler to the writings of Princeton University ethicist Peter Singer, a founder of the “effective altruism” movement, which makes the case that extreme poverty can be eliminated through regular donations to charities with proven track records of aiding the global poor. Intrigued, Charlie and Diana met with Singer and agreed to fund Singer’s philanthropic organization, The Life You Can Save (see sidebar).

“For every dollar we spend, we believe we move at least three or four dollars to highly effective charities,” Bresler says.

The nonprofit deals only with international charities, generally in sub-Saharan Africa and South America. Bresler explains that the level of deprivation in these countries dwarfs that in the United States and other developed nations, and a dollar goes further in combating the panoply of problems faced by those populations.

Each charity promoted by The Life You Can Save is rigorously evaluated by the organization and outside agencies for its level of impact, which is the true measure of effectiveness, he says. In the U.S., Bresler notes, evaluations of charities are overly focused on overhead, perpetuating the myth that operational efficiency always wins the day.

“Unfortunately, there are charities that get high ratings for not spending money, and others that spend more money and have way more impact that get weak ratings,” he says.

Bresler, who now lives with Diana outside Seattle to be near their children, returned to Clark University last September to speak at Family Weekend. Among the observations he shared was the notion that while we are imperfect creatures, nothing prevents us from aspiring to do worthy things in this world.

“It’s important to keep the concept of perfection in front of you at all times, but realize you’re never going to hit it,” Bresler says. “You try to get closer each year, not by leaps and bounds, but by setting goals that you can achieve and which stretch you in every area of life.”

Realizing this can lead to an enhanced sense of personal satisfaction, maybe something approaching peace.

He can practically guarantee it.

Charlie Bresler encourages people interested in helping The Life You Can Save to contact him at charlie.bresler@thelifeyoucansave.org.

Charity begins abroad

The Life You Can Save doesn’t ask for much, just some.

More specifically, a percentage of your income, given to people suffering under some of the direst circumstances on the planet.

Springing from the teachings of bioethicist Peter Singer, The Life You Can Save fights the devastating effects of extreme poverty — classified as those living on less than $1.25 a day — in more than 90 countries. The organization channels donations to seventeen charities that address the world’s pressing problems like hunger and nutrition, water and sanitation, women’s education, and health and infectious diseases.

Singer’s argument is a simple one: The fact that millions die unnecessarily each year in developing countries is “a moral stain on a world as rich as this one.” He suggests each person make a minimum donation of 1 percent of his or her annual income.

Some of Singer’s points may seem counterintuitive, particularly his challenge of the notion that “charity begins at home.” The Life You Can Save mission extends to the corners of the world where people are dying from a lack of basic necessities and illnesses which, in some cases, can be ameliorated for a small cost. The United Nations Interagency Group for Child Mortality Estimation figures that roughly 16,000 children under the age of 5 die each day from preventable causes associated with extreme poverty.

The organization acknowledges that it can be more difficult to give to people whom you’ll never see, in a country you’ll likely never visit. Overcoming those reservations is also part of its mission. The website thelifeyoucansave.org not only describes the charities and their good works, but suggests strategies for selecting a cause that best fits with the individual’s sense of purpose.

So-called “Giving Games” offer groups the opportunity to make a donation sponsored by an outside party, but only after the members have engaged in a rigorous discussion about the merits of particular charities.

The organization has had a tangible impact. In 2015, The Life You Can Save moved an estimated $1.35 million to its targeted charities, an increase of $700,000 from the previous year. The 2015 goal was more than $1.7 million. By 2020, the agency’s goal is to move between $10 million and $20 million each year.
Gary Cohen ’78 ensures that health care does no harm

Gary Cohen ’78 is a genius.
That’s what the MacArthur Foundation insists.
Last year, Cohen was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship and its accompanying monetary prize — commonly known as a “genius grant.”
“I have a lot of trouble with this genius thing,” he admits. “I’m not a genius. I had a good idea and I’ve worked hard, and it’s taken off, so that’s fantastic. There are a lot of good people doing good things and I’m really fortunate to have been singled out for my work.”

Cohen’s good idea was to help hospitals and health care facilities become more environmentally responsible. In the 1990s, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, medical waste incinerators were the largest source of dioxin emissions in the country, and a significant source of mercury pollution.
“It was crazy,” Cohen says. “How could the health care sector, which is committed and devoted to healing, itself be poisoning the very communities it serves?”

His efforts were the genesis of Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), now a global organization that develops strategies for hospitals and health systems to address their environmental footprints.
“We worked with Beth Israel-Deaconess Hospital in Boston to show how they could eliminate mercury thermometers, and that gave other hospitals in Boston the sense of how they could do it, too. We got all the hospitals in the city to eliminate mercury, and then we took that on the road,” Cohen says. His travels took him across the United States, and then around the world, where he convinced health care providers that they could measure temperature and blood pressure without mercury. Ultimately, his work led to the Minamata Convention on Mercury and a treaty, signed by more than 140 nations, phasing out all mercury-containing measuring devices by the year 2020.

“When we started all of this, the conversation was, ‘We’ve got all of this toxic waste, where should we put it?’ which was the wrong question to ask,” Cohen says. “Now, it’s shifted to, ‘How can we completely transform our economy so it’s based on principles of sustainability, green chemistry and renewable energy that actually will be good for the economy and also good for people’s health?’ It’s not a trade-off.”

HCWH strategies help hospitals and health care systems become more energy-efficient and invest in renewable energy, eliminate toxic chemicals from their facilities to improve safety for their patients and employees, transform their food-purchasing practices to serve healthy, sustainably grown food, and purchase more environmentally responsible products to move the market toward greater sustainability. A global network lets hospitals around the world learn from each other.

Cohen had an appreciation for the power of positive disruption even during his Clark days. At his commencement ceremony, without permission, he went onto the stage and gave a speech. He carried with him a trophy, representing the achievements of his fellow graduates, which was engraved with a guiding principle: “Education is what you have left over after you’ve forgotten everything you’ve learned.”

“The concept,” he explains, “was that a really good college education will teach you how to think and how to be analytical. You won’t remember specific content or dates, but you’ll remember how to analyze a problem. That’s what was so valuable about the Clark education.”
(The trophy was ceremoniously deposited at Moynihan’s Pub, where it remains to this day.)

Following graduation, Cohen connected with classmate and good friend John O’Connor ’78, who had started the National Toxics Campaign. The two Clarkies traveled throughout the country and met with families living near superfund sites, incinerators and factories, “mostly mothers and fathers sitting around kitchen tables,” Cohen says, “wondering why their kid had a rare form of cancer, why another child is waking up choking at night, why the water tastes bad.” Cohen worked alongside O’Connor for about a decade, providing technical and organizing assistance to people around the country. They wrote a guidebook, “Fighting Toxics,” that is still available online. (Amazon offers it as an e-book.)

“What I’ve found over the last thirty years is that people all over the world are fighting this same struggle, defending their communities against pollution. There’s a global movement of people who are trying to save the planet, their communities and their health,” Cohen says.
The challenge for the health care industry is to become a leader on climate change, he says. The most powerful way to motivate people to act is to talk about things that matter to them, “which is their health, and the health of their families,” Cohen says. “I feel like we’re at an early stage of starting to build the narrative.
“That will keep us busy for the next thirty years.”
Lacrosse team rallies to fight Alzheimer’s

The first-ever Renny Classic was a success on and off the field. As the Clark University lacrosse program tied a school record for wins in a season with an impressive 11-6 victory over Wheaton College on April 2, the program and its supporters raised $3,000 for the Worcester branch of the Alzheimer’s Association.

The event was named in honor of Renny Merritt (pictured above in orange jacket), the father of sophomore student-athlete Whit Merritt and his brother Sawyer ’18. Renny was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s nearly two years ago.

After Whit Merritt revealed the diagnosis to his teammates and head coach Jeff Cohen ’02, the idea of the Renny Classic was born.

“The outpouring of support shown by so many people has been truly amazing,” said Cohen, who is in his seventh season at the helm of the lacrosse program. “This isn’t just a one-time event, either. We will continue to host the Renny Classic and continue to raise funds and awareness about this terrible disease.”

The game featured a pregame introduction of Renny and the Merritt family and some of their closest friends, and the facility was adorned with purple balloons, banners and ribbons, signifying Alzheimer’s awareness. Student-athletes wore purple socks and were each given a T-shirt to wear with the Renny Classic logo emblazoned on the chest.

Pamphlets and literature on Alzheimer’s were made available to all who attended and a 50/50 raffle was held to raise more money. In a sign of generosity and understanding that embodied the spirit of the Renny Classic, the anonymous raffle winner immediately donated the money back to assist with the fundraising efforts.

“This event was everything we hoped for and more,” said Cohen. “We won the game, sure, but more importantly we put our collective arms around someone in need, and to me that’s what this was all about.”
For the past three years, Clark University and the Clark Athletics Department have extended their global impact through CAST (Clark Athletics Service Learning Trip), a program started by Harris Rollinger '13, M.P.A. ’14. Each year, Clark student-athletes go abroad to work on a community development project. This winter break, CAST traveled to the Dominican Republic to work alongside organizational partner Service for Peace to help build a badly needed computer lab in the small town of El Cidral.

The trip was largely organized by crew team member Brooke Wilson ’16 and soccer player Kara Fischer ’17. “It was great to see the project growing from a hole in the ground to an actual building,” says Fischer. “We were able to see the impact we were having on the students and the community.”

The group also worked with The National Confederation of Dominican Cacao Producers, a small-scale organization that uses its revenue to enhance education, infrastructure, health and development opportunities in the Dominican Republic.

The co-op was started by Service for Peace to provide a source of income to women in El Cidral and surrounding communities. The women remove the cacao from the plant and transform it into raw chocolate that is then distributed to stores for sale. The Clark group visited the worksite and spent an afternoon processing cacao.

““This trip helps to bridge the gap between the Clarkie and the Cougar,” says Wilson. “It shows that we aren’t just athletes. We want to do service work and make a difference, too.”

Traveling with Fischer and Wilson were: Jackson Cohan-Smith ’18 (men’s soccer), Gaby DeAngelis ’19 (field hockey), Kristen Glennie ’18 (women’s cross country), Angelica Gonzalez ’18 (field hockey/softball), Rebecca Kravetz ’16 (women’s tennis), Jenna La Fontaine ’17 (equestrian), Lauren Mackey ’17 (field hockey), Haley Mahan ’18 (field hockey), Grace McElroy-Howard ’18 (women’s soccer) and Zena Wolf ’16 (women’s rowing).
Thea Sahr ’86 engineers a career, Clark style

THEA SAHR ’86 describes her career path as “very Clarkie.” Her professional experiences have been driven by her passions, her routes not especially linear. And yet they’ve culminated in a way that makes perfect sense.

“As I look back on it thirty years later, I see that I’ve had a series of interesting jobs that have turned out to be this really cool career,” she says.

Sahr is the director of programs for DiscoverE, a coalition of 100 different corporations, universities, engineering societies and educational groups “that are interested in celebrating engineers and all the wonderful things they bring to us every day,” she says. The DiscoverE mission is to sustain and grow the engineering profession, largely by making it more accessible to students at all levels and from all backgrounds.

So how does a graduate from a liberal arts-based university find herself helping to shape, strengthen and burnish the image of this most technical of professions?

The answer begins at Clark, where as a sophomore Sahr was recruited by Professor Sharon Krefetz to become a government major over the good-natured objections of another professor who was hoping she’d major in history. “Where else do professors reach out to you to advise and guide you,” she says. “I always felt supported and appreciated, and allowed to blossom. I feel bad for people who don’t have the same kind of experience at their undergraduate institution.” (Her sister, Kira Sahr Brandman ’90, would follow her to Clark.)

Post-graduation, Sahr worked for two years in Washington, D.C. as an aide to Congressman Chet Atkins. Disillusioned with politics, she left that job and eventually landed at the Museum of Science in Boston, where she developed and produced large-scale educational events and administered Science-By-Mail, a national program serving 16,000 children, 2,000 volunteer scientists and 16 museums. The experience provided a “lightbulb moment” about the possibilities of making a career where science intersects with education. “I thought, ‘Where have you been all my life?’ Being an interpreter and ambassador was so interesting,” she recalls.

After spending five years at the museum, the world beckoned. Sahr resigned to head off and backpack for a year, beginning in New Zealand and “following the sun home.” Her itinerary included Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, India and parts of Europe, Canada and the U.S.—much of it traversed in the company of friends, and some of it accomplished solo.

Sahr worked at Tufts University for a couple of years before joining WGBH, the Boston public broadcasting outlet, where for 15 years she held a series of positions that required her to do national outreach on programs like “A Science Odyssey,” “Building Big” and “ZOOM” (a hallowed TV staple for New England kids). She co-created programs that addressed the need for educational engineering multimedia resources— Including “Engineer Your Life,” aimed at getting girls interested in engineering—and developed strategies for the station’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiatives.

Eventually, she laughs, “I got tired of the S, T and M, and wanted to concentrate on the E.” Hence, DiscoverE.

Today, Sahr oversees an array of initiatives and conferences that promote engineering as a career, with special emphasis on young women and people of color. “The more diverse our workforce, the more our needs will be reflected in the next generation of products and resources being produced,” she says.

Sahr is particularly proud of the work being done to recruit girls to the engineering profession. She cites research showing that while girls are adept at mastering technical skills, they “double down” when they can perceive the societal benefit of their work. Programs like Future City, which asks participants to design a sustainable city that can exist 100 years in the future, are attracting large numbers of female participants who relish solving an authentic challenge, she says.

Another successful initiative, The Global Marathon, is a three-day conference attracting women engineers from companies like IBM, DuPont and Bechtel, to build networks, discuss how their work addresses world problems, and develop strategies for recruiting the next generation of women to their field.

An ongoing challenge, Sahr says, is coaching engineers to spread the word about their profession to make it more enticing for young people.

The good news is that colleges and universities with engineering programs, like Purdue and Olin, are changing their curricula to include more project-based learning for first-year students rather than frontloading schedules with core requirements, giving them an authentic taste of an engineer’s work.

“You’re engaging kids where they live,” she says, “They want to know the ‘why’ and ‘how’ of things. Suddenly, the work becomes more meaningful.”

If that sounds very much like a Clark approach, Thea Sahr wouldn’t disagree with you.
HELLO FELLOW ALUMNI!

Our alma mater continues to make us very proud. Clark has appeared in the upper tiers of college lists. We are included in The Princeton Review’s new book “Colleges That Pay You Back,” rank No. 75 in U.S. News & World Report’s “Best National Universities,” and, above all, place No. 3 on The Princeton Review’s “25 Best Colleges for Students Who Want to Change the World.” Changing the world is at the core of being a Clarkie, and certainly resonates with alumni. We need more people to change the world, and it is uplifting that our University teaches students they can make a positive difference.

A lot of work has gone into our new Alumni and Student Engagement Center, which is scheduled to open by Fall 2016. Alumni are a central component of Clark’s continued success and it is wonderful to see that reflected in this building. In addition to various administrative offices moving into the building, the LEEP Center will have its home there, and there also will be dedicated space for alumni to work with students and connect with fellow alumni.

As of this writing, the Clark Fund has received $1,625,488.96 in gifts and pledges, reflecting an 11.6 percent participation rate. The goal is to have 19.2 percent of alumni participating, with $2.6 million in donations made to the Clark Fund. I strongly encourage you to donate if you have not already. Our involvement is very important to Clark, particularly to the students who are helped by our donations.

On a more personal note …

Two years ago I was elevated to the position of president of the Clark University Alumni Association. Previous alumni who have held this position had warned me that the two-year term goes by quickly. They were correct. The time has sped by!

I need to publicly thank the members of the Alumni Executive Board who served — and some who continue to serve — while I was president. It would have been impossible for me to restructure the board without your input, opinions and ideas. Whenever I was stuck I could rely on your enthusiasm and energy to get me through whatever challenge lay ahead.

A special thank-you to Ingrid Busson-Hall ’96, president-elect, and to Shaké Sulikyan ’01, immediate past president. They helped fill the gaps in my ideas and gave me counterpoints when I needed them. I will miss our brainstorming sessions and working to address the challenges that we were handed. Ingrid became president of the Alumni Association this May, and I have no doubt she will serve the alumni community well. Please join me in welcoming her to her new position.

I also need to thank Lindsay Allen, director of Alumni and Friends Engagement and all the wonderful staff in her office. Each time I reached out to them for support or additional help it was always provided without hesitation and with a smile.

Thank you to my wife and daughter. My wife Peggy always supported me attending Clark University meetings and events these past two years. My daughter Emily, finishing her sophomore year at Clark, tolerated her Dad’s questions about what she and her friends thought about Clark and its various programs. She gave me invaluable insight from a student’s point of view.

Last but not least, I need to thank you, the alumni community. I have had the privilege to meet many of you and hear your stories. Interacting with you has reminded me why being part of Clark University is so special: it is not the buildings and grounds that make the heart of the University, it is all of you. To have been your president has been a huge honor, one I will never forget.

So, as I conclude my last column to you as president, I wish you all hope, happiness and the ability to change the world for the better — all the things that make us Clarkies. Go Cougars!

Sincerely,

LEO VELASQUEZ ’86, P ’18
Alumni Association President
1952

CAROL G. FINE, M.A. ’52, has published “A Tilted World,” a collection of her poetry. She has been a nursery school teacher, school psychologist, and research psychologist working with deaf and hard-of-hearing children. Forty years after she earned her master’s degree at Clark, she earned a second one from Wesleyan University’s Graduate Liberal Studies Program. She has been a member of the Social Justice Committee of Congregation Beth Israel, and a member of the West Hartford Interfaith Housing Coalition, where she worked for affordable housing. A founding member of Adventures Together, she seeks to foster interfaith understanding through book discussions involving members of Congregation Beth Israel and the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Carol is the mother of two children, the grandmother of four, an aunt and great aunt many times over.

1958

OVSANNA Y. MOORADIAN is happy to report, “The oldest two of our six grandchildren are in college. Our grandson, Andrew, is a third-year student at Colby College in Maine. He is the catcher for their baseball team. Our granddaughter, Alexandra, is a second-year student at Middlebury College in Vermont. She is on their softball team.”

1960

JOHN COCCHIARELLA retired after 45 years of pediatric practice in Milford, Mass. This was preceded by two years as a pediatrician in the U.S. Navy Reserve, for a total of 47 years of pediatric service. During those years, John provided care for thousands of children and helped relieve pain and discomfort.

1961

ANDREW P. GOLDBERG retired from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in April 2015. He served there for 25 years, establishing the Division of Gerontology, with

A LIFE OF SERVICE HONORED

Retired accountant Stanley Gutridge ’45 may be a numbers man, but he also has a way with words. “I’m the baby of my family,” says the 99-year-old with a laugh, “and the lone survivor.”

Gutridge has seen a lot of life while helping others make the most of theirs, efforts that have not gone unnoticed. In January, Worcester honored him with the MLK Eleanor Hawley Community Service Award for his decades of public service on boards and commissions that strive to increase awareness of the benefits of diversity. Among his leadership roles were incorporator of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, solicitor for the Community Chest, and treasurer for the Worcester branch of the NAACP and the African Heritage Institute. In 2000 he received an award for community service from the Higgins School of Humanities at Clark University.

Gutridge enrolled at Clark in 1942 at his family’s urging after graduating from the New England School of Accounting (he was given a year’s credit for his accounting degree). “These were tough times, and I needed to go to school to earn a better life,” he says. His arrival on campus coincided with that of the first women undergraduates, a historic occasion in the institution’s history.

“Clark looked into the future. They knew men were off to war and women were pushing ahead, stepping into jobs and working for social and economic equality,” he says. “And Clark said, ‘You can come here.’ It was really a learning experience for all of us, a very good one. Clark was preparing us for the reality that once we headed out into the world we needed to go forward together.”

At Clark, Gutridge, the only African-American student, was elected president of the men’s student body his senior year and allied with women’s student body president Margaret “Peg” Russell ’46 to create a more welcoming campus for all. They quickly turned their attention to the library, which had devolved into a noisy hangout rather than a place for scholarly pursuit.

“People would be smoking, eating, joking loudly. It was everything but a place for quiet study. Peg and I decided it was time to clean the place up,” Stanley remembers. The two organized a council that developed rules for comportment which, if violated, could result in academic penalties. It was tough medicine, but thanks to the new regulations the library atmosphere was substantially improved.

With a degree in business management in hand, Gutridge found the professional arena far less welcoming. Before entering Clark, he already had been rejected for military service at a Worcester recruiting station, where he was advised to join a black regiment in the South. A prominent business college also had refused him entree because the admissions officer “said he’d never heard of a black accountant.”

He struggled to launch his professional career in Worcester. At one point Gutridge was offered a job at a local accounting firm sight unseen, then had the offer revoked the next day when his would-be employer discovered he was black.

He rose above the injustices, eventually landing a position as assistant to the president of a local millinery company, handling insurance, union negotiations, relocations and investments. “This is what I was trained for,” he says. Gutridge later worked for 22 years as payroll supervisor at State Mutual Life Insurance Co., retiring in 1982.

A prolific writer, Stanley Gutridge has authored several books and many poems that examine the pathways of his long life. Though he and his late wife Natalie never had children, he did teach Sunday school for 42 years. “In a way,” he declares with a broad smile, “I have children everywhere.”
research funded by the Virginia Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center; University of Maryland Claude D. Pepper Older American Independence Center; and National Institutes of Health training grants in aging, exercise and metabolic diseases. He also published more than 200 manuscripts.

WILLIAM “BILL” LIGHTFOOT writes that he published a memoir, “The First Half,” in 2013 (about “more or less” the first half of his life). He was pleasantly surprised to be notified that Clark’s Goddard Library, after a review of the book, had agreed to put it on their shelves. The work includes his years at Clark, and Bill hopes some of his classmates will check it out. He writes, “Those who may have forgotten the workings of the Dewey Decimal System can get Rachael Shea, the head of public services for the library, to help them find the book.”

1962

FAITH M. (GOLDSCHMIDT) KNABE has been recognized by Continental Who’s Who with the 2015-2016 Lifetime Achievement Award, the result of 50 years of excellence in the field of health care. Now retired, Faith most recently was a research scientist and manager of data evaluation with the New Jersey Department of Health, Division of HIV, STD and TB Services, HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Unit. She was employed by the state of New Jersey for almost 25 years. Faith spent four years at New Jersey Medical School as a research scientist, coordinator of research projects and liaison with the Institutional Review Board of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (now part of Rutgers University).

1968

PAUL SPOFFORD has retired as vice president of municipal sales at Infilco Degremont, the U.S. affiliate of the global French-owned environmental firm Suez, after a 36-year career. He recently moved from Richmond, Va., to Johns Creek, Ga., to be closer to family — “especially my grandchildren,” he writes. “I’m looking forward to time with family, travel, and lots of golf.”

1965

ALEC BELISLE has published “The Last White Horse,” a novel he wrote in the 1970s. The book, a satirical novel set against the turbulence of the late 1960s, was a project he undertook when he was just beginning his 38-year teaching career at Becker College in Worcester. Later, he founded The Millbury-Sutton Chronicle with his wife Andree, and earned a Ph.D. in English.

1972

STEVEN LORTON is the president and chair of the board of the Association for Applied Animal Andrology, an international organization that stimulates and disseminates information on applied animal andrology, with primary focus on animals of economic importance and use to mankind. He also is the co-editor of the textbook, “Animal Andrology: Theories and Applications.”
1976

ALAN SEAGRAVE, a Florida Bar board-certified expert in immigration and nationality law, has joined Butzel Long as a shareholder in the firm’s Washington, D.C. office. His practice touches on all areas of immigration, with a strong focus on business visas; he works with individuals, entrepreneurs, and both established and startup companies in the biotech, communications, hospitality and entertainment industries. After graduating from Clark, Alan earned a master’s degree at LaSalle University and his law degree from the Shepard Broad Law Center, Nova Southeastern University, where he was articles editor of the *Nova Law Review*.

NITA WINTER and her husband, Rob Badger, had their photography exhibited in “Beauty and the Beast: California’s Wildflowers and Climate Change,” a winter exhibition at the Jewett Gallery in the San Francisco Public Library. Nina and Rob have spent years documenting wildflower environments, from below sea level in Death Valley National Park to the high alpine “rock gardens” above 11,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The exhibit featured Bay Area wildflowers, and includes many breathtaking photographs of 50- and 100-year blooms seen across Southern California that defy description. This exhibit addressed climate change and other human impacts, and their effect on a universal symbol of beauty — the wildflower.

1982

JOHN MORRILL has been elected to the board of governors of the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council, a nonprofit advancing clean energy in the state. He was also recently appointed by Governor Terry McAuliffe to a stakeholder group helping shape Virginia’s plan to comply with the federal Clean Power Plan.

1983

RUSSELL “RUSTY” GREAVES is now the regional project director for Utah and the Southwest with the archaeological consultants William Self Associates. Russell also teaches at the University of Utah; he is a research associate of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard, and a consulting scholar with the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. He continues his collaborative research on Pumé hunter-gatherers of Venezuela, for a person addicted to alcohol or drugs, living in a structured environment after treatment is a crucial part of recovery. That’s where a sober house comes in.

Richard Winant ’86 is the president of the Massachusetts Association of Sober Housing (MASH) and director of Kelly House in Wakefield, Mass., which he founded in 2012 to provide a stable and supportive place for men trying to beat addiction.

“You’re talking about a very vulnerable population,” Winant says. After treatment, many are not ready to go home, so a sober house becomes a critical component in the continuum of care. “It’s very therapeutic to be with people on the same path.”

Winant majored in political science and worked at the Massachusetts State House for two years as an aide to a senator and a lobbyist before deciding politics wasn’t for him. He went on to twenty years in software sales then left the corporate world to pursue his passion: supplying a safe, healthy setting for men putting their lives back together.

At Kelly House, recovering addicts learn to be accountable. Winant requires the younger residents to call their mothers daily, and tells the mothers to report if their sons aren’t complying. “Addicts have a complete blind spot on how their actions affect those closest to them,” he says, “but to have long-term sobriety you need to let people know what’s going on in your head.”

Hundreds of men have spent time at Kelly House. It’s currently at capacity, with 29 men in residence, and there’s a waiting list. The former nursing home is “a nice house in a nice neighborhood,” Winant says. “People who come to the house sense there is a difference. They are treated with respect.”

That’s not always the case. Many of the 300 to 400 sober homes in Massachusetts are located in less-than-desirable neighborhoods, which isn’t conducive to recovery. And because there has been no regulation of the industry — truly, anyone can turn a property into a sober house and charge rent — some don’t actually provide the needed services. As long as residents pay to live there, the operator might look the other way on a failed drug test, Winant notes.

That’s why Winant, with MASH, has spent the last few years working with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on “desperately needed” regulations for sober houses. The Massachusetts Sober Homes Law states that while they are not required to be certified, only inspected and certified sober houses may receive state contracts to provide services. That means only certified homes can take clients referred by the courts. “That’s 75 percent of your client base,” he says.

When men come to Kelly House, Winant is able to give them hope for the future. “I’m a person in recovery myself,” he says, noting that he shares his story with residents “in general terms. I never make it about me.”

Winant was recently interviewed as part of a public radio story about the Sober Homes Law, and says he heard from many Clark alumni as a result. “The level of support from Clarkies all over the country is amazing,” he says.

He has especially enjoyed the camaraderie of a core group of friends from the classes of 1986 and 1987, who have gotten together for a long weekend nearly every year since graduating from Clark. “That’s almost thirty years,” he says. “It really is amazing. They’ve been incredibly supportive, and it makes me proud.”
Maya agriculturalists of the Yucatán, and Native Americans of the Southwest and Great Basin. He is currently involved with several archaeological projects in the American West, Mexico, Venezuela and Namibia.

1984

ANDREW BURNS recently was promoted to full professor of chemistry at Kent State University at Stark in North Canton, Ohio.

RACHEL FAUGNO has published “Murder & Mayhem in Central Massachusetts,” the latest addition to The History Press True Crime series. The book features images and an in-depth analysis of the region’s most infamous crimes. “I hope readers will recognize that although it is tempting to view the past nostalgically, despair, mental illness, dishonesty and crime have always been with us. Society changes, but human nature does not,” Rachel says. She teaches English at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester and is working on her next book.

PETER LANGMAN, a psychologist who studies the minds of school shooters and has written extensively on the subject, was interviewed for a special edition of ABC News’ “20/20” that featured Sue Klebold, the mother of Columbine High School shooter Dylan Klebold. She had contacted Peter while writing her own book, “A Mother’s Reckoning.” Peter’s books include “Why Kids Kill: Inside the Minds of School Shooters” and “School Shooters: Understanding High School, College, and Adult Perpetrators.” He has trained thousands of professionals in education, mental health, and law enforcement on identifying potential school shooters, and maintains a website, schoolshooters.info, which is both a searchable database on school shooters as well as a library of more than 300 documents relating to school shootings.

1987

MICHAEL ELYANOW is happy to report that two of his plays are being produced in the Twin Cities (Minneapolis-St. Paul) in 2016. “Lullaby,” an original play-with-music, had its premiere at Theater Latte Da in January; “The Children,” a retelling of “Medea” (with puppets!) — which won a 2013 GLAAD Award — will have its Midwest premiere with Pillsbury House in September. Michael is currently a visiting assistant professor of cinema and media studies at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn. He writes that he enjoyed studying with Professor Ray Munro during his undergrad years: “He was the best!”

1988

ELLEN HUGHES-CROMWICK, M.A. ‘88, PH.D. ‘86, was named the U.S. Department of Commerce’s new chief economist. She is on leave from the University of Michigan’s Ross School of Business, and spent the majority of her career with the Ford Motor Company, where she served as the chief global economist. She joined Ford in 1996 and was promoted to chief economist in 2004, focusing on global economic and automotive industry forecasts used to support Ford’s business strategy, finance and planning. Dr. Hughes-Cromwick also served as a senior economist at Mellon Bank from 1990 to 1996.

1989

CHRISTOPHER RILEY was re-elected to a third term as chairman of the Region 4 (Chester, Deep River, Essex) Board of Education in Connecticut. The Region 4 Board oversees both Valley Regional High School and John Winthrop Middle School. Chris lives in Essex with his wife Caitlin and kids Madden, 13, and Jack, 11.

MANUEL SALAZAR has been appointed CEO of Camposol Holding Ltd. Previously he was CEO of Louis Dreyfus Commodities for Peru and Chile. He began his career in 1991 at Banco de Crédito del Peru in the banking sector, ultimately assuming the position of risk manager for the Andean region at West Merchant Bank. Later, Manuel was manager of planning and strategy at Lindley Corp. He earned an M.B.A. from Georgetown University and a Ph.D. in management from the University of Lleida.

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1990

JONATHAN TODES has co-authored “Human Rights in Children’s Literature: Imagination and the Narrative of Law,” which was published in January by Oxford University Press. The book examines how children learn about and understand their rights as well as their duties to respect the rights of others. It also explores how international human rights norms are disseminated at the local level. Jonathan is professor of law at Georgia State University College of Law; his research focuses on children’s rights and child well-being. He has published more than 50 articles on children’s rights, child trafficking and related forms of exploitation, legal and cultural constructs of childhood, and human rights in children’s literature. He is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

1992

DR. ANNA KAZANCHYAN has been named senior vice president of business development at Ovid Therapeutics Inc., a privately held biopharmaceutical company focused on developing therapies for rare and orphan diseases of the brain. She will head corporate and business development activities at Ovid, where she will plan, seek and execute transactions and establish and manage external alliances with industry and academia. Prior to joining Ovid, Anna was the founder and managing partner of Primary i-Research, LLC. In addition, she has been a strategic adviser to CEOs of biopharmaceutical companies on matters including business development, regulatory strategy, marketing, commercial/competitive landscape, and equity and debt financing. She previously worked at both Bristol-Myers Squibb and Teva Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd., and is a member of the board of directors of Foamix Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

1993

MICHAEL MOONEY ’93, M.B.A. ’94, joined eBay Enterprise in 2015 as a senior client manager in Brunswick, Ga. He writes that he’s already looking forward to seeing his classmates at their 25th Clark reunion in 2018.

1995

DR. ZHENGMING DU, M.A. ’95, PH.D. ’96, is senior vice president and head of chemistry and manufacturing controls for BeiGene, Ltd., a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on developing molecularly targeted and immuno-oncology drugs for the treatment of cancer. Dr. Du is responsible for leading all aspects of chemistry and manufacturing control activities for BeiGene’s preclinical and clinical projects. Prior to this, he was director and head of process research and synthesis at Roche Pharmaceuticals (China). Dr. Du previously was a vice president of research and development at Zhejiang Huahai Pharmaceuticals and held fellow and lead chemist roles at Novartis in the United States.

REED SEIFER recently contributed artwork to a group exhibition, “Alchemy,” at the DC Moore Gallery in New York City. His work is also on display in an online exhibition, “The Smaller Ones Cost More,” at reedseifer.com.
SARA (MEYERS) SCHWEIGER is the director of education for Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester, a nonprofit that provides free individual and group instruction to adult English language learners. Previously, she was at the Worcester Telegram & Gazette for 10 years, most recently as education reporter — a role that brought her happily back to Clark on many occasions. Sara lives in Worcester with her husband and daughter.

KRISTINE BOSTEK, M.H.A., has been named vice president of senior care services at Fallon Health. In this role, Bostek is responsible for all of Fallon’s product lines within its Senior Care Services division. Kristine has been with Fallon since 2012 and has held various leadership roles, most recently as vice president and executive director of Summit ElderCare, a program of all-inclusive care for the elderly. She serves on the board of directors for Children’s Friend Inc. and the Worcester Boys & Girls Club.

ROBERT OLIVER, M.A. ’00, has been employed with the United Nations World Food Program since 2001, and is currently in his third year stationed in El Salvador, where he is deputy country director. From October 2014 to June 2015, Robert was on loan to the U.N. Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, serving as senior logistics officer, based in Guinea.

LAUREN WILSHUSEN married Matthew Lindblom on June 24, 2015, in Las Vegas, Nev. Other Clarkies in attendance were, well, none — the couple eloped! Lauren is currently the director of admissions at Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston.

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

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

Please let us know what you’re up to!
2001

ELIZABETH K. DEVYLDER and DR. ROBERT H. PIETRZAK announce the birth of their son, Robert H. Pietrzak Jr., born Friday, Jan. 15, 2016, at Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital in Connecticut. He weighed 8 lbs., 10 oz. and was 21.5 inches long. RJ joins his sister, Katelyn, age 2.

2005

CARLA J. POULOS and BRIAN J. PIETRANTONIO are thrilled to announce the birth of their second child, Eleni Marie Pietrantonio, on June 26, 2015, in Olympia, Wash.

2006

ALEXANDRA GLENN KELLY recently received a Knight Foundation Grant for her project, “Together We Listen,” with The New York Public Library and The Moth. The project aims to make digital audio collections from libraries and public media organizations more accessible by combining the auto-transcription services of Pop Up Archive with a community engagement model.

2008

GEORGE CHARLES ALLEN is the CEO of AeroVentures Institute, a flight school headquartered at Southbridge (Mass.) Municipal Airport. The school was recognized — for the third year in a row — as one of the top flight training centers in the U.S. by The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the world’s largest aviation association. Also, in 2015 AOPA awarded AVI the title of Best Flight School. AVI is the only flight school in the United States to earn this recognition.


2010

JAMES KOBIALKA ’10, M.A.T. ’11, has been teaching since 2010. He has taught science and English to middle and high school students, and currently teaches at University Park Campus School. James’ work was recently spotlighted by the Educational Association of Worcester. He lives in Worcester with his fiancée.
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<td>JEANNE M. (MUIR) DEL SIGURE ’50</td>
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<td>ANN M. (MARTIN) GIBBONS, M.A. ’50</td>
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<td>Middletown, Mass., 9/25/2015</td>
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<td>IRMA J. (MAYHEW) VAN STEENBURGH ’51</td>
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<td>STEPHEN M. TRAGER ’71</td>
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<td>GERALD GROB, LITT.D ’02</td>
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GERALD N. GROB, historian of American medicine and internationally known expert of mental health policy in the United States, died on Dec. 16, 2015, in the Life Care Center in Evergreen, Colo. At the time of his death, he was Henry E. Sigerist Professor of the History of Medicine (Emeritus) at Rutgers University; a member of the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research at Rutgers; and also senior research associate in psychiatry at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in New York City.

He earned his undergraduate degree from the City College of New York and his Ph.D. in 1958 from Northwestern University. His education was interrupted by his military service in the Army Corps of Engineers from 1955 to 1957.

Professor Grob’s first teaching position was at Clark University (1957-1969), where he began doing research on what became his major life’s work on mental illness. At the state mental hospital in Worcester he uncovered surviving manuscript records of every single patient in the institution that by the 1960s exceeded 70,000 cases.

“We were close colleagues and friends for 57 years,” said George Billias, professor emeritus of history at Clark. “He provoked Clark students to rethink what they knew about U.S. history.” He recalled Grob as “a warm, gentle scholar, loved and admired by those whom he taught and respected by colleagues with whom he exchanged ideas.”

His pioneering study – “The State and the Mentally Ill” — published in 1966, was awarded the annual prize by the American Association of State and Local History. He was a prolific author, writing volumes on the history of mental health policy, disease and modern medicine. With Billias he co-authored “Interpretations of American History,” which went through six editions from 1967 to 1991.

For his scholarly writings, Grob received numerous awards, among them the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association for the History of Medicine and election as a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

GERALD J. KARASKA, professor emeritus of geography, died on May 7, 2015, in Worcester. He was a member of the Clark faculty from 1969 to 1998.

An esteemed urban geographer, Professor Karaska’s time at Clark included pioneering work with the first University Park Neighborhood Planning Coalition, created in 1978. He developed the Main South project to focus on neighborhood planning and physical development, receiving grants of more than $120,000 for a project that involved widespread community involvement.

Professor Karaska was editor of Economic Geography and instrumental in Clark’s entering into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development that let Clark faculty and students conduct field research and offer expert scholarly assistance in missions around the world. His research took him across the globe, including to Colombia, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Madagascar, Siberia and Poland.

NEIL SCHROEDER, professor emeritus of theatre arts, died on Jan. 5, 2016, in Portland, Maine. Schroeder joined the Clark University English Department as an instructor in 1960, and became an associate professor in the Visual and Performing Arts Department in 1972. He taught courses ranging from theatre history and criticism to Ibsen, speech and musical theatre, until his retirement in 2001.

While at Clark, he started the Clark University Players Society (CUPS) and was president of Phi Beta Kappa. He also served as chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department.

Gino DiLorio, the Andrea B. and Peter D. Klein Distinguished Professor and recent chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department, said, “Dr. Schroeder was a gifted actor and a great colleague. I worked with him on a number of productions and was always moved by his professionalism and dedication to the craft. We were lucky to have him at Clark for so many years and he’ll be sorely missed.”

Schroeder performed “Krapp’s Last Tape,” a one-man play for which he received very favorable reviews, as part of a group of Beckett productions produced by CUPS and performed in Krakow, Poland. “There was wonderful honesty and truth to his work,” DiLorio said.

He continued to act, even in retirement, including several productions with Boston-based Company One Theatre, founded by six Clark alumni. “Neil Schroeder was a remarkable man, teacher and theatre artist,” says Shawn LaCount, M.Ed. ’98, the troupe’s co-founder. “When we started Company One Theatre upon graduating from Clark in 1999, he generously acted in two of our shows for free. Neil’s stage presence was magnetic and I can still hear him today — powerful and eloquent, as if I was sitting in Atwood Hall in his Voice & Diction class.”

Schroeder majored in English at Brown University and earned his doctorate in theatre history from Yale.
Ben Bagdikian ’41 championed the public’s right to know

Ben Bagdikian ’41, who died March 11 at the age of 96, enjoyed a storied career in journalism. He won the Pulitzer Prize, reported on prisons, poverty and civil rights, and defied the federal government by helping publish the Pentagon Papers, thus securing one of history’s greatest victories for freedom of the press.

Later he became an influential media critic — The New York Times described him as “a celebrated voice of conscience for his profession” — particularly with his seminal book, “The Media Monopoly.” In it he examined how a handful of corporate media giants shape and control the news for a mass audience.

Bagdikian’s journalistic legacy, not to mention his penchant for challenging authority, was rooted at Clark University. While editor of the student newspaper, then called The Clark News, he hit on the idea of changing the name to The Scarlet, in honor of the school color. As recalled by his longtime friend, Albert Southwick ’41, M.A. ’49, who was the newspaper’s managing editor, President Wallace Atwood objected to the change, believing the word “scarlet” would be too closely associated with the “red menace” of Communism.

“Atwood was suspicious, but Ben went ahead and did it anyway,” Southwick says. The first issue of The Scarlet was published on Nov. 3, 1939. (The run-ins with Atwood never dimmed Bagdikian’s affection for the place. He was awarded an honorary degree in 1963 and served as a Clark trustee from 1964 to 1976.)

Bagdikian’s family fled the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Turkey when he was a baby, settling in Massachusetts. According to Southwick, Bagdikian studied science at Clark, thinking he might pursue a career in biology. Shortly after graduation he was visiting a friend at the Springfield (Mass.) Morning Union when the editor informed him that the paper needed a reporter. He offered the job to Bagdikian, who accepted. The world had lost a biologist but gained a crusader.

After serving as an Air Force navigator in World War II, Bagdikian took a job with The Providence Journal, where he was part of a team that earned a Pulitzer for coverage of a bank robbery. He also traveled throughout the Deep South in the early 1960s for a series detailing the civil rights movement through the eyes of oppressed families. In later years he chronicled the ravages of poverty in the United States and investigated prison conditions by going undercover as a convicted murderer in a Pennsylvania maximum-security penitentiary.

His most celebrated work occurred during his tenure as national editor at The Washington Post. In his obituary, the Post recounts Bagdikian being summoned to Boston for a clandestine meeting with Daniel Ellsburg, the onetime defense analyst who was willing to hand over the so-called Pentagon Papers, a secret history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. (The New York Times already had published excerpts but had been ordered to cease by a federal judge for national security reasons.)

Bagdikian retrieved the documents from Ellsburg and delivered them to Post editor Ben Bradlee. He was then among the editors and reporters who reviewed more than 4,000 pages and debated the consequences of publishing their sensitive contents.

“Mr. Bagdikian was one of the strongest voices in favor of publication,” the Post wrote, “arguing that the government could not use the cloak of ‘national security’ to limit what newspapers could print. He uttered a line that neatly summed up the principle involved: ‘The only way to assert the right to publish is to publish.’” The Post printed the documents, a decision that withstood a Supreme Court challenge.

Bagdikian often trained his reporter’s eye on the media, writing several books that were fiercely critical of the trends that he saw eroding best journalistic practices and ethics. He concluded his long career as dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley. The New York Times recalled a lesson he would impart to his students at the outset of each academic year: “Never forget that your obligation is to the people. It is not, at heart, to those who pay you, or to your editor, or to your sources, or to your friends, or to the advancement of your career. It is to the public.”

His old friend Al Southwick puts it another way. “He always had a feel for the underdog.”

Michael J. Daspin ’55

Michael J. Daspin ’55 passed away on March 20, 2016, at the age of 83. He was a native New Yorker who lived in Orlando, Fla., for almost fifty years. His obituary noted “he was full of deep and generous love: for his children, for their spouses, for his grandchildren, his parents, brothers and sister, cousins and most of all for his wife, Sara.” He also was as “committed to his commercial mortgage business [United Financial of America] as he was to the other pillars in his life.”
Red beanies, good friends and the shadow of war

It’s been more than three quarters of a century since the Class of 1941 first assembled on the campus to hear a talk by Dean Homer P. Little and to get our classroom assignments. That was in September 1937, a notable day in our lives. Clark then had five buildings — Jonas Clark on Woodland Street, the old chemistry building on Maywood Street, the library building on Downing Street, the geography building on Main Street, and Estabrook at Woodland and Charlotte streets. Atwood Hall was built the following year when we were sophomores.

In the days ahead, we would grow accustomed to the neighborhood and to the quaint Clark customs of the time. We freshmen were issued our red “beanies” and warned to wear them at all times when on campus lest we be nabbed by some sophomore vigilante. We took our revenge on the sophomores later on when we dragged them through the cold water of the pond at Crystal Park in the annual rope pull contest. We won the pull the following year, too. Class of 1941, undefeated forever.

Clark then was a small place — maybe 200 undergrads and 100 grads. No females, save for the occasional woman from one of the graduate schools. Tuition was $100 a semester — or was it $150? Seventy-eight years on, the memory sometimes slips a cog. There were three fraternities — one for Catholics, one for Protestants, one for Jews. Clark provided us a reasonably good education by the standards of the time. Of course, the astonishing increase in knowledge of the past 75 years, particularly in the sciences, has left the colleges of that era — not just Clark — looking quaint.

For example, Clark’s president was Wallace Atwood, a well-known geographer. The dean was Homer Little, a trained geologist. I took geology and I listened to Atwood’s occasional lectures. They knowledgeably discussed the physical world — mountains, glaciers, deserts, oceans, volcanoes, earthquakes. All very interesting. But what I now realize is that they really didn’t have a clue about the dynamics of our whirling, rumbling planet. The whole field of plate tectonics lay years in the future.

And that goes for the whole universe that Einstein and Hubble uncovered. Quantum entanglement, Higgs...
bosons, the Big Bang, quarks, neutrinos, dark matter, dark energy — I doubt any of them was even thought of in the old chem. lab. The humanities, my bailiwick, were somewhat better off. I got good instruction in Shakespeare’s plays, Greek civilization, European history and classical music. Subjects like that have not been overrun by events.

Jonas Clark Hall was then, as now, the center of things — first floor, offices; second floor, classrooms; third floor, biology labs; fourth floor, assembly hall; and gymnasium in the basement, where we did daily calisthenics under the supervision of Ernest Whitman. The big building had been designed by my grandfather, Stephen C. Earle, a well-known architect in Worcester in the 19th century. But he didn’t boast about it. He once told his daughter, my mother, “I wasn’t the architect, I was the draftsman,” which suggests that old Jonas Clark was not the easiest of clients. For years the rumor had it that Mr. Clark was prepared to turn it into a factory if the college idea didn’t work out.

One thing that the Clark of yesteryear shares with the Clark of today is that it was a lively, stimulating place. Here I was, a Yankee farm boy from the country suddenly a part of a cross-section of America. Clark had nearly everyone — Irish, Italian, Greek, Swedish, Jewish students, and others. I learned much from them outside the classroom. My best friend turned out to be Ben Bagdikian ’41, born in Turkey. His family had been part of the Armenian diaspora, and it was from him that I learned about the ghastly Armenian genocide in 1915-1918.

I still have a clear image in my mind of the various faculty members — Ames, Brackett, Blakeslee, Hoagland, Potter, Melville, Bosshard, Lucas, Maxwell, Churchman and others. We respected them in a way that perhaps is different today. I think we would have been astonished at the current escapades at some college campuses where student protests have led to cancellations of speakers and programs not considered politically correct. The only example of thought censorship at Clark had nothing to do with the students. That was the notorious Scott Nearing case, when President Atwood turned out the lights during a talk being given by Nearing, a radical Socialist. It got national headlines and earned Clark some unenviable publicity. Clark’s motto is “Fiat Lux” which made the episode doubly ironic. Atwood never wholly recovered his reputation.

As time went on, we learned more about the Clark story, particularly the famed visit of Sigmund Freud in 1909. Another noted figure was Robert Goddard. Those of us who had grown up in or near Worcester remembered how he used to startle the neighborhood night times with his fiery rocket experiments on Newton Hill. That was before he moved to Auburn with his paraphernalia. We met him once — when he was brought into our geology class and introduced by Dean Little. He was visiting from New Mexico, where he was continuing his rocket experiments.

It was during our years on campus that Dr. Hudson Hoagland and his colleague, Gregory Pincus, began their mysterious experiments in an old carriage house on Downing Street. Pincus was noted for his “fatherless rabbit” experiments at Harvard. President Atwood, suspicious of the whole thing, gave them no encouragement, so they went to Shrewsbury and founded the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology, famed for developing the first birth control pill.

We competed in several sports — soccer, baseball, tennis and basketball. I was four years on the tennis team, the last as co-captain. Our basketball fortune got a big boost when the new gym was opened in 1940. (It’s now the cafeteria.)

Our routine was rudely interrupted one day in September 1938, when New England was devastated by the worst hurricane in memory. More than 500 died, mostly in Providence. The Clark campus was a clutter of fallen trees and debris. Woodland and Maywood streets were impassable. Dean Little mobilized us into working groups and we gradually cleaned things up. Classes resumed a couple of days later.

Our college years were tinged with an ominous shadow — the war in Europe. We had grown up in the aftermath of World War I, hearing grim tales of the Argonne and Belleau Wood, and we wanted no part of war. I think that we were all isolationists in 1937. The Battle of Britain stirred our sympathies and we were thrilled by Winston Churchill’s speeches, but we still hoped against hope that we would never have to go.

We graduated in 1941. Commencement speaker was Lowell Thomas, the newsman who had made Lawrence of Arabia a household name. The baccalaureate sermon was given by Paul Tillich, a famed German theologian. His English was so heavily accented as to be incomprehensible.

So out we went into that sunny June morning, eager to start the journey of life. Six months later the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. I think that every one of us went into the military. I spent four years in the Navy.

Surviving members of the Class of 1941 — all three of us — let’s pause for a moment and indulge our memories. Here we are 75 years after, on the final lap, and Clarkies to the end.

Albert B. Southwick is the retired editorial page editor of the Worcester Telegram & Gazette. He continues to write a regular column about Worcester history for the newspaper and has authored several books.
When speaking to jurors who are about to deliberate a case, Judge Brian Stern ’88 often informs them that a real-life criminal proceeding is not the same as a television show. If you think he’s being overly cautious, then you’d be guilty of not fully considering the evidence.

Stern, associate justice for the Rhode Island Superior Court, has found that jurors can be influenced by police-procedural shows into believing a just verdict depends on ironclad forensics — that guilt or innocence must be proven not only beyond a reasonable doubt, but beyond any doubt.

It’s called “The CSI Effect” and it’s a real thing.

Last fall, Stern and fellow Clark alumnus Scott Rubins ’89, a forensic science teacher in New Rochelle, N.Y., co-authored an article in the Rhode Island Bar Journal examining how popular dramas like “Law & Order” and “CSI” (and their multiple spin-offs) leave judges struggling to manage jurors’ expectations. Stern notes that sometimes before closing arguments he’ll tell a jury, “Just remember, if this was a TV show this would be the point where I’d ask my sheriff to dim the lights, the screen would come down, and you’d see a grainy black and white video of the robbery. We don’t have that.”

While the TV investigative teams wrap up their cases in tidy fashion — for instance, ordering complicated DNA tests whose results materialize within hours and confer guilt or innocence on the spot — reality is far messier. Rubins points out that many crime scenes have neither DNA evidence nor fingerprints, and that the reliability of such evidence is weighted by the stringency with which it is gathered, transported and evaluated. Not all forensics is created equal. “In that regard, TV does an injustice,” he says.

Media have “strongly romanticized” courts of law and make technology seem more accessible and flawless than it actually is, the authors write. Stern sees these perceptions emerge as early as the jury-selection process. He recalls a potential juror who insisted that every case involving a gun should include a full battery of forensics testing. “Some jurors are looking for something that on a practical level would never be done,” he says. “There are many shootings in Providence alone; forensics tests, such as trajectory analysis and gun residue, are not going to be done on every one.”

Stern and Rubins had been close friends at Clark. Both worked as campus EMTs and they point to the lessons taught to them by Clark University Police Chief Stephen P. Goulet and former Chief Alan Stegenga (“Steggie”) as laying the foundation for who they are today.

Last December, Stern and Rubins ran into each other on a Bahamas cruise with their families. From this chance meeting, the seed was planted for their collaboration.

Rubins, who does forensics consulting for educators and others, says the popularity of shows like “CSI” for years drove attendance in his high school classes. Today, he teaches five full-year courses devoted to the subject, two of which receive college credit from Syracuse University — credits accepted by Clark.

For their final exam, his students visit a crime scene he’s set up in a wooded area using mannequin “victims,” and the student investigators are required to examine and process the scene and interpret the evidence they have collected. Members of the New Rochelle Police Department are there to act as the first responding officers as well as to evaluate the students’ performance. “I love crime scene work,” Rubins acknowledges. “My class emulates exactly what goes on in the real world.”

His passion for the subject area is such that when Stern asked him to contribute his thoughts for the magazine story, he quickly produced 13 pages, “and I’ve never liked to write,” he laughs.

Stern contends that the purpose of the article was not to “pick a side” in criminal prosecutions; it was to educate the public that forensic evidence is not nearly as foolproof as depicted on television shows — simply because a fingerprint or tire track impressions are shown to the jury does not necessarily mean the defendant is guilty or not guilty.

It’s not just “CSI” affecting jurors’ perceptions, he adds. The news is peppered with accounts of inmates being exonerated by DNA evidence years after their convictions — a positive outcome of technologies that didn’t exist when Stern and Rubins were Clark undergrads, but one that may also skew expectations about forensics.

Stern’s aim now is to convince jurors they can render a fair and impartial verdict based on the testimony presented in court rather than on some magic bullet appearing in the 11th hour. And that once the decision is made, nobody is yelling “Cut! That’s a wrap.”

TV crime shows leave their fingerprints on juries
“IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT”

— Jane Miner ‘76, on visiting Clark for the first time

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“I give to Clark simply because I want it to be there for future students,” Jane says. “Some alums hold off because they think they have to make a large gift to make a difference. That is far from the truth, even with legacy gifts. Mine started out as naming Clark the second beneficiary of my retirement annuity. Many small gifts are as valuable as a few large ones.”

One unseasonably warm February day, high school student Jane Miner and her parents arrived on the Clark campus where they were greeted by a student with a Frisbee who offered to bring them to the Admissions Office. They took the campus tour, and learned about Clark’s strong science offerings, a particular interest of Jane, who was keenly interested in oceanography. By the time they hit the highway for home, Jane had already decided she would be a member of the Clark University Class of 1976.

Under the mentorship of Professor John Reynolds, her biology studies helped shape her career as business manager for the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography. “Many of my scientist colleagues are surprised to learn of my science background,” she notes, “but are relieved that an administrator understands their language.”

A charter member of the Legacy Society, she has made the University a beneficiary of her estate. Jane’s gift reflects her commitment to the place that welcomed her, educated her, and earned her love forty years ago.
An artistic-academic partnership reframed

For many, the Worcester Art Museum exists solely in the abstract as the impressive-looking building touted in chamber of commerce literature for its world-class treasures.

Indeed, it is that. But for Clark University the museum, affectionately known as WAM, is something even more tangible — an active partner that gives students and faculty an opportunity to help plan and execute major exhibitions. A pair of events this academic year drew attention not only to the art itself but to the unique collaboration between two of Worcester’s prominent cultural and academic institutions.

John Garton, associate professor of art history, curated the exhibition “The Jeppson Idea Lab: Olmec Incised Standing Figure,” on display from Nov. 14 through April 3 in a section of the museum dedicated to showcasing single objects from the permanent collection. Focusing on Garton’s research, the presentation examined the stone figurine (circa 800 BCE) from the pre-Columbian civilization of the Olmec, Mesoamerica’s earliest flourishing culture.

Elisabeth Spak ’16 helped prepare the exhibition for her LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice) project by formulating content for the exhibition’s iPad display and writing the copy for the instructional guide to the collection. Garton was Spak’s faculty adviser.
“Elisabeth worked with me to create an itinerary around the gallery — and has done a great job,” said Garton prior to the opening. “Her research of both the pre-Columbian collection and the Massachusetts’ state curricular frameworks has made this project highly useful to the museum, and, because she has a keen eye for graphic design, the tools she helped produce are visually exciting.”

The University's connection with WAM was cemented further on Feb. 18 when the Clark community descended on the museum to view “Cyanotypes: Photography’s Blue Period.” This was the first major museum exhibition in the United States exclusively devoted to the 150-year legacy of a technique that gives photographs a distinct blue tint, turning even mundane images into something ethereal.

The exhibition, which earned strong reviews in *The New York Times* and *The Boston Globe*, was incubated inside the classroom of Kristina Wilson, associate professor of art history. Wilson co-taught the cyanotypes course with Nancy Burns, the museum's assistant curator of prints, and the two co-curated the WAM show.

But they were hardly alone. The 11 Clark students in the semester-long seminar researched the cyanotype works of various artists and contributed exhibition catalogue essays that, for some, provided an opportunity to visit galleries and museums, speak with artists’ representatives, and reconstruct histories of photographers both renowned and obscure.

“The original impetus was to bring students into the museum and give them exposure to the level of work needed to research and put together an exhibition,” Wilson said. “My goal was for them to have a sense of ownership over the whole project, and I think they do.”

The student team also worked closely with museum staff to learn the details of how an exhibition comes together. They met with experts on matting and framing as well as exhibition design; they learned from a paper conservator and even consulted with a graphic designer about the catalogue’s presentation, right down to the choice of fonts. Burns supplied the insider's perspective on making targeted acquisitions of art and securing loans from private collectors and galleries.

For the grand opening, Wilson's students were stationed throughout the exhibit hall, describing to visitors the history and technique behind each work. Speaking at the “Cyanotypes” event, Worcester Art Museum director Matthias Waschek described the museum as a “shared university,” lauding the ongoing collaborations between his staff and Clark University.

“This kind of opportunity at an undergraduate level is unheard of,” said Abby Moon '17, who helped organize the cyanotypes exhibition and now is eyeing a career in museum work. “It’s both a professional experience and genuine learning experience. We get to interact with this art, but we’re also making contacts in the world, calling galleries, visiting museums to see art privately, writing our own labels. The work is very, very real.”

Elisabeth Spak ’16 considers the Olmec Incised Standing Figure at a video shoot.

Casey Shea ’16 describes the work “Body Slices” for a visitor at the opening of “Cyanotypes: Photography’s Blue Period.”
Dresch says the gulf between scientists and mathematicians might appear large, but they are learning to speak each other's language.

According to Drewell, a revolution is stirring at the interface of biology, mathematics and computer science. "Many biologists eventually will use computational or mathematical experimental approaches. That's how we train our students." The amount of data that scientists have available is increasing exponentially, he says, but scientists need efficient ways to analyze it so they can use it quickly, not five years down the road.

Bioinformatics is the answer. "As a grad student in the late '90s, we were all bummed out that the big questions had been answered in biology," says Drewell. "We had no idea this massive revolution would occur."

Clark's highly regarded supercomputer cluster is the essential tool that makes everything happen quickly. The technology, which is more often found at larger research institutions, can cut months off a program's run time, Dresch says.

Provost Davis Baird says he made a conscious decision to hire faculty across the science disciplines who could make use of the supercomputer cluster. "Not only is it a tremendously valuable resource and wonderful selling point for faculty, but also for students who will have opportunities to engage with our faculty in cutting-edge research using this technology," he says.

All three professors say the cluster was a top consideration when they looked at Clark. "I wanted to make sure we would have the resources to allow us to do the research we wanted to do," says Drewell, who came to Clark from Harvey Mudd College.

Clark was on Gibbons' radar because he knew of its reputation as a smaller institution that conducts intensive research. He also knew Clark's supercomputer cluster would help him analyze data with enviable efficiency as he conducts research in genomics and evolutionary biology. "It's something I need to do my research," says Gibbons, "so I was only looking at places that had computer clusters."

Dresch says the gulf between scientists and mathematicians might appear large, but they are learning to speak each other's language.
And as genome sequencing and bioinformatics progress at a rapid-fire rate, Gibbons is excited by the opportunities for scientists in the field. “I am fortunate I went to grad school during this boom,” he says. “People are interested in technology and what we can learn from it.”

From a mathematical perspective, Dresch not only searches for interesting biological questions, but ones that can be better understood through a new mathematical approach or application. Building a novel mathematical model or computational algorithm based on biological assumptions, and rigorously analyzing that model, is her primary aim. Biologists, however, may see the value of such a model in its ability to predict the outcome of future biological experiments, and even help in experimental design. Dresch points out, “In the end, both disciplines benefit from the interdisciplinary nature of such a project.”

Even the imperfect result is valuable, Drewell notes. “We know the model isn’t perfect,” he says, “but the next round of experiments will be informed by that model.” When all the complexities of any particular biological system are revealed, the numbers alone can help guide the next experiment closer to success.

Dresch teaches a First-Year Intensive that introduces students interested in math and biology to the advantages of blending the two. Drewell and Dresch (who are married) are co-teaching a mathematical modeling of biology course incorporating both a classroom setting and a computational lab.

“Nothing like this has been offered at Clark before,” says Drewell.

As part of this initiative, a group of faculty members from the biology and mathematics/computer science departments have launched a new concentration, Mathematical Biology and Bioinformatics. Dresch envisions this program as an opportunity to “open the minds of students to the exciting possibilities at the intersection of these disciplines.”

“Lots of biologists wouldn’t say they are afraid of math, but when it becomes very quantitative, it’s intimidating,” she says. “It’s the willingness to trust in the collaboration. Our role at Clark is to continue the research and to be part of training the next generation.”
In books this year, Clark University faculty examined the U.S. struggle against radical Islam, issues involving the health care of black women and the challenges for families of gay and lesbian children who marry.

MEDICINE AND ETHICS IN BLACK WOMEN’S SPECULATIVE FICTION // By Esther Jones, Assistant Professor of English

The book engages the complex nexus of black women’s health, the fraught history of medicine as it relates to black women, and the problems with the inconsistent application of medical ethics that should concern us all through the lens of black women’s literary speculation. Through prominent writers like Octavia Butler, Nnedi Okorafor and Nalo Hopkinson, Jones highlights how personal experiences of illness and disease frequently reflect larger societal sicknesses in connection to race and gender.

US VERSUS THEM: THE UNITED STATES, RADICAL ISLAM, AND THE RISE OF THE GREEN THREAT // By Douglas Little, Robert and Virginia Scotland Professor of History and International Relations

This book explores the political and cultural turmoil that led U.S. policymakers to shift their attention from containing the “Red Threat” of international communism to combatting the “Green Threat” of radical Islam after 1989. Little analyzes America’s confrontation with Islamic extremism through the traditional ideological framework of “us versus them” that has historically pitted the United States against Native Americans, Mexicans, Asian immigrants, Nazis and the Soviets.

WHEN YOUR GAY OR LESBIAN CHILD MARRIES // By Deborah M. Merrill, Professor of Sociology

Through research based on interviews with married (or previously married) homosexual men and women, as well as with parents who have both a married gay/lesbian child and a married heterosexual child, Merrill examines how same-sex marriage changes the relationships between parents and their gay or lesbian adult children. The book serves to help parents understand the contours of same-sex marriage and their child’s struggles as he or she navigates marriage, parenthood and family relationships.

THE DEREGULATORY MOMENT? A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE ON CHANGING CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS // Edited by Robert Boatright, Associate Professor of Political Science

Is deregulation, exemplified by the Supreme Court’s decision in Citizens United v. FEC, a harbinger of things to come elsewhere or further evidence that the United States remains an anomaly? In this volume, experts on the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia and other European nations explore what deregulation means in the context of political campaigns, and demonstrate how such comparisons can inform the study of campaign finance in the U.S.

PERIPHERAL DESIRES: THE GERMAN DISCOVERY OF SEX // By Robert Deam Tobin, Professor of Foreign Languages and Henry J. Leir Chair in Language, Literature and Culture

Tobin charts the emergence, from the 1830s through the early twentieth century, of a new vocabulary and science of human sexuality in the writings of literary authors, politicians and members of the medical establishment in German-speaking central Europe — and observes how consistently these writers, thinkers and scientists associated the new non-normative sexualities with places away from the German metropoles of Berlin and Vienna.
MAGEE TAKES OVER AS DEAN OF STUDENTS

Dr. Francy Magee joined Clark University in February as assistant provost and dean of students.

Before coming to Clark she was dean for campus life on the Old Westbury campus of New York Institute of Technology, which includes 3,000 undergraduates and 1,000 graduate students. While at NYIT she oversaw initiation of a Global Awareness and Intercultural Competency Development Task Force, a Civility Campaign, the re-envisioning of New Student Orientation and the launching of Family Orientation. She served as Deputy Title IX Coordinator, and she managed all documentation, policies and procedures concerning bias/hate crimes, sexual misconduct and gender-based misconduct.

Prior to her ten years at NYIT, Magee worked in various positions in student affairs at Columbia University, Middlebury College, the University of Virginia and Randolph-Macon Woman’s College. She earned her Ed.D. in Organization and Leadership/Higher and Postsecondary Education from Teachers College of Columbia University, her M.Ed. in counselor education from the University of Virginia, and her bachelor's degree in communication and German studies from Randolph-Macon Woman's College.

In her posts she has developed protocols and practices for a wide range of student services, including student activities, leadership development, international student services, residential life, housing operations, student conduct and student health and wellness.

RODERICK HEADS UP PHYSICAL PLANT

Daniel Roderick came on board as director of Physical Plant in October, and used his first months on the job to take a good look at campus, getting to know the interiors and exteriors of its iconic structures. And he pronounces it in good shape. Clark's facilities “have been managed well,” he says. “We’ve taken great care. Everything that is built has a natural life span, and we do a good job of maximizing it because we have good folks working very hard.”

And then there’s the Alumni and Student Engagement Center, currently under construction across Main Street from Clark’s main gate. “Construction is always stressful,” Roderick says. Clark’s first foray onto the other side of Main Street is “on schedule — and right where it should be. We’re pushing the project along, and we’ll have a beautiful building.”

Roderick, who came to Clark after three years as director of housing operations at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has a unique perspective with which to make that pronouncement. “I grew up in the trades; I’m a third-generation builder. I’ve seen it from the owner’s perspective, from the point of view of the worker, and now management.”

At M.I.T., Roderick oversaw a department of more than 200 that handled everything to do with housing, from collecting rent payments to dispatching emergency crews and handling everyday maintenance. Prior to that, he worked in student affairs and facilities management at Boston College.

Khatchig Mouradian (left) became the first student to complete a Ph.D. in Armenian Genocide Studies at the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and by doing so he also earned the first doctorate ever granted in that field in the United States. Helping to celebrate his historic achievement were doctoral student Asya Darbinyan, mentor and adviser Professor Taner Akçam, Carolyn Mugar, L.H.D. ’13, and doctoral students Anna Aleksanyan and Emre Can Dagioglu.
Not ‘us’ or ‘them.’ Just us.

I PUSHED MY SEVEN-MONTH-OLD SON, Malik, in his stroller with one hand while trying to fix my hijab (head covering) with the other. I was at the supermarket on a late Wednesday afternoon buying groceries. I couldn’t help but notice an older man fixated on me.

_He is staring at my headscarf. It feels heavy on my head. I wish I could disappear. He is probably thinking I shouldn’t be here. He might even think I’m guilty of 9/11 or the Charlie Hebdo shootings or other inhuman attacks._

I wanted to tell him, “Please don’t hurt me, it’s not my fault.” Instead, I swallowed my incoherent thoughts and carried on. I had never felt so self-conscious. Ever since the horrific Paris attacks of November 2015 I’d been concerned. The dominating Islamophobic rhetoric in the media and in politics led me to ask myself on several occasions: should I remove my hijab? Is someone going to take out a gun and shoot me because I could easily be identified as Muslim? What about all that I stand for and believe in? What about my Muslim identity?

It is difficult to be Muslim in America today. Every time barbaric criminals take innocent lives anywhere in the world, all eyes are on the 3.3 million Muslims of all ages living in the United States. My God and my religion forbid the killing of any human being. “Whoever kills an innocent person it is as if he has killed all of humanity.” (Qur’an, 5:32) Yet somehow extreme violence becomes an excuse for the majority of people in the West to retaliate with blanket statements: Muslims are terrorists, they must apologize. Worse, Muslims are dehumanized, equated with rabid dogs and threatened to be executed with bullets dipped in pig blood. Hate, racism and bigotry suddenly became the norm.

One is then compelled to ask: Why aren’t Muslims asking American citizens to apologize for the Iraq war? Or accuse all Americans of having blood on their hands when WikiLeaks released a classified U.S. military video depicting the indiscriminate slaying of a dozen people in the Iraqi suburb of New Baghdad? Or when Craig Stephen Hicks shot and killed three amazing young Muslims in Chapel Hill? It’s because extreme actions of a few don’t represent an entire population. It is just not right.

The “us vs. them” ideology neither made our world better nor safer. Turning “us” against “them” has definitely helped radical political groups achieve and maintain power as well as reinforce positions of domination and subordination. According to the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reports program, annual hate crimes against Muslims are roughly five times higher than the pre-9/11 rate.

So what now? Do I give up on my faith and let the terrorists win? If I remove my hijab then I am abandoning my voice, my choice and my agency; I am enabling the criminals and the haters to dictate the narrative. If I surrender then I am forgoing Islam’s code of conduct that motivated me to quit my job in the vicious corporate world and join Clark to learn about social justice and social change. I don’t think so.

I will not allow Islamophobia to threaten my Muslim identity. I will do as my Lord commands: “Repel the evil deed with one which is better.” (Qur’an, 41:34) I will continue to speak up for myself and for my fellow Muslims. To stand up to prejudice with kindness and empathy. To tell the world that there is more to us than meets the eye. Only by being proactive and vocal can we establish the true face of Islam.

When I approached the cashier to pay for my groceries, the same old man was standing in line. He suddenly turned toward my son, smiling, and started playing with him. He asked jokingly, “Does he sleep through the night yet?” I breathed a sigh of relief. There is definitely more to people than what meets the eye.

Hasnaa Mokhtar is a Ph.D. candidate whose research focuses on the intersection of religion, culture, identity and gender to understand gender-based violence within Muslim communities.
MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CLARK LEGACY.

GET INFORMED
Connect with your fellow alumni on the ClarkConnect website, through daily online news feeds, the @Clark e-newsletter, and CLARK alumni magazine.

STAY INVOLVED
Join your class reunion committee. Attend alumni events around the world. Take part in your regional alumni community. Let us know about internship opportunities at your workplace.

GIVE BACK
Alumni generosity supports student scholarships, facilities and Clark programs. Donor participation impacts Clark's national rankings and helps Clark earn support for academic programs from corporations and foundations.

BE PROUD
Show your pride anytime, anywhere. Submit a class note or photo for CLARK alumni magazine. Wear your Clark gear — You never know where you'll meet a fellow Clarkie!

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