

**IN THIS ISSUE,**

**OUR ALUMNI SHARE THEIR STORIES OF**

**we are**

**LIVING IN THE AGE OF COVID-19,**

**clark**

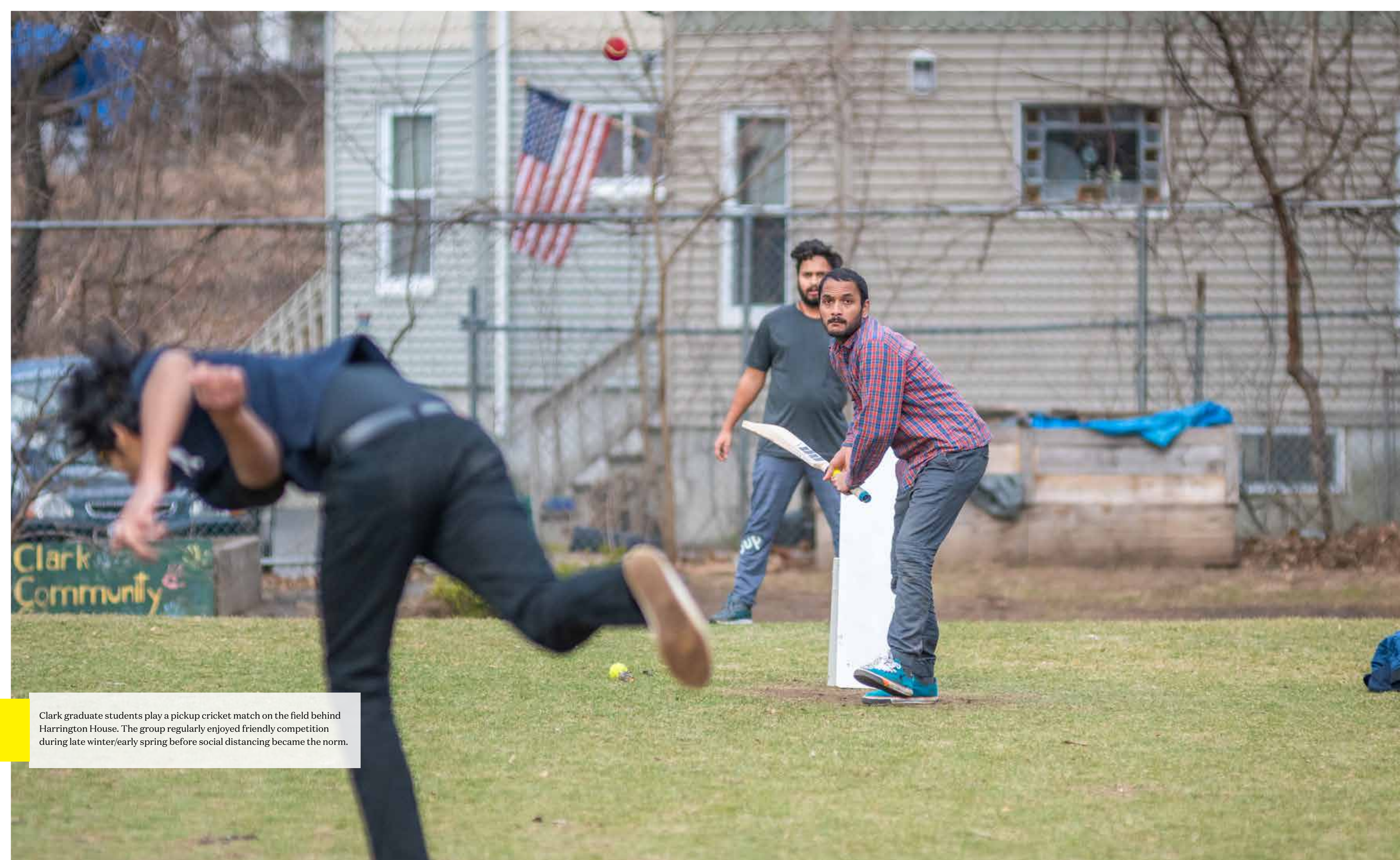
**BEARING WITNESS**

**together**

**THROUGH THEIR OWN WORDS**

**THAT WHILE WE MAY BE DISPERSED**

**AND FEELING ISOLATED....**



Clark graduate students play a pickup cricket match on the field behind Harrington House. The group regularly enjoyed friendly competition during late winter/early spring before social distancing became the norm.

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### A COMMUNITY UNBOWED

Clarkies refuse to back down from a challenge — and COVID-19 is no different. In their own words, our alumni describe how they've adjusted and persevered.



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### A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

As he retires from a 33-year Clark career, President David Angel can look back at challenges met, changes achieved, and a university strengthened



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#### Red Square

David Fithian '87 named as Clark's 10th president

#### Clarkives

Spree Day survives the wrath of The Scarlet

#### Sports

Women's lacrosse makes its historic debut

#### Campus Heroes

Bill Racki does battle against the unseen enemy



The people of New York have been spectacular.



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear alumni, families, and friends,

I write at a time of suffering and dislocation in our community and in our world. The loss of life from the COVID-19 pandemic is tragic. So many lives have been thrown into turmoil through job cuts, food insecurity, and other challenges. I extend my personal best wishes to the whole Clark University community as we care for each other and those we love.

COVID-19 has also upended campus life as we have known it. On March 12, we announced the decision to have students return home for the remainder of the semester as we moved to an online teaching model. Our faculty have demonstrated incredible commitment to students and have worked diligently to retool their courses into an online format. Honestly, all of us feel the loss of the in-person student-faculty engagement that is at the core of Clark's academic experience. We, too, are saddened by the lost opportunities for students to engage with each other outside of the classroom, whether that is in student clubs and organizations, on the athletic field, on the theatre stage, and elsewhere.

In the face of all this disruption, I am reminded that our staff, faculty, and students are resilient, creative, and caring. Indeed, it is the many acts of kindness and compassion that will stick with me as I reflect in coming months on what we are experiencing together. I think about the food pantry set up by student government. I think about the students and alumni who volunteered to go to New York as first responders. I think about the staff member who welcomed students into her home when the students were at a loss for where to go. I think about all those who have donated to our emergency fund in support of students in need. Thank you, all of you. Your actions represent the very best of Clark University.

In these final weeks of my tenure as president of Clark University, the challenges of COVID-19 only reaffirm what I know to be true about the mission, purpose, and values that define our community. We work together to deliver life-changing educational opportunities for students, and to advance knowledge and understanding in our world. We will never lose sight of that mission and will return to this work with renewed commitment as soon as we can. I look forward with hope and anticipation for what lies ahead for our great University.

Fiat Lux.

Sincerely,  
DAVID P. ANGEL

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Professor Shelly Tenenbaum brings her expertise into prison classrooms.



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### NUMBERS MAN

What might Lee Miringoff's renowned Marist Poll tell us about Election 2020?



## ‘The most important things about Clark will never change’

Members of the Clark University campus community responded with alacrity, ingenuity, and kindness when it became apparent by late February that the COVID-19 outbreak would alter the way we conduct our lives.

The University’s COVID-19 Response Team was formed to shape and execute the strategies — in concert with President David Angel’s cabinet — that were needed to manage the educational and social disruptions caused by the pandemic. As the situation began to intensify, students were called home from their study abroad programs; Facilities Management increased the frequency of its disinfecting measures; and quarantine protocols were put into place for students who may have been exposed to the coronavirus at a conference they attended in Washington, D.C.

On March 12, after consultation with the Board of Trustees and mindful of the virus’ global acceleration, President David Angel announced that students would be required to move back to their homes and courses would be taught online for the remainder of the semester. Additional difficult decisions would follow in later weeks, including the cancellation of both the on-campus Commencement ceremony and Reunion Weekend (virtual versions of both events were held).

Despite the disturbances and disappointments, the Clark community rallied. Two emergency funds were established — one by the University and the other funded by donors — to assist students experiencing financial hardship, and residential accommodations were made for students who needed to remain on campus because they could not return home for various reasons. Most University staff transitioned to remote-work situations, but some staff continued to work on campus to support the students living there.

On March 22, the eve before classes resumed in an online format, President Angel addressed the entire Clark community in a video.

“While Clark has had to change some of the ways that it fulfills the vital mission of educating students,” he said, “the most important things about Clark will never change: our shared values, our sense of community, our commitment to learning and the development of new knowledge, and our devotion to making a difference in the communities of which we are a part.”



Drawing on quick and intense training provided by Information Technology Services, professors delivered lectures and led class discussions via Zoom and other distance-learning technologies. The transition was not without its challenges for students and faculty, particularly in the early going, but most were able to effectively manage the adjustment to online classrooms.

Political science major Morufat Bello ’20 found her professors taking creative approaches to teaching. When her dance class transitioned online, her instructor used Zoom to guide the students through their usual routines. “I think we were all skeptical of what to expect, especially those of us who haven’t taken online classes before. But it went well,” she said.

Brett Iarrobino ’21 gave a shout-out to film studies professor Soren Sorensen, who prerecorded lectures “filled with some entertaining and unexpected editing.”

Sometimes, the students became the teachers. Kaya Middleton-Grant ’23 and Thomas Mueller ’22 gave back to the Worcester community by tutoring at-risk Worcester Public Schools’ students virtually through a program called Upward Bound. “A lot of these people are taking care of their families. They’re in very troubled situations and need the academic help,” Mueller said.

Through virtual town halls, email, and video communications, President Angel has apprised the community of the many considerations involved in the University’s response to the pandemic. He and David Fithian, who succeeds Angel as Clark president on July 1, are working with campus teams to develop strategies for structuring the University’s upcoming academic year depending on the progress made against the virus’ spread.

Deans and administrators have maintained a robust stream of communications to students, faculty, and staff to address questions and challenges specific to academic, residential, and operational areas.

While Clark has dealt with COVID-19’s considerable challenges — with more to come — Shuo Niu, assistant professor of mathematics and computer science, sent a hopeful message to his students that has resonated with the entire community: “It must be a difficult and chaotic time in your life. But you should believe that the number of solutions is always greater than the number of problems.”

— Jim Keogh



## EMT Ethan Lutz ’21 works at the coronavirus epicenter

**ETHAN LUTZ ’21** was working a 16-hour shift as an EMT in New York City when his ambulance was dispatched to a call for a man who had collapsed outside his home and gone into cardiac arrest. With the man’s family gathered around, Lutz and his partner began performing CPR.

Alternating chest compressions and ventilations, they eventually brought his pulse back.

“Most of the time when you’re doing CPR you’re not expecting that to happen,” Lutz said. “To successfully use the training we’re given to pull that off was a really nice thing.”

Lutz spent three weeks working as an EMT with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in western Queens — one of the

communities hit hardest in the nation by COVID-19. The rising Clark senior was deployed as a contractor alongside medical workers from across the country to provide additional support at the pandemic’s epicenter.

The cardiac arrest call was among the most significant events of Lutz’s deployment. He does not know if the man was infected with COVID-19, but the pandemic’s increasing presence in the city was accompanied by a substantial rise in the number of heart attacks, he said.

“This has been a learning opportunity,” Lutz noted. “We dealt with a lot of serious calls.”

Lutz, who’s majoring in political science with a biochemistry and molecular biology minor, is on the premed track at Clark. He began working as an EMT with Worcester-based Vital EMS three years ago. When Vital’s parent company, Global Medical Response, began deploying crews and ambulances to New York under a FEMA contract, he regarded it as a once-in-a-lifetime chance to make a difference.

Lutz arrived in the city in mid-April and was initially assigned to take patients from area hospitals to the Javits Center — a large convention center in Manhattan that had been

transformed

into a pop-up hospital for coronavirus cases.

“I really enjoyed that part of my deployment because very few people are allowed into those types of facilities,” he said. “It also gave me a good perspective on what emergency medicine in the most direct sense is — when you’re responding to a public health crisis of this nature, it’s important how you treat all those patients.”

After spending several days suiting up in full personal protective gear and transporting COVID-19 patients, Lutz was reassigned to western Queens, where he responded to 911 calls, including incidents of domestic violence.

“You hear about the rates of domestic violence increasing, but to actually see a human being with broken fingers due to a domestic violence situation made it far more real,” he said. “That call was a reminder that all these things are still going on, even if the world has stopped because of the pandemic.”

In addition to his EMT work, Lutz is in the process of launching a small business. The pandemic led him to become interested in the antiviral and antibacterial properties of copper, which has been proven to kill coronaviruses faster than many other elements. He recently filed patent and trademark information for a PPE storage bag that is lined with an 88 percent copper polyester fabric.

Medical workers typically store their gear in paper bags, which can lead to the transfer of bacteria and virus particles, Lutz said. He expects his bag will remove much of that risk. “The copper polyester bag is a sterile environment that lets you reuse masks,” he said.

Lutz has been gauging interest among his colleagues and plans to pursue the idea further.

As for his own personal safety on the job, Lutz wasn’t worried. He’d been supplied with PPE and said there was never a moment when he wasn’t adequately cared for. The show of support from the public also was astounding.

“The people of New York have been spectacular. There’s the 7 o’clock claps every night, so if you’re out, you’ll hear pots and pans banging and everybody clapping. They’re very thankful for all the people who have come to help out.”

—Aviva Luttrell



**FOR YOUR ENGAGEMENT — AND DISTRACTION**

Where were you when your world changed? When *the* world changed? COVID-19 has done a number on normalcy. The health impacts, at their worst, are deadly; the disruptions to home and work seem endless. We have wandered into the sight lines of a bully and seek an exit strategy that doesn't present itself readily or even logically. Yet the Clark community endures. Our students, faculty, staff, and alumni have found novel and fruitful ways to thrive in a state of uncertainty, and many in the medical and social services professions have joined the battle on the front lines. In our cover story, Clarkies give voice to their experiences during this strange and stressful time. COVID-19 storytelling also appears elsewhere in the magazine. You won't have to look far. President David Angel has been the visible and sure-handed leader of Clark's decision-making during the crisis. Social distancing protocols unfortunately prevent us from celebrating and honoring him in person as he concludes a distinguished 33-year Clark career that began in a geography classroom. However, we profile President Angel in this issue, and we introduce President-elect David Fithian, Clark University Class of 1987 (there will be more to come about President-elect Fithian in a future magazine). Amid the coronavirus madness, we may sometimes forget an election is on the horizon. Lee Miringoff '73 hasn't forgotten. One of the most renowned pollsters in the country, Miringoff is now considering how the politics surrounding coronavirus will play out in November. He also tells us what it's been like to assess the nation's opinions and attitudes for the past 40 years, and reveals which maverick professor delivered Clark's most dynamic lectures in his day. Something else worth remembering is that the good work of Clark continues, even in a teaching environment more unconventional than a Zoom classroom. We report on the efforts of Professor Shelly Tenenbaum and Clark students who go behind bars to bring a college-level education to incarcerated men and women, including powerful lessons about the legacy of the Holocaust. Finally, in these pages you'll meet attorney Stanley Pierre-Louis '92, the CEO of the Entertainment Software Association. In short, he represents the video game industry. The story about Pierre-Louis was written well before the pandemic had arrived in force, and as the virus picked up steam I toyed with the idea of postponing publication until better times prevailed. But the subject is relevant: No less than the World Health Organization endorses the #PlayApartTogether initiative to foster virtual connection via video games during the pandemic. The story stayed. I hope you enjoy the entirety of your *Clark* magazine, and that it provides both engagement and distraction as we get through this together. Stay well.

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Letters to the editor are more than welcome — they're celebrated.

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Visit ALUMNI.CLARKU.EDU, the online community for Clark alumni, family, and friends.



**BLAST FROM THE STACKS**

Imagine my surprise as I read your article on the Goddard Library (Fall 2019) and saw a photo of myself! I'm the "student" in the book stacks. The photo was probably taken in 1972, and I was the newly hired archives assistant in the newly established University Archives working with Dr. William Koelsch. The book stacks in the photo were probably the rare-book stacks in the basement. I enjoy reading each issue of *Clark* magazine cover to cover. They all bring back so many memories of the six years I worked at Clark.

**Suzanne (Hamel) Zellers**  
Ypsilanti, Michigan

*Editor's Note: Though not a Clark alumna herself, Suzanne (Mount Holyoke '72) has the magazine delivered to her home courtesy of her husband, Bruce Zellers, M.A. '78.*

**A CLARKIE WELCOME**

*The January 13 announcement that David Fithian '87 had been named Clark's next president (see Page 9) attracted a flood of alumni well-wishes to the university website, including from his graduation-year classmates.*

**Matt Chafe '87**

In selecting David as Clark's next president, the Board of Trustees hit this one out of the park. What an amazing decision! I knew David as a remarkably intelligent, committed, and thoughtful classmate. His career accomplishments speak for themselves. I can't help but think that Clark is headed for the stars. Congratulations, President Fithian!

**Stephanie Duchin '87, MBA '88**

What a homecoming and how surreal! As another member of your class, is it wrong to feel like Mom and Dad are out for the evening

and we kids get to run rampant? I'm also having a flashback to Stockard Channing circa 1978 ("Grease"): "We are going to rule the school!"

With all best wishes for continued success, wisdom, kindness, and perpetuating Clark values.

**Lisa Rubin '87**

So excited to see a former classmate at the helm of Clark. Your academic and professional accomplishments seem truly impressive. Clark and its students are lucky to have you as their new president. As a fellow Class of '87 alum, I look forward to hearing your ideas, future goals for Clark, and bumping into you at reunions. Congratulations, Dr. Fithian!

**Doug Denny-Brown '87**

David, as a fellow member of the 100th class at Clark, and just in general, I am thrilled to see you come back, duly impressed with your academic and professional accomplishments, but even more so by the heartfelt and ringing endorsement of your character, decision-making ability, and general personhood by so many. At a time when leadership, and good and wise people, are desperately needed across the country and globe, you are stepping forward to take the mantle at Clark, a place that has contributed so much to society and must continue to lead and provide good examples to its students, alumni, country, and planet. Welcome back.

**A CLARK CONNECTION DISTILLED**

While enjoying the entire *Clark* magazine, I took great pleasure in having a surprising connection to the story "A Brotherhood Endures." Though never involved in Greek life, in my role as CFO of Seagram's Global Spirits & Wine Group in the '90s I would have reviewed and approved the annual distilling plan for our Northern (Scotch) operations. One of our nine malt distilleries was The Glenlivet.

So, a Clarkie put the whisky in the barrel that now is in a bottle that rests in Clark's archives that is waiting for a "wee dram" to be enjoyed in the future.

It's a small (Clark) world after all.

**Gil Schneider '77**



## Clark faculty are Conversation starters

Clark joined prestigious colleges and universities from across the country to become an academic partner with The Conversation U.S., a daily online news outlet that publishes analyses and commentary from esteemed academics around the world. The editorial team at The Conversation works with scholars to transform their research into accessible pieces of “explanatory journalism” that are distributed by the Associated Press and are republished by national and international media outlets including *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*, *Salon*, and *Scientific American*. Contributing authors often receive interview requests from major news organizations, opportunities to collaborate with like-minded scholars, increased citations of scholarly articles, and book contracts.

**A** An advice column written by parenting expert **WENDY GROLNICK** (psychology), “5 ways parents can motivate children at home during the pandemic — without nagging or tantrums,” was reprinted in dozens of outlets across the U.S., including *Business Insider*, *Inc.*, and Yahoo! News.


**B** **ORSA SZEKELY** (political science) published “2 reasons — and 1 disease — that make peace in Syria so difficult.” The article, which outlined the challenges the coronavirus posed to Syrians who are fleeing the conflict and herded into displacement camps, was picked up by international news outlets including the *Beijing News*, the *Hong Kong Herald*, *Nigeria Sun*, the *Venezuela Star*, and the *India Gazette*.

**C** Editors at The Conversation asked **ANTHONY BEBBINGTON** (Graduate School of Geography) and scholars from Amherst College, Tufts University, the University of Notre Dame, among others, to contribute to “Coronavirus vs. democracy: 5 countries where emergency powers are at risk of abuse.” Bebbington, who has studied environmental politics and conflicts in Peru, wrote that although the Peruvian president was “unlikely to use coronavirus to consolidate authoritarian power,” the possibility “that the COVID-19 state of emergency could be abused by Peruvian police and mining elites to repress civil liberties merits monitoring.”

**D** **PAUL POSNER** (political science) published “Chile’s political crisis is another brutal legacy of long-dead dictator Pinochet.” Among other places, his article appeared in *U.S. News & World Report*, on the History News Network, in the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, and in two Brazilian news outlets.

**INSIDE**

We rise as #ClarkTogether | Clark's artists' haven | Into the Worcester woods | Dinner with Le Président



**Let us carry forward the  
excellence, the impact, the  
story, and the possibilities  
that lift us.**

— CLARK PRESIDENT-ELECT DAVID FITHIAN

# David Fithian '87 is named Clark's 10th president

BY JIM KEOGH

David Fithian left Clark University in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and English, then embarked on a career that included leadership positions at Harvard and the University of Chicago.

On July 1, Fithian will return to campus to assume the helm of his alma mater as the 10th president in the 134-year history of Clark University.

Fithian was introduced as Clark's next president at a Jan. 13 event that filled Tilton Hall, one that included expressions of deep gratitude and suggestions of the bold possibilities that lie ahead.

Following a rigorous national search, the Clark Board of Trustees unanimously elected Fithian, the executive vice president for the University of Chicago, to succeed David Angel, who is retiring June 30 after serving for 10 years as Clark's president.

Angel told the Clark audience that Fithian will recognize much about Clark from his student days, including the commitment to providing an exceptional liberal arts education and a prestigious research portfolio. He said Fithian also will find an institution with a clear sense of mission, tangible involvement with the Main South neighborhood, a dedication to nurturing an inclusive and diverse campus community, and a hunger to deepen the University's impact locally, nationally, and globally.



"Being the president of Clark is a great gig," Angel affirmed. "I join with everyone here to thank you for committing your talent, your compassion, your energy, and your ambition to Clark University."

Fithian thanked the Presidential Search Committee and Board of Trustees for their overwhelming support of his candidacy.

"In exchange for its confidence in me, I pledge to the Board and also to the faculty, staff, students, and alumni that I will work every day to the best of my ability to make our University as broadly excellent, as fully inclusive, as deeply impactful, as fiscally strong, and as greatly admired as it can be," he said. "I will be true to the values of Clark, faithful to its mission, and respectful of its history, even as we will have to evolve — perhaps more quickly than ever before — to navigate the changing landscape of higher education."

Fithian praised David Angel for his 33 total years of distinguished service to Clark, noting that Angel arrived as a professor of geography the same year Fithian graduated.

"I have heard much this past fall about the great strength of Clark's position today that your leadership has secured," he told Angel. "While it clearly falls to other people on other occasions to recognize and celebrate all you've done for Clark, allow me to applaud you today for all I will have to work with and build upon starting July 1."

Since 2007, Fithian was a central figure in the dramatic momentum underway at the University of Chicago, with roles spanning major operations, academic program development, support of the university's Board of Trustees, executive recruitment, and fundraising. He previously served for 12 years at Harvard, holding increasingly

elevated responsibilities as assistant dean of freshmen, the Allston Burr Senior Tutor (resident dean) of Adams House, and as associate dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

President-elect Fithian is a New York City/Westchester County native with master of arts, master of philosophy, and doctoral degrees in sociology from Yale. He has lectured in the department of sociology at Yale and taught for the Committee on Degrees in Social Studies at Harvard. In his remarks at the announcement event, Fithian said he welcomes a collaborative approach to shaping a new chapter for Clark that builds on its rich traditions and remains true to its distinctive culture and values.

"While great universities have many things in common, they are not all the same — and don't need to be," he said. "As the competitive landscape



Clockwise from left: President-elect David Fithian addresses Clark students in the dining hall; Fithian is greeted to the stage by David Angel; David Fithian and his husband, Michael Rodriguez, chat with Clark staff members.

of higher education grows more so, a university like Clark will prosper precisely because of its distinctive set of characteristics and because of the remarkable people, like all of you, who believe in it."

Fithian thanked his husband, Michael Rodriguez, for his inspiration and support. He recalled telling Board of Trustees Chair Ross Gillman '81, "[T]he best thing about hiring me would be that the Clark community would also get Michael. And I know you'll find very soon that I am right about that." He also thanked University of Chicago President Robert Zimmer for his mentorship and friendship.

Fithian ended the event with an assertion of pride and aspiration for the University he will soon lead.

"I am thrilled and honored to be standing here today having been chosen Clark's 10th president. Together, inspired and enabled by the tremendous progress of the last 10 years — indeed, across the entire life of our University — let us carry forward the excellence, the impact, the story, and the possibilities that lift us, because this is, we are, Clark University!"

*For more about David Fithian, including the official announcement of his presidency, videos in which he shares his insights, comments from colleagues, and highlights from his introduction to the Clark community, please visit [clarku.edu/offices/next-president](http://clarku.edu/offices/next-president).*

We are in a moment that will be in textbooks, and I hope that, when asked, we will be proud of who we were during this time, and share stories filled with happiness as well as sadness, hope as well as fear, and laughter when remembering the infatuation the world seems to have with toilet paper. ERIN SHULL '19, MBA '20



## We rise up as #ClarkTogether

How does a campus community that is physically dispersed remain united? Virtually.

In mid-April, the University launched the *#ClarkTogether* initiative, which gives Clarkies an online space to remain connected, supported, and even entertained, whether they are socially distanced at six feet or living 6,000 miles away.

The *#ClarkTogether* website is a sort of digital hearth featuring videos of grace, humor, and encouragement produced by and starring students, faculty, and staff; text narratives about the kindness and caring at the heart of the Clark community; and submitted messages reinforcing our spirit of oneness at a time when it could be all too easy to fragment. Some highlights:

- ↳ Miles Tuttle, MPA '22, on keyboard, accompanies his sister, Broadway singer Aurianna Tuttle, as she performs a rousing rendition of "Rise Up" (pictured above).
- ↳ Clark's deans share their reassuring and inspirational messages with students.
- ↳ Zoe Wright '21 describes the impact of COVID-19 on the country of Italy while she was studying there.
- ↳ Lacrosse player Jacob Brandes '21 demonstrates for his fellow students backyard tips for staying fit during quarantine.

For these and much more, visit [clarku.edu/clark-together](http://clarku.edu/clark-together).



## A CELEBRATION OF DANCE

Clark University alumnus and artist Donald Lee '95 returned to campus on Feb. 3 to perform a stirring dance in Tilton Hall as part of the Higgins School of Humanities "Bodies" series. Lee, a double amputee, later told the audience that his wheelchair is an instrument "of transformation and elevation, not just movement." The performer with the New York-based Heidi Latsky Dance company talked about inclusivity in dance and the meaning and motivations of Disability Culture, which "values physical, sensory, and mental difference ... and diversity in the body's expressive tradition." Lee recalled that he wanted to attend Clark University when, as a high school student, he received a brochure from the University depicting a pea pod filled with multicolored peas. "Clark was ahead of its time when it came to inclusion," he said. "That spoke to me. I wanted to come to this school."

## Lund Award winners dedicated to Main South

Hannah Brier '20 and Nia Slater-Bookhart '19 are this year's recipients of the John W. Lund Community Achievement Award for their service to children and teens in the Main South neighborhood.

Slater-Bookhart worked as a student leader with All Kinds of Girls, which cultivates pride, leadership, self-esteem, and self-expression in girls ages 9 to 16, including in the Main South neighborhood. Brier is a founder of Main IDEA at Clark U, a nonprofit that creates arts-based curriculum and afterschool programs for students at area schools.

Hannah Brier '20 (left) and Nia Slater-Bookhart '19 received the Lund Award from President David Angel in December.



## From storefront to artists' haven

Earlier this year, a new sculpture studio took shape at the site of the former Clark bookstore, and students' fingers were all over it. The long-awaited addition to the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, which opened Sept. 17, is both a workshop and showcase for new works. The effort to incorporate this creative space into the Clark community was driven by both students and faculty.

"Students' course evaluations often reflected a desire for expanded and updated sculpture facilities, and the faculty echoed those wishes," said Toby Sisson, associate professor of studio art, shortly after the opening. The new space at 918 Main St. has been instrumental to the artistic experience of students at Clark, because, Sisson explained, "a great new workspace inspires great new art."

Along with more individualized work areas, the studio offers space to display sculptures prominently in the large Main Street-facing windows. "We have already seen pedestrians stop in their tracks to look at the art in the windows," Sisson said.



## Impromptu pizza party

On the evening of Oct. 24, the power went down throughout Main South — leaving Clark mostly in the dark for a couple of hours. Students were invited to charge their devices and warm up inside the dining hall in the Higgins University Center, which had auxiliary power. As the students gathered around the tables, Clark staffers placed an emergency order to a nearby Domino's Pizza, which responded with speedy delivery of 50 pies. Snacking crisis averted. When life gives you lemons, serve pizza.



## CUSC rallies for fellow students

The 2019–2020 Clark Undergraduate Student Council executive board is known as the “Strive Administration.” And strive they have. As the COVID-19 pandemic grew this spring and rumors began swirling that campus might close, the board sprang into action, spearheading resources to address students’ needs and advocating on their behalf to University administrators.

Student Council President Emma Dinnerstein '20 and fellow executive board members Eunice Dollete '21, vice president; Ivette Mendoza '21, treasurer; and Domenica Cevallos '21, secretary, partnered with campus offices to provide resources and travel arrangements to airports for students who were leaving campus. Student Council also altered its existing relationship with Uber to arrange free transportation for essential trips — to grocery stores and pharmacies, for example — for students staying on campus.

Most visibly, the e-board created a food pantry for Clark students. Clark Dining Services provided boxed meals through March 31. On April 1, all students on campus moved into Blackstone Hall, which features apartment-style living, so residents are able to cook their own meals.

Besides food staples, the pantry also provided essentials like soap, laundry detergent, and personal hygiene products.

“We are ultimately accountable to the student body,” Dinnerstein said. “We strive to continue to be a part of important conversations that affect students, to hold the administration accountable, and to advocate for the students.”



## Into the Worcester woods

The crunch of new snow under boots was the only sound coming from the students in Professor John Rogan's urban forestry class as they hiked into the swath of city forest in early December, found an appropriate spot, and erected a sign etched with the words “Magnolia Trail.”

The event represented the culmination of a project that brought fresh life to the Hadwen Arboretum, 18 tree-filled acres that Clark owns in Worcester's Columbus Park neighborhood. Rogan's students conducted a tree inventory and mapped the

area, then collaborated with local, state, and federal agencies to remove downed trees and hold a cleanup day. With the help of Clark's Facilities Management office, the students also completed work on three hiking trails, including the Magnolia Trail.

“It's exciting to be a part of a project that makes a difference in your local area,” said Cynthia Sellers '19, one of the students involved in the arboretum project. “It also doesn't hurt that you get to start your day with a walk in the arboretum to hang out with some trees.”



## DINNER WITH LE PRÉSIDENT



Professor Taner Akçam, whose scholarly investigations have revealed painful truths about the 1915 Armenian Genocide, was presented with the Medal of Courage by the Confederation of Armenian Organizations. The award coincided with the launch of the French translation of “Killing Orders,” his groundbreaking book documenting the Ottoman government's central role in planning the elimination of its Armenian population.

Akçam received the medal at a Jan. 29 dinner in Paris attended by French President Emmanuel Macron (pictured above, at right, with Akçam). “You denounced the denial,” Macron said in his remarks. “You brought out what some wanted to plunge into oblivion.”

In accepting the medal, Akçam said, “The work I do is nothing flashy or extraordinary. ... Speaking the truth is not — or at least should not be — an action meriting such extraordinary praise.”

## Retro grades



There are any number of reasons you'd want your college transcript, whether for an official purpose (a graduate school application) or a more personal motive (to prove to your kid that you did indeed ace organic chemistry). Now you can get your old grades more quickly than ever.

The Registrar's Office provides digital transcripts for current students and alumni who graduated in 1995 or later, with same-day delivery in most cases. The University continues to partner with the National Student Clearinghouse for transcript ordering. In addition to electronic delivery, you can upload attachments or choose to hold the order until a semester's grades have been posted. For information, visit [clarku.edu/offices/registrar/transcripts/](http://clarku.edu/offices/registrar/transcripts/).

**Pandemic** is one of the most intimidating terms in our modern vocabulary, but all that it represents is challenged by another word's power:

**Community.**

**“Clark community,”** in particular, signifies an incalculable strength and solidarity not easily expressed, yet richly experienced. COVID-19 has only reaffirmed the best of Clark: our shared values, our devotion to the greater good, our resourcefulness, and our resilience.

In these pages, Clark alumni share their stories of living in the age of COVID-19, bearing witness through their own words that while we may be dispersed and feeling isolated, **WE ARE CLARK TOGETHER.**

## XIAOYI CUI '14

Beijing started to open again around four to five weeks ago. This lively city has never seen this degree of emptiness and silence. I sat on my balcony that overlooked the street, and I saw the city get better over time. Many places have a limitation on the number of visitors and have required reservations. But we have traffic! I'm so happy about it.

I was a psychology major at Clark, and I work in the education industry creating fun online courses for high school students. It's a job I can do virtually (I'm very familiar with Zoom), so it's not something I worry about. A simple daily schedule in quarantine makes me happy — I work out, eat healthier, sleep better, contact family and friends more, and do my work. I save a lot of energy by talking less. The most I have to say on some days when I go out is "Thank

you" to the grocery delivery guy and person who checks my temperature.

I always think on my own — I don't want all my information coming from different media — and have researched COVID-19. I read several books, such as "AIDS and Its Metaphors" by Susan Sontag and "Guns, Germs, and Steel" by Jared Diamond, to help me understand how and why people react to a new virus or disease. There is so much misunderstanding, discrimination, and violence going on around the world with this crisis. I choose to look at things in a scientific way, and keep hope. Learning as much as we can now is a positive and accountable response.

I still believe we can fight and win this battle together and get back to normal life soon.

## JEREMY HASTINGS '01

One thing I started to do is put a sign behind me every day that people can see when I'm videoconferencing. It's been my little way of bringing some freshness and personal anecdotes to each day.

It's proved to be a really good way to engage with people. There was one sign about "Tiger King." Last week, I had one that said, "All I want is Panda Express," because I love Panda Express and that's what I really miss. Over the weekend, my wife and I drove to Panda Express in Dedham [Massachusetts], ordered takeout, and brought it home. My sign yesterday was, "Got me some Panda Express."

My wife and I have 6- and 7-year-old daughters and twin boys who are 4, so we have to sort out the kids every day while working from home. We're part of an au pair program so we all split it up. I take the kids for breakfast and lunch, my wife does dinner, and our au pair takes them from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. We're very lucky to have four kids during this time — all close in age — because they keep themselves entertained.

## JERRY MORSE '69 BEA SPOTTSWOOD MORSE '70

On New Year's Day, 2019, our 36-year-old son, Alex, and his fiancée, Rebecca, were walking to brunch in their Washington, D.C., neighborhood. Before they reached the restaurant, they found themselves, as innocent bystanders, in the middle of an argument among a number of young men. Shots rang out. Alex was the only person injured. He suffered a traumatic brain injury similar to the brain injury suffered by Arizona Congresswoman Gabby Giffords 10 years ago.

One year ago at this time, Alex was in a nursing home. He did not have the use of his right arm and right leg. His speech amounted to stringing only a few words together.

Fast-forward one year. To comply with the Virginia governor's order for everyone to stay at home, Alex and Rebecca can no longer drive four days a week to the National Rehabilitation Hospital for outpatient therapy. Undaunted, Alex's therapists have sent videos to Rebecca for her to work with Alex. He has taken to this new course of therapy. Alex can now stand on his own for a short time, he is able to be maneuvered out of his wheelchair to sit on the couch, and he is beginning to speak in full sentences. There is the possibility that Alex can achieve similar success in his recovery to that achieved by Gabby Giffords.

Dealing with Alex's injury and the pandemic, we have learned that you have to actually live life to the fullest each day, regardless of the circumstances, in order to fully appreciate the sentiment of the Broadway musical lyric, "... make the most of the time we're given."

## BISHNU MAYA PARIYAR, M.A. '07

Across every sphere, from health to the economy, security to social protection, the coronavirus pandemic has created extremely difficult situations for poor, marginalized, and Dalit people in Nepal. The UN reports a 20 percent increase in rates of violence against women and children during this enforced lockdown. The organization of which I'm founding president, ADWAN.org, is helping the Dalit and other disadvantaged people by providing relief packages. I am also raising funds for daily wage laborers, women, and children in remote, rural regions of Nepal. With this funding, ADWAN will help get food and health and hygiene supplies to these vulnerable communities to cope during the COVID-19 shutdown. This is the time to support each other and be safe.

## ALBERT SOUTHWICK '41, M.A. '49

On June 22 I'll turn 100, and I'm still writing columns for the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, but like everyone else I'm stir crazy. It's been weeks since I've been able to visit my wife in her nursing home because it's locked down. We talk by phone or Skype, yet normally I would visit every other day. It's not easy being unable to see the person who's so important to you.

Have I seen anything like this in my lifetime? Absolutely not. The tornado of 1953 that tore through Worcester was devastating but affected a small portion of the city. The Hurricane of 1938 may be the closest. But this is something different.

## BILL HUTCHINSON '81

I've been a commercial airline pilot for over 30 years, and the story of how COVID-19 has affected our industry is somewhat of a moving target — the situation changes daily and we're just trying to respond to those changes. Airports and planes are less crowded, and where you might once have been number 30 in line for takeoff, now you taxi down to the runway and there might be one other airplane down there. When you're on approach at your destination airport, it's maybe you and one or two other airplanes. "Surreal" is the best way to describe it.

When I get to work, I wear a mask from the car to the airplane, and when I brief flight attendants — but not in the cockpit. That's because communication is so critical in my profession, and a large portion of communication is visual. When I say I need something done, I can't have a long conversation about it — it just needs to get done.

All of this has evolved very quickly, and the airlines have needed to respond quickly to survive. 9/11 was a watershed event in the airline industry that resulted in a lot of changes in the way we operate; it increased our awareness of security and took us out of what some might say was a naïve view of the world. This pandemic will likely do the same thing. We just have to see what our new reality is going to be.

## JONATHAN EDELMAN '16

I'm pursuing my master's in museum studies at George Washington University. About two months into my final semester, the university (and much of the world) closed down in response to the rapidly spreading pandemic. I spent the last few weeks of graduate school studying for comprehensive exams and writing final exhibition proposals all from my little studio apartment.

It has been difficult to watch the landscape of this city I love change each day. Neighborhood shops boarded up, uniformed National Guard troops patrolling the Tidal Basin to prevent crowding as the cherry blossoms bloom, the National Mall deserted, the museums shuttered.

At the same time, I am seeing my fellow Washingtonians stepping up to help those most in need. Sticky notes in my lobby offering to run errands for at-risk tenants, blocks of row houses with stuffed animals in their front windows to entertain kids unable to visit the National Zoo, and our local hero, José Andrés, turning the baseball stadium into a giant kitchen to feed the community. So much humanity in the face of uncertainty.

**“Together  
we will  
thrive.”**

## CAROL KAPPEL '85

Pre-COVID, it wasn't so unusual that when my husband walked in from work he would ask, "What did you teach today?" In this new abnormal, posing that question to me, an eighth-grade social studies teacher, seems so irrelevant. It is not what I have taught but what I have learned.

I have learned that this profession I have given so much to for close to 25 years is not meant to be conducted from a distance. I have learned that we all yearn for human connection and, in my case, a classroom, whiteboard, and uproariously funny 20-minute lunches with my colleagues. I have learned that young people really do like to come to school. They continue to express how much they miss all of us — even my familiar shrieking in the halls telling them to knock it off when they get rather silly. I have learned that I am worried about every single one of them and their social and emotional well-being.

What keeps me inspired is what I have been retaught these last few weeks. Someday, one of those Zoom squares is going to emerge as a compassionate, courageous leader in times of crisis, and one of those other squares will be responsible for a medical breakthrough that will allow us to feel safe again when faced with another threat. Perhaps most impactful, I learned that all of those squares are resilient and ready to dive right back into their world — just as I am.

## MICHAEL MARQUARDT '93

In Hong Kong, we faced COVID-19 earlier than most. Schools were shut at the end of January and the people of Hong Kong went into virus mode immediately. Masks went on, temperatures were taken before entering shops and restaurants, and the community rallied. No complaints; everyone just got on with it. It was the community that saved the day in Hong Kong and it needs to be communities that save the day elsewhere.

We now have a better understanding of the challenges teachers face every day to educate our children. We have learned about Google Classroom, Khan Academy, and other online tools. We have also learned the educational value of board games — Life, Battleship, Connect Four, and a number of card games. We have seen our 9-year-old daughter discover there is life off the iPad. We discovered she will take over the real estate market after watching her play Monopoly. I have put off playing Risk with her — too many people already want to dominate the world!

A silver lining to this dark cloud has been the ability to reconnect and help people a world away. I call family and friends every morning to check in (there is a 12-hour time difference). I have spoken to siblings more in the last few weeks than in the last few years. As Hong Kong has been in relatively better shape, I have been telling everyone how things do get better and that quarantine is worth it.

## MIRANDA VALERIO '11

I co-manage Bella Vista, an affordable housing community for the elderly and disabled in New Haven, Connecticut. When New Haven began preparations for COVID-19, we were immediately contacted because we house the densest population of high-risk people. The mayor requested a meeting with the heads of my property management company to discuss planning and protocols. It was a very scary meeting, I'm not going to lie, but I volunteered to be the primary contact between my company and the city for the duration of this pandemic, because it was the Clarkie thing to do.

In the weeks since this crisis began, I have attended countless meetings, made countless phone calls, and enacted emergency protocols that a mere two months ago I knew nothing about. I have had to shift gears from

affordable housing compliance to emergency management in order to preserve the health and safety of more than 2,000 residents.

This whole ordeal has been exhausting and emotionally draining, but also one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. I am proud to have been directly involved in the early and aggressive steps taken, which have thankfully mitigated the effects of the pandemic and prevented disaster within our small community.

## SUMMER WILLIAMS '01, M.A.ED. '02

Company One Theatre [in Boston] maintains our mission to build community at the intersection of art and social change during this new normal. And while we had to postpone the remainder of our Season 21, we are committed to supporting the incredible playwrights and creative teams that we have assembled around those stories. Although these productions will no longer happen this season, every artist contracted will still receive at least 50 percent of their originally planned payment this year. That is no easy task but it's necessary.

All of our current staff members will remain on board at their usual pay rate, and no one will be laid off or furloughed — we are all hard at work keeping our Education, Connectivity, and PlayLab programs running, as well as developing new virtual ways to support artists and activists as we collectively fight for social change.

Stages across the country may be dark, but our important work at C1 continues.

## SAMANTHA ARSENAULT '15, M.A. '16

COVID-19 has introduced many challenges. I work for Shatterproof, a national nonprofit dedicated to reversing the addiction crisis in America. Many of the factors related to COVID-19, such as the strain on the health care system, skyrocketing unemployment, and social isolation, are creating the perfect storm for the addiction crisis. We are working around the clock to react, both preparing resources for families that might be impacted or people in recovery, and working on state and federal policy responses to expand access to addiction treatment services and enhance the addiction workforce.

At the same time I am trying to support my team while they are dealing with childcare leave, illness, and uncertainty. Sometimes I just focus on getting from one moment to the next and am eternally grateful for my support network, meditation, running paths, and my favorite cookbook.

## BRIDGET PALCIC '11, M.A. '12

I work for Food Bank for New York City and our demand has never been higher. It frustrates me to no end that my organization has to exist for people to have enough food, but thank god we're here as a safety net for those who have never had to access a soup kitchen or food pantry before. I've heard some truly heartbreaking stories of pregnant women trapped at home with small children who don't have diapers or formula, and of seniors who haven't eaten in three days. Thankfully, I work with actual superheroes who are packing meals, loading up trucks, and making deliveries every single day.

I've had the honor of leading emergency food distributions at public housing facilities across the city. The idea of handing out food to 400 to 600 people raises some red flags when you're told to avoid groups of more than 10 — it's scary, but it's also humbling. People wait in line for hours and are so grateful for everything they receive. That gratitude gives me the strength to keep going because there are so many people who need help, and who will need help for a long time after all this is said and done.



Bridget Palcic and Cory Coose '12 work at the Food Bank for New York City.

**“There is a small yet glowing light at the end of this seemingly long tunnel.”**

## TIM GARVIN '85

I work for the United Way of Central Massachusetts, and I have the great pleasure of serving the people of Worcester. On March 16 a small group of us gathered at the Boys and Girls Club; our effort was focused upon coordinating services as efficiently as possible. As we were leaving, a question was asked: “What do we call ourselves?” Worcester City Councilor Sarai Rivera answered, “Worcester Together,” and our name was born.

## PHOEBE LIVINGSTON '10, MSPC '11

My husband, our toddler, and I live in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. Strict lockdown measures are in effect here. Children aren't allowed outside and people can't travel between towns unless for work. One man was fined for walking his dog too much. Each night at 8, all of us who live in the apartments around the park go onto our balconies to salute and clap for the health care workers in this crisis. It gives me a sense of community — that we are all in this together.

One source of curiosity has been Paco. He lives in a hut in the park right outside our balcony. The park is officially closed now and police go through it all the time, but for reasons unknown to us he is allowed to live there. We can see him in his bed looking at his phone, keeping connected, doing the same thing the entire world is trying to do these days.

At eight o'clock every night, Paco claps with us. Because he is the only one applauding in the park, his claps sound different than the others. They sound like an echo.



Yingying Chen, M.S. '11, and Bernadine Mavhungu '14 brought donations of personal protective equipment to a Worcester health center.

Worcester Together is both a noun and a verb. It is our name AND it describes our work. We have raised more than \$5.3 million from foundations, businesses, and individuals. Contributions range from ten dollars to a million dollars. We have awarded more than 60 grants, totaling approximately \$900,000, which focus initially on immediate basic needs — food, child care for front-line employees, temporary emergency shelters, telehealth capabilities, and personal protective equipment. We will continue with this grant-making work and we will transition to conversations focused upon rebuilding and reimagining the future.

Perhaps the most valuable part of this pandemic has been how we as a community have come together, gotten out of our silos or our lanes, and have collaborated in a beautiful way — all recognizing how interconnected so many aspects of life are.

## SAMI NOOR '15

I am not a health care provider, but have been working closely on mitigating the COVID-19 response across seven hospitals for various teams. I grew up in New York City and could already calculate how it would adversely impact the Bengali community. Many Bengali families are low-income, and are in co-living situations where two or more families will share an apartment. Social distancing is a privilege that many immigrant families cannot afford. Having these anxious feelings, I decided to do some public outreach on Instagram to crowd-source a group of individuals to help disseminate information to the Bangla-speaking community. The response to join forces simply humbled me. Within the last four to five weeks, I was able to put together the Bangla Health Collective, which has 10 active members. We have had many Zoom meetings going into the late hours of the night, produced videos, and shared content on food security, public benefits, proper donning and doffing of PPE, and dealing with rent/unemployment.

On top of my day job, managing community health is another full-time job, but I know I cannot stop here. The last few weeks have taught me how community is essential for us to cultivate our collective resilience. For sure, it will take some time for all of this to pass, but I do know there is a small yet glowing light at the end of this seemingly long tunnel.

## LEE KASSAN '70

As a psychotherapist in private practice in New York, I find myself working remotely, using online platforms like Skype, Zoom, and FaceTime. I'm not used to staring at a screen all day long. The need to focus is intense and I'm more tired at the end of the day than I would normally be. I've even been able to meet with my two weekly therapy groups online. A lot of people are confined with their families, but many are alone and their regular sessions with me are now even more important.

People here are anxious and afraid, and this time the threat isn't imagined, it's quite real. Many therapists are as afraid as their patients are. Working online is challenging for both parties, because the feeling of being together is artificial. There is the illusion of physical closeness. I don't normally sit 12 inches from my patients, but that's how close I sit to the computer. The focus is more intense. I don't see their bodies, posture, gestures — only their faces.

## PAYAL THIFFAULT '00

A few months ago, if someone had said that we'd be walking around in masks, terrified of human contact, I'd have thought they were crazy. This reality comes with so many challenges, but presents opportunities at the same time. The biggest realization for me is that we have to get creative and find ways to adapt to this new normal. Sometimes isolation inspires creative thinking and once you find that spark, it fuels your happiness.

My daughter and I create a lot of art, and make things with what we can find. We repurpose stuff, and create games and adventures to brighten the day. Although things are stressful around us, I am comforted by the positive impact on humanity. Quarantine is bringing people closer in many ways. Being at home, people are able to connect with family and friends in different parts of the world. We try hard to make each other laugh and lighten the mood. We feel empathy for those less fortunate, and try and help in any way we can. We have immense gratitude for those on the front lines. At work, we strive to support our peers and clients as much as we can.

I miss my family and friends dearly and can't wait to hug them when this is all done!

## JAY ASH '83

My “isolation” is something I wish on so many others: We're “stuck” in our Maine beach house we luckily purchased just months before the crisis hit. Even here, my Clark connections are constant and comforting, from the Zoom reunion we had with friends from the best class ever, to my casual stroll along the beach being turned into a long discussion of college hoops with an octogenarian who, while approaching and noticing my Clark sweatshirt, shouted out: “Doug Roberts” (Class of 1980) — ah, the Maine legends!

For those of us who are not at the mercy of this ravaging virus, we owe more than a debt of gratitude to the heroes among us who are in harm's way making life better for others. I'm glad to be supporting charities helping those in need, like the Worcester Together Fund, buying gift cards to our favorite local restaurants, wearing a face mask in public, advising on reopening our state and country, and keeping people together via Twitter @ JayAshMACP. Like the different colored peas in the Clark pea pod, I've always found my individuality belongs in a community of people who find it natural to be with — and to support — each other. These days are no different for me — how lucky am I?

## PHILIX LIU '11, MBA '12

Life in Shanghai began to feel the blow toward late January when the strict lockdown was placed nationwide. Life and business were dramatically changed for the entire population — it felt like we were at war at some point. Our 2020 New Year resolution had changed from “prosperity and success in the new year” to merely “survival.” However, thanks to the coordinated effort of each individual and the government, the strict lockdown paid off after two months and optimism returned amidst the reopening of the economy. While the combination of remote working and occasionally visiting the office becomes the new norm, everything is returning to almost exactly as it was pre-COVID, besides the face mask order in all public spaces. Meanwhile, now that the situation in China is pretty much relieved, I am helping my U.S. clients source face masks in case their employees are required to wear them when the economy there reopens. I sincerely hope every person on earth now can stay in solidarity to get through this temporary hardship. Together we will thrive.

To read more alumni perspectives on COVID-19 and expanded versions of these stories, visit [clarku.edu/alumni-covid](http://clarku.edu/alumni-covid).

AS HE RETIRES FROM A 33-YEAR CLARK CAREER,

PRESIDENT DAVID ANGEL

CAN LOOK BACK AT

CHALLENGES MET, CHANGES ACHIEVED,

AND A UNIVERSITY STRENGTHENED

by jim keogh / photo by steven king



**D**OSE WINE WAS EXPERIENCING DOUBTS. The first-year English major sensed herself growing detached from Clark University and entertained thoughts of transferring to another institution. In November 2016, she reached out to President David Angel, who as her First-Year Intensive instructor also served as her adviser. They met one afternoon in The Bistro to sort through her concerns. “His approach wasn’t what I expected,” Wine recalls. “He said he would write me a glowing letter of recommendation if I chose to transfer, but he wanted me to try something first. He’d reached out to two professors and a student in the English Department who he believed were very much like me, and he asked that I connect with them before I make a decision.”

## AN EDUCATOR FIRST AND ALWAYS

David Angel sold Signe Kurian on geography.

She’d arrived on campus in 1987, the same year Angel began his career at Clark. In her sophomore year, still considering her academic destiny, she took the young professor’s class in economic geography.

“David was such an exceptional teacher,” she recalls. “The choice of readings was thought-provoking, and the project work made me stretch and reach beyond anything I was doing in other classes. He was the reason I became a geography major.”

Kurian immersed herself in the many facets of geography, including a specialty of Angel’s: the economic, governmental, and societal factors that help dictate how cities evolve over time. After graduation in 1991, she parlayed her degree into a job doing environmental modeling for Ocean Spray. Then, still fascinated by the intersecting interests of public policy and business — to which she’d been introduced in Angel’s classes — Kurian moved to Washington, D.C., where she consulted on transportation issues and earned her MBA at Georgetown.

“David’s presence as an educator and researcher returned to me at different points in my professional career,” she says. While Kurian was pursuing her MBA, one of her professors referenced a research study about the movement of high-tech workers throughout Silicon Valley. “I thought, ‘My god, this is David Angel’s thesis work.’” Indeed it was. The professor had served on Angel’s doctoral thesis panel and cited the Silicon Valley research in his lessons.

Kurian, who lives outside San Francisco, still visits with Angel when he’s on the West Coast. She admires his accomplishments as Clark’s president, yet it’s her memories of him as a gifted teacher that most endure.

“Being in a class with David was a memorable experience, and honestly, I was a little melancholy when he decided to go into administration,” she says. “He looks at Clark through a lens that marries both the academic and business elements of the University. His lens has been a gift for Clark.”

She took his advice.

“From the moment I made those important connections, things started to fall into place for me at Clark,” says Wine, who graduated this spring and who is planning a career in nonprofit management. “Without that conversation with David Angel, I might never have stayed.”

“I think we take some things for granted at Clark. One of those things is that we’ve had a president who cares about the people of Clark on a very human level.”

The Clark Board of Trustees took nothing for granted when they selected David Angel to succeed John Bassett in 2010 as Clark’s ninth president. Since his arrival in 1987 with a newly minted doctorate in geography from UCLA, the London native had progressed from professor to dean of graduate studies to provost. His talents as a teacher, researcher, and administrator were well-established, his devotion to Clark unassailable.

But there was something else. Ross Gillman ’81, current chair of the Board of Trustees who served on the search committee for Bassett’s successor, recalls that during the search process Angel expressed the vision of a Clark University poised to become a transformative force in higher education. Clark would empower its students to think creatively and critically, and to move with confidence as they pursued lives and careers of consequence. To accomplish this, the academic experience needed to connect students with the world beyond the classroom earlier and in more meaningful ways than was typical.

The message resounded with trustees, faculty, alumni, and students.

“From the beginning, David possessed a strong and deep love and vision of who the University is, and who we can be,” Gillman says. “I can’t imagine Clark would be in the healthy position we’re in if we’d had a different leader.”

Following a 33-year career on campus, Angel is retiring from Clark on June 30. He will be succeeded by David Fithian, the former executive vice president at the University of Chicago and a member of the Clark University Class of 1987 (see story on page 9).

From the outset of his career, Angel has championed the ways Clark’s intimate size and diversity of thought offer ripe opportunities for collaboration across disciplines and with business and community partners. He sees how those interactions shape a learning and research community — both at the undergraduate and graduate levels — that crackles with possibilities.

His own scholarship has informed his attitudes. Angel has researched the complexities around the greening of economies in rapidly industrializing nations, developing an early awareness of the emerging challenges related to



climate change. He also merged his specialty of economic geography with the expertise of environmental scientist Halina Brown and professor of philosophy Patrick Derr to co-author a book detailing Poland’s success in promoting a healthier environment while nurturing economic growth. “Everybody talks about interdisciplinary research, but very few institutions or individuals know how to do it. Clark is good at it,” Brown says. “To be successful we had to continuously learn from each other. On that count, I greatly enjoyed working with David. He’s a great teacher and student, and a rigorous scholar.”

As provost, Angel worked with faculty and administrative

**“I can’t imagine Clark would be in the healthy position we’re in if we’d had a different leader.”**

— ROSS GILLMAN ’81, Chair of the Board of Trustees



## “Worcester is certainly going to miss David. He has left his mark on this city.”

– ED AUGUSTUS, Worcester City Manager

partners to form an undergraduate curriculum that broadens and deepens a student’s base of knowledge while developing the necessary skills needed to thrive in the world and workplace. Matt Malsky, professor of music and then-chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department, participated in a task force convened by Angel to draft the blueprint for a model of liberal education that would be both foundational and dynamic — something, Angel said, “attuned to the profound changes underway in our economy, our society, and our democracy.” The model would come to be known as Liberal Education and Effective Practice, or LEEP.

“We looked at the kinds of things unique to Clark,” Malsky recalls. “Our version of liberal education possessed a certain complexity that allowed students to fashion their own paths with the support of faculty. David saw that Clark should not only remain devoted to liberal education, but that we should say this loudly and proudly in the face of national discourse where it wasn’t always easy to take this stand. He was true to the institution, and to what we wanted to accomplish.”

On February 29, 2012, Leap Day, Clark launched Liberal Education and Effective Practice with a campus conversation and celebration that concluded with students, staff, and faculty taking turns to spring from a stage onto a mat once used by high jumpers — their brief flights captured on camera for posterity. Joining the celebrants in a leap that day was President David Angel.

“LEEP reaffirms the hallmarks of a Clark education, including our passion for the liberal arts, the opportunity to work closely with faculty who are leaders in their fields, and the drive to mobilize knowledge and education to make a difference in the world,” Angel told the campus.

The learning model not only built on Clark’s strengths, it also introduced new facets to the curriculum, like Problems of Practice courses and a capstone requirement, which amplified and expanded the academic experience.

“Liberal education in this country needs to advance,” Angel says today. “We have to continue to intentionally

## PARTNERSHIPS WITH IMPACT

Well-dressed dignitaries took turns at the microphone to recap the years-long effort to build an athletic field at the Boys and Girls Club of Worcester. The children in the audience listened patiently to the speeches, but their thoughts were elsewhere. When the ceremony concluded, they sprinted onto the new field to do what kids do — toss footballs, kick soccer balls, and race each other to prove who was fastest.

The children were soon joined on the field by the men in suits and women in heels who seized the opportunity for a few minutes of play during the workday. Among those booting a soccer ball was David Angel, a devout fan of the Chelsea Football Club.

The October 13, 2016, opening of the \$3.1 million field, funded by Clark to serve both the neighborhood and the University, represented one element of the decades-long partnership between Clark and city, state, and federal entities to stabilize a once-ailing area through housing, economic, and education opportunities. Clark has invested financial resources and intellectual capital, and mobilized the efforts of students, faculty, and staff across a spectrum of initiatives — a commitment spanning the presidencies of Richard Traina, John Bassett, and David Angel.

“The community is never just an afterthought with President Angel,” says Boys and Girls Club Director Liz Hamilton, who still delights in watching neighborhood kids play on the pristine field where an abandoned factory once stood. “Clark has proven time and again that they want the community to be healthy in every way — physically, economically, socially. It’s an impressive commitment.”

and systematically develop the skills of effective practice, problem-solving, creativity, and compassion — and we’ve built a very powerful curriculum around this idea.”

President Angel also committed resources to create the Career Connections Center, which has reimagined and reenergized Clark’s efforts in the area of career planning for students. “It’s not enough for our students to be well educated,” Angel insists. “They need to be launched.”

Liberal Education and Effective Practice was, indeed, a leap — albeit a leap that was keenly conceptualized, thoughtfully planned, and communal.

“We needed to be willing to move from the existing model of liberal education to something that was much bolder, much more transformative,” he says. “We had the courage to reinvent.”

May 31 marked the conclusion of the most ambitious and successful fundraising campaign in the University’s history. Campaign Clark rallied donor support from across a





**“It’s David who says it’s time for Clark to act on its aspirations.”**

–SHEREE OHEN, Chief Officer of Diversity and Inclusion

## AN EDUCATION WITH POP

Crowds streamed into the Worcester Art Museum on February 18, 2016, for the opening of “Cyanotypes: Photography’s Blue Period,” a first-of-its-kind exhibition of a forgotten art form given renewed prominence. Once inside the gallery, attendees were greeted by Clark University students, who spent the evening describing the historical context and aesthetic significance of the works lining the walls — works the students had researched and helped curate. The gallery visitors weren’t alone in their appreciation; just a week earlier, the show had been featured prominently in *The New York Times*.

The exhibition, which was incubated inside the classroom of Kristina Wilson, professor of art history, was the culminating event of a semester-long collaboration between the museum and Wilson’s class. To shape and execute “Cyanotypes,” her students interviewed artists and gallery owners, worked with museum staff to design the exhibition layout, and populated the catalogue with deeply researched essays and descriptions.

The class was an example of a Problems of Practice (POP) course, a key element of Clark’s Liberal Education and Effective Practice initiative, which stresses that knowledge gained in the classroom is amplified when it’s applied beyond campus. Over the years, POP courses have given students the opportunity for hands-on endeavors that might allow them to pursue the solution to a specific problem in a technical discipline, address a societal need, or, as in the case of Wilson’s class, stage a major event.

“It’s both a professional experience and genuine learning experience,” Abby Moon ’17, one of Wilson’s students, noted of her POP class. “The work is very, very real.”



spectrum of Clarkies, most notably from ardent alumni, to raise more than \$155 million, well beyond the initial goal of \$125 million. The gifts fund an array of needs like student scholarships, faculty research, and academic programs.

The campaign reflects the judicious stewardship practiced by Angel, who leaves Clark with the University on sound financial footing. During his tenure, the endowment grew from \$267 million to \$461 million (as of December 31, 2019). Clark’s credit ratings were upgraded by both Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s. University debt fell from \$81 million to \$59 million.

Last year, Clark recruited one of its largest-ever undergraduate classes: 665 students from 38 states and 25 countries. The University’s graduate programs also have boomed in recent years thanks largely to a revitalized School of Professional Studies, featuring a broadened, more market-responsive slate of programs.

Capital improvements in President Angel’s tenure have changed the face and function of key parts of campus.

With the support of a generous gift from Bill ’76 and Jane ’75 Mosakowski, and through negotiations with the city of Worcester, Clark in 2012 reconfigured the north end of campus with the closure of a portion of Downing Street and the construction of a pedestrian plaza in its place. The project knit together the campus and resolved a long-standing safety hazard.

Clark’s newest building, the Shaich Family Alumni and Student Engagement Center, opened in August 2016 as a hub for essential student services, a gathering spot for alumni, trustees, and community groups, and home to many offices vital to University operations. While the building’s aesthetics declare itself a 21st-century space — its appearance a departure from the neighborhood’s former mills and triple-deckers — the Center was planned and constructed with great care and sensitivity to the surrounding Main South neighborhood. The construction coincided with significant improvements to adjoining University Park that were partly funded by Clark.

## TOWARD A MORE INCLUSIVE CAMPUS

On November 18, 2015, David Angel listened intently from the first row in Tilton Hall as students of color offered frank and sometimes painful testimonials at a special forum devoted to matters of race at Clark. He acknowledged that the issues raised “were very real and very raw” and vowed to make changes that would sustain and enhance a culture of inclusion across campus.

Among his early actions was hiring Sheree Ohen as Clark’s first full-time chief officer of diversity and inclusion. Ohen spearheaded the Survey on Campus Culture and Community, which collected unvarnished data on people’s experiences, opportunities, and perspectives in areas like race and ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, and political views. The survey results, and follow-up forums, are helping shape strategies to promote a more accepting and respectful Clark.

“David has been a great partner,” Ohen says. “He’s been committed at every stage, with institutional resources to help foster an environment that leads with compassion and empathy. It’s David who says it’s time for Clark to act on its aspirations, and he’s pushed me to make good on that promise.” When Clark won a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award in 2018, she notes, “David said, ‘That’s wonderful. But we have a lot more work to do.’”

President Angel, Ohen adds, has been unafraid to publicly reaffirm Clark’s values in a range of areas, including support for undocumented citizens and LGBTQ+ rights. “He’s been authentic and courageous at a time when other university presidents have not always been willing to speak out,” she says. “David gives visibility to the invisible.”

“The Main Street building strengthens the ties with the community,” says Worcester City Manager Edward Augustus. “It’s just another example of how Clark’s presidents over the years have valued the university’s role in the community and what a mutually beneficial partnership this has been. Worcester is certainly going to miss David. He has left his mark on this city.”

As his time in the presidency draws to a close, David Angel can reflect on the range of partnerships that have proven indispensable, and which have provided sources of inspiration and momentum for him and for Clark. His most important partner, he says, is his wife, Jocelyne Bauduy, who, with their sons Sebastien and Julien, has long understood the demands of the presidency and the time and energy required to meet them.

Angel came from the ranks of the faculty — a rarity for a college president. He maintains an abiding appreciation for the crucial role of faculty governance in Clark’s success,



## “Being in a class with David was a memorable experience.”

– SIGNE KURIAN '91, former student

and for the intellectual and creative heft of the University’s teachers and researchers, their collaborative spirit, and their unflinching attention to the education and well-being of their students.

He has worked with four chairs of the Clark Board of Trustees, Bill Mosakowski, Peter Klein '64, Steve Swain '89, and Ross Gillman. “I’ve been blessed with having a sequence of very successful partnerships with the board chairs,” he says. “They are all deeply committed to Clark, and have been central to its success.”

Engaging and reengaging alumni has been important to him, particularly as alumni come forward to share their expertise and energies on various leadership and parent councils and through the ClarkCONNECT career-mentoring platform. Angel delights in the confluence of alumni passion and student achievement exemplified by Steve Steinbrecher '55, who funds the Steinbrecher Fellowship Program that allows undergraduates to conduct original research anywhere in the world.

As the work of Clark continues, alliances, friendships, and fellowships are pivotal to the future of the University, because there is more work to be done.

“The way in which research and student learning come together at Clark — in the lives of the students and in the lives of the faculty — is something we’ve reexamined throughout my time here,” Angel says. “We are a research university that’s the size of a liberal arts college, which is as true today as it was when I came here in 1987, but we’ve constantly explored ways to do things better.

“What a journey it’s been.”

There are challenges with every college presidency. Economies surge and ebb. Social movements roil campuses. New technologies disrupt how the business of higher education is done.

In the final months of David Angel’s presidency, the COVID-19 crisis altered every facet of university life. As the pandemic raced around the globe, Angel, in concert with the Board of Trustees and his administrative team, made the difficult yet necessary decisions to move students out of the residence halls, initiate online learning,



## CONNECTED ALUMNI

When Gary Labovich '81 was preparing to join the Clark University Board of Trustees a few years ago, he asked David Angel what he could do to have a tangible impact on the institution. The president suggested that Labovich, an executive vice president at the prestigious consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton, could best serve by contributing his expertise to ClarkCONNECT, the newly formed initiative linking alumni with students for mentorship and career exploration opportunities.

Labovich not only provides practical guidance to students, he also brings Booz Allen Hamilton to campus as an active talent recruiter, creating a pipeline for Clark students to secure prime internships and jobs with the company. To date, 10 students have found employment there.

“They’re doing great,” Labovich says. “Clark students are as good as students from anywhere.

“I feel very strongly about the importance of a liberal arts education,” he adds. “Even though I’m in tech, we’re always looking for people who can think creatively, who are adaptable and agile, and who can engage in productive relationships with people.”

After being away from Clark for many years, Labovich has relished the chance to reengage with his alma mater. He’s immersed himself in the mission of helping Clark students navigate their paths, and he isn’t shy about encouraging others to do the same.

“Clark is a small place that can have a big impact,” he says. “As alumni, we can talk to students, share what we know, and bring them in to work for our companies. I feel we owe that to Clark.”

and reimagine the commencement ceremony — then begin planning for the various scenarios under which Clark would resume operations.

The president’s response to the crisis was thoughtful and sure, say the people who have worked alongside him. Gillman regards Angel’s performance in facing this historic challenge to be emblematic of his 10 years of Clark leadership, and one of his finest moments.

“It’s been quite remarkable,” Gillman says. “I’ve always been impressed by David’s leadership, but no more so than the way he’s guided the University with a sound and sober voice. He’s examined the ways the crisis is impacting Clark, and he’s worked through it for the benefit of the students and for the entire Clark community.

“The decisions David has made have been moral, ethical, and appropriate.”

Or, as David Angel’s former advisee Rose Wine might put it, very human.



PROFESSOR SHELLY TENENBAUM  
BRINGS HER EXPERTISE INTO  
PRISON CLASSROOMS, WHERE HER  
STUDENTS EMBRACE HIGHER  
LEARNING AS AN ANTIDOTE TO THE  
STREET'S HARSHER LESSONS

**To my  
mother,  
I'm a  
college  
student.**

**BY JIM KEOGH**  
ILLUSTRATION BY **ALEX NABAUM**



**CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS**, is quintessentially New England. Author Louisa May Alcott made her town the setting of “Little Women.” Henry David Thoreau roamed the shores of Walden Pond in gentle pursuit of a life lived simply. Some of the earliest shots fired in the Revolutionary War rang out here. The homes are historic; the hills roll.

The Massachusetts Correctional Institute at Concord, a medium-security prison, is a less-storied piece of the town. Situated beside a well-traveled rotary on Route 2, MCI-Concord announces its purpose well before you’re close enough to read the sign. Brooding stone walls, razor wire, and guard towers tell you that time is marked slowly by the men inside.

Of the truths that can be spoken about this imposing compound, one is the truest of all: Few people enter MCI-Concord voluntarily.

Professor Shelly Tenenbaum is one of them.



**O**n a gray mid-November morning, Tenenbaum walks into an MCI-Concord classroom where she’s greeted by 12 men seated at student desks. They sit facing her in a single horizontal line, their backs against a wall.

Several of the men have been at MCI-Concord for decades; some are serving life sentences without the possibility of parole. They have access to the classroom through the Emerson Prison Initiative, a program launched in 2017 by Emerson College to provide a rigorous liberal arts education to a cohort of incarcerated men. Through EPI, Tenenbaum, professor of sociology and director of Clark’s undergraduate program of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, has been teaching the men about global genocide, an aspect of the human experience to which most of them have never been exposed.

Today is a special occasion. Tenenbaum has brought with her President David Angel and Dean of the College Betsy Huang to listen and then engage the students in a discussion about their lives and the value of pursuing an education in prison.

One by one, the men tell their stories. Each account differs slightly in the details, but common themes circulate: a childhood spent in poverty; an early introduction to drugs; the embrace of life on the street and disregard for formal institutions, school among them. None of the men expresses self-pity or insists on innocence. They acknowledge the poor choices they made, yet also are aware of

opportunities not just lost but never presented — opportunities that perhaps could have kept them outside the walls.

But this session is not about the past. These students are keener to talk about the meaning behind their learning. They describe classroom experiences that serve as a powerful and affirming countermeasure to the years they spent convinced they were incapable of acquiring new knowledge and fresh perspectives.

Twenty years into a life sentence, Rick\* notes he’s read 500 books in prison. Classes like Tenenbaum’s have “helped me understand that what I do does matter; that there’s value here. I’ve learned to look at the world through other lenses, which is empowering.”

Michael has served 30 years of a life sentence. He’s 47.

“For a long time I didn’t understand the value of education,” Michael says. “It wasn’t until I hit rock bottom that the desire for self-education turned into a desire for higher education. I’m learning the mechanics of writing now, and how my experiences give shape and life to my voice.” In his eight-page memoir, he writes: “Here I sit, raised hand, eager to question, to learn all about the things that had escaped me thus far.”

Huang asks the men to consider questions of identity. Do they feel defined by their present circumstances? How are they negotiating limitations and regarding new prospects?

Employing terminology from her days teaching fiction to Clark undergrads, she describes the men as “round” rather than “flat” characters, capable of changing their own narratives rather than succumbing to inertia. “You’ve thought about the massive disruption in your life that brought you into this space, and now you’re thinking about how to remake yourself,” she says.

Education is a transformative force in any setting, Angel tells the students. He points to the bond formed between Clark and residents of the Main South neighborhood, a relationship shaped by mutual respect and willingness to learn from one another.

“Thirty-five years ago, people were urging Clark to move out of our neighborhood. Instead, we said, ‘We’re going to link our success to that of our community,’ especially through educational opportunities for neighborhood children. Their parents could have been your parents at one time — they hadn’t dreamed of the possibilities. This partnership has taught us how important this work is.”

\*All names of incarcerated students are pseudonyms.

The men nod in assent and applaud. The discussion group breaks up shortly after. Time is limited, and there is still a class to be held.



**S**everal years ago, Shelly Tenenbaum reached out to the director of the Boston University Prison Education Program and offered to teach a comparative genocide course behind the walls.

“When the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world, with over two million Americans behind bars, how can we not care about the people who are locked up?” she asks. “I thought teaching in a college program in prison was a small contribution I could make.”

Tenenbaum was anxious the first day she entered MCI-Norfolk, a state prison located about 45 minutes east of Worcester. The long list of rules and procedures regarding acceptable clothing and behavior, in addition to the extended entry/screening process, was daunting. “But when I got to the classroom, I was totally comfortable,” she recalls. “It felt like any other classroom.”

This year, she has partnered with the Emerson Prison Initiative, which is modeled after the highly successful Bard Prison Initiative in New York, and moved her teaching locale to the Concord facility. Her students, ranging in age from their twenties to late fifties, display “confidence in their ideas,” she says. “They ask challenging questions, and when they disagree with each other, or me, it makes for an exciting intellectual environment. The ideas they explore in their classes give them a framework for understanding their own lives, but also for grappling with complexity — with the gray zones.”

A 2019 study by the Rand Corporation, as reported in *Rand Review*, found that “inmates who participate in any kind of educational program behind bars — from remedial math to vocational auto shop to college-level courses — are up to 43 percent less likely to re-offend and return to prison.” They also appear to be far more likely to find a job after their release.

Spending matters, too. Every dollar invested in correctional education, Rand concluded, saves nearly five in rein-

**“If you don’t touch the light switch, the light will never go on.”**



carceration costs over three years.

Despite those encouraging results, access to prison education programs is limited. The students participating in the Emerson Prison Initiative need a high school diploma or GED/HiSet equivalent and must complete a rigorous admissions process — including a timed essay and in-person interview — to seek enrollment in the program, from which they can earn an Emerson College degree.

Tenenbaum recalls a former student needing six tries before he finally was admitted to the BU program. “These students have no expectation of ever attending college,” she observes. “That may be why they work as hard as they do and convey such a deep appreciation for this chance.”

Tenenbaum routinely recruits other Clark faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates to join her in the prison classroom, where, in addition to Comparative Genocide,

she's taught Race and Autobiography. Samantha Lakin, a Clark Ph.D. candidate with deep expertise in the genocide in Rwanda, last year worked as Tenenbaum's teaching assistant in the prison program. Years ago, Lakin taught in New Orleans through Teach for America; she's now a research fellow at Harvard Law School and has been an active public speaker on issues of education justice.

"Working in prison helped me return to issues I'd come to feel jaded about, or that I'd thought I'd let other people address," Lakin says. "The students understand their choices, but they also understand the structural inequality of the system they're products of. They can make different choices when they get out, and education is a critical component of that process.

"We discuss hard subjects," she says of the genocide course. "A lot of the students didn't like the nature of some of the course content, and I don't blame them — genocide is gruesome. They'd say, 'My life is disturbing enough.' My challenge was to communicate to them and push back at them about why this topic is important."

Claude Kataire '05, who survived the genocide in Rwanda and now teaches with the Facing History and Ourselves organization, also has assisted Tenenbaum inside the classroom. "When they hear about my experience, the usual reaction is one of shock," he says. "But in my more than two decades involved with genocide education, I've found prison students eager to learn more once they realize they know a survivor."

Teaching inside a prison may be the most uncommon experience offered to Clark students — yet there is no shortage of takers. For the past three

years, student instructors have been prepared for their moment through the Petey Greene Program, which trains volunteers to tutor incarcerated people in a host of settings.

Seniors Alana Merly and Michelle Tourgee, co-chairs of Clark's Petey Greene chapter, have tutored both men and women, often filling in knowledge gaps — in algebra, reading comprehension, basic computer skills — for students pursuing their GED.

"It's a very Clark thing," Merly says of the work. "Clarkies love learning and care about inequity in education. I feel like I'm contributing in a small way, but also in a powerful way."

Tourgee works with a young man whose appreciation for his tutors' efforts is tinged with regret for the path he's taken and for what might have been. "When we come into the room he gets sad," she says. "He tells us, 'I could have been you.'"



**S**helly Tenenbaum maintains a rare perspective on humans' ability to persevere through despair. Her parents survived the Holocaust death camps and found each other while searching for missing family members in the Polish city of Krakow. Their experiences inspired her to research and teach about the human capacity for brutality — lessons she imparts to men who have been brutal, and who have been brutalized.

"The genocide course raises tough questions in any context, but maybe even more so in a prison classroom than at Clark," she asserts. "We talk about how ordinary men commit murder; we talk about dehumanization in Auschwitz. The students have had powerful responses to readings by Elie Wiesel, Terrence Des Pres, and Tadeusz Borowski, readings that gave some of them nightmares. When they've written their autobiographies, childhood trauma, violence, racism, and deep remorse toward their victims and their victims' families, as well as toward their own families, often surface.

"I am not by nature a hopeful person and am skeptical of triumphalist narratives," Tenenbaum continues. "But my students in prison have taught me to believe in the capacity for transformation."

Louis is one of those students, though he doesn't talk about transformation or triumph. These are not words that come naturally when you're serving a life sentence in the heart of Concord, Massachusetts.

He uses a simpler vocabulary to describe the impact of the Clark professor who walks through the prison doors to teach him things he's never known.

"In a way, education has become my career," Louis says from his seat in Tenenbaum's classroom. "I think differently; I see things differently."

He gestures toward the window and the November sky it frames.

"Now when I look out that window, I can see beyond the wall."

**“If I did not have this education when going back out into society, what would my fate look like?”**

*“Clark has made a huge difference in my life.”*

**EMANUEL SAPALO '21** is quiet by nature, but he's not shy about Clark University. Here, he has found both a home and a path.

Emanuel and his family arrived in Worcester from the Republic of Congo several years ago. "My parents couldn't afford my college education without the scholarship Clark gave me," he says. "It was beyond what I'd hoped."

An international development major, Emanuel plans to channel his education and experiences into an international law career, pursuing solutions to the kinds of challenges his family overcame.

And a Clark education made it possible.

"The opportunity to attend Clark is something I'll never forget, and will always appreciate."

*Your gift to The Clark Fund helps change the lives of Clark University students like Emanuel and provides an academic experience that allows them to inspire positive change in our world after their time on campus.*



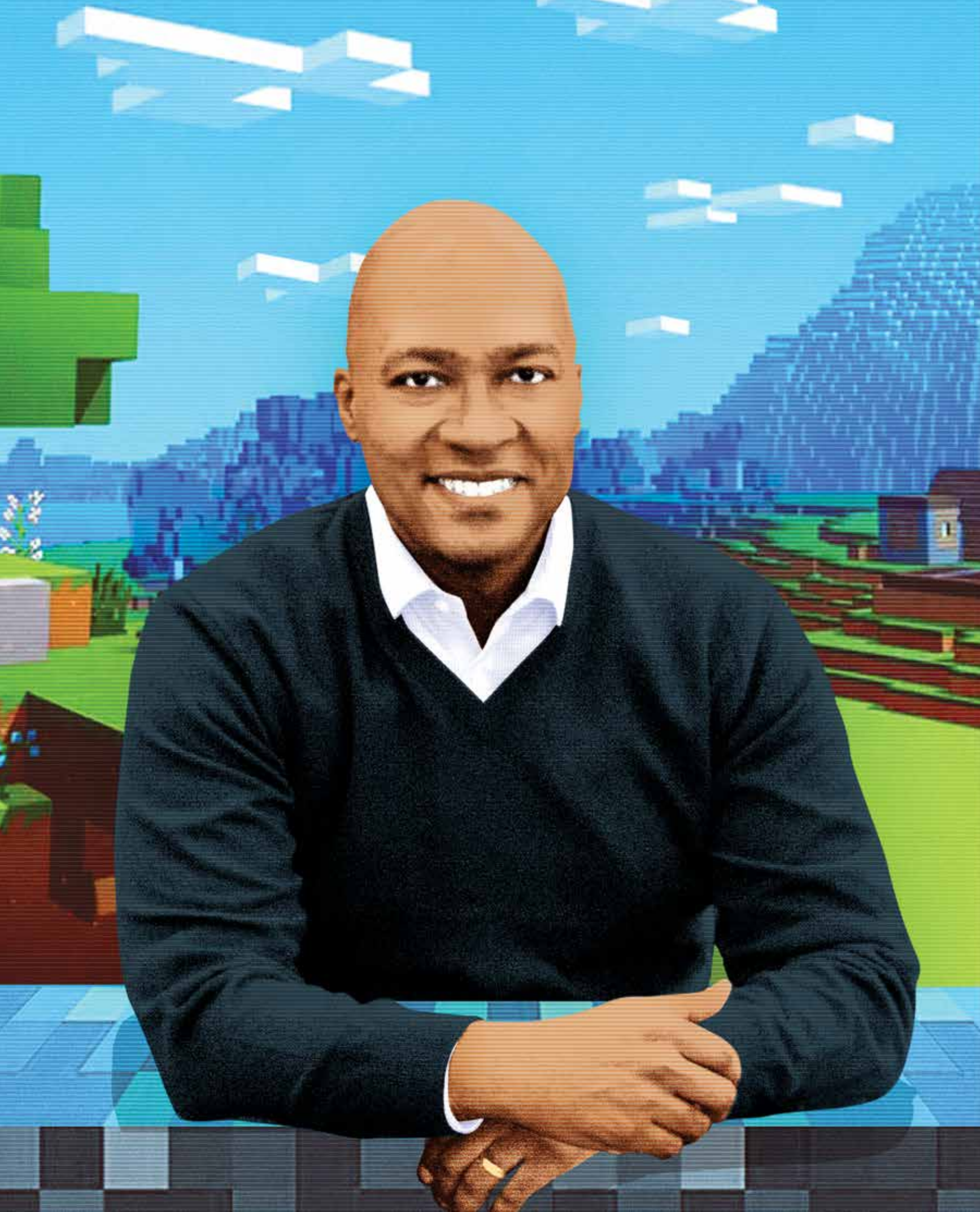
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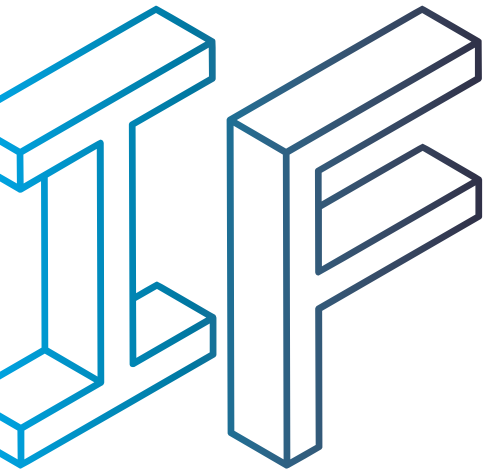


VIDEO GAMES ARE  
ENTERTAINMENT, SPORT,  
AND MAYBE EVEN ART.  
FOR STANLEY PIERRE-LOUIS '92,  
THEY'RE ALSO HIS JOB

# THE WORK OF

# FLAW

BY JEREMY SHULKIN '07, MAT '08 ✦ ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN RITTER



## ASKED TO DESCRIBE A TYPICAL VIDEO GAMER, YOU MIGHT IMAGINE A YOUNG MAN PLANTED ON A COUCH, FACE BATHED IN THE BLUE LIGHT OF A COMPUTER OR TV SCREEN WHILE HE FEVERISHLY MANIPULATES A CONSOLE WITH DORITOS-DUSTED FINGERTIPS.

The characterization is irresistible, and for many it's as fixed as concrete. But Stanley Pierre-Louis '92 would kindly ask you to reconsider what you think you know.

As CEO and president of the Entertainment Software Association (ESA), Pierre-Louis can point to surprising facts about video gaming, which has evolved over the decades from dorm-room Pong tournaments to a global phenomenon. For example, he notes, more people today play video games than baseball, basketball, soccer, hockey, and football combined. According to the ESA, 46 percent of U.S. video gamers are women, and just as many 50+-year-olds play video games as do people under the age of 18.

Statistics don't tell the entire story. Multiplayer "esports" competitions routinely sell out arenas, the events accompanied by as much frenzy and pageantry as a Final Four basketball tourney. Top professional players can earn millions annually, sometimes before they're out of their teens. ESPN reports on esports on its website, and the Overwatch League streams its games to more than 100 countries. Video gaming is under serious consideration for inclusion in future Olympics.

That man on the couch is no solitary figure — he's a movement. Pierre-Louis puts it another way.

"Our industry has become the dominant form of entertainment in the United States."



Pierre-Louis was encouraged to look at the big picture when he came east to Clark from his home in Columbus, Ohio.

While he was performing as principal double bass player in the Clark Chamber Orchestra, then-Dean of Multicultural Affairs Katherine Maddox-Wiley

urged him to take fuller advantage of the opportunities Clark had to offer. Pierre-Louis went at it full tilt: becoming vice president of the Fiat Lux Society, earning membership in Phi Beta Kappa, joining a band, and managing the orchestra. He pursued his degree in history, completed an internship in Washington, D.C., and spent his junior year at the London School of Economics.

After Clark, Pierre-Louis enrolled at the University of Chicago Law School, which led to a position clerking for a federal appellate judge in Cincinnati, followed by a position at a law firm. (His brother, Lloyd, a 1994 Clark graduate, would also pursue a law career.)

But lawyers need a specialty. For Pierre-Louis, it was time to focus.

"This was the first time I had to reckon with what I wanted to be as a professional," he recalls. "I had to make some choices about where my career would go."

Reflecting on his music background, Pierre-Louis sought to align his personal passions with a legal practice centered on entertainment and technology. "I remember taking some time to think through what I was like before I went into law school," he says. "I started to look for opportunities to express my interests through the law."

With the Clark University ethos as his guide — he describes it as "hustling for good" — Pierre-Louis represented clients looking for fair compensation for their artistic endeavors, like a young playwright who was marketing his new work. He also did pro bono work for an author's widow.

Pierre-Louis eventually went to work for the Recording Industry Association of America, representing record labels in their legal actions against websites like Napster, which were making copyrighted works available without authorization. From there, he worked for Viacom for eight years, where he litigated legal, policy, and intellectual property matters for its subsidiaries like MTV, BET, Nickelodeon, Comedy Central, and Paramount Pictures, among others.

Pierre-Louis' umbrella widened further when he accepted the position of general counsel for the Entertainment Software Association, a trade group that lobbies and advocates on behalf of

the booming video and computer game industry. The position meant a move from New York to Washington, D.C. It also provided him the opportunity to become a member of the newly formed Washington, D.C., chapter of the President's Leadership Council, an initiative to engage Clark alumni in major cities across the country.

In May 2019, the Entertainment Software Association announced Pierre-Louis' promotion to president and CEO. Four months later, he was hit with a career-defining challenge: Back-to-back shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, left 29 people dead and scores injured. The attacks were quickly followed by a familiar political refrain blaming video games for fomenting a culture of violence that sparked the attacks.

Pierre-Louis monitored the press conferences, online takes, and op-eds with consternation. He knew that throughout U.S. history, lawmakers have scapegoated cultural touchstones as societal threats — comic books, movies, rock 'n' roll, and hip-hop music among them. His organization vigorously refuted the narrative that the violence in video games had any connection with the horrific events in El Paso and Dayton. Pierre-Louis notes that the U.S. Supreme Court agreed with the ESA on this point in 2011; a position, he adds, recently reaffirmed by the American Psychological Association.

"We buttressed our traditional message by demonstrating that video games sold in the U.S. are sold in every other country in the world, yet only the U.S. has a gun violence problem," Pierre-Louis says. "As we continue to demonstrate this fact, policymakers can now have a counterpoint when video games are blamed for real-world violence."

Have attitudes changed?

"I perceive policymakers as increasingly receptive to our message because they see the impact video games have on their daily lives," he says. "They see it with their families, they see it with their friends, and many times they are themselves video game players."



Leading the Entertainment Software Association is a daunting job. Its members include video game and software giants like Microsoft, Electronic Arts, Activision, Nintendo, and Sony Interactive Entertainment. The health of the \$43.4 billion gaming industry relies in part on the trade association's ability to

successfully fight intellectual property battles, lobby lawmakers, and make decisions on behalf of the 164 million Americans who play video games on their consoles, computers, and mobile phones.

As the stakes grow, so do the complexity and potential rewards of the video game industry that the ESA supports.

A February piece in *The New York Times Magazine* titled "How to Make Billions in E-Sports" detailed the rise of "lifestyle" gamers, who compete in games like Fortnite and Call of Duty in arenas and on digital channels like YouTube and Amazon's live-streaming service Twitch. Lifestyle players not only are exceptional at the gameplay, they also curate appealing personal brands that can build their fanbases into the millions. Seven-, even eight-figure earnings are becoming more common.

What video gamers *earn* is one thing, but the broader question of what video games *are* is another. A hobby for many, certainly. A job for some. Often a form of escape.

Yet the revolution that video games have undergone, both in technological and aesthetic sophistication, has shaped them into a distinct art form, Pierre-Louis contends.

"Our number-one priority is ensuring that policymakers and society writ large understand the value of this important artistic form of expression," he says.



Stanley Pierre-Louis understands that his industry — at least its more flamboyant elements — will always be scrutinized in the public square given its reach and popularity. But he is also quick to champion the less-publicized use of video games in areas like conflict resolution, health care administration, and education by world-health organizations such as UNICEF and in American public schools (the learning game Minecraft is the biggest best-seller in history).

So what does the most powerful video gaming advocate in the nation play for his own enjoyment? Pierre-Louis, who took a hiatus from gaming after high school, has returned to the ring, these days competing mostly against his teenage son.

"We are known to have Super Smash Bros. Ultimate battles on our Nintendo Switches," he says with confidence that's rare for a parent treading the virtual world — though understandable for someone who is immersed in it every day.

## Lifestyle players build fanbases into the millions.

BY MELISSA LYNCH '95, MSPC '15 • ILLUSTRATION BY HARRY CAMPBELL

# WHEN THE NUMB3RS SPEAK, LEE MIRINGOFF LISTEN5

What might his renowned Marist Poll tell us about Election 2020?



# A TYPICAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION YEAR, LEE MIRINGOFF '73 EMPLOYS A SMALL ARMY OF STUDENTS TO CONDUCT POLLING FROM A PHONE BANK AT MARIST COLLEGE IN POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y.

As the founder and director of the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion, home of the highly regarded Marist Poll, Lee Miringoff heads a research team of nine staff and approximately 300 students. They ask the questions that assess the opinions and attitudes of the nation's voters on everything from their preference in a candidate to the importance of issues like climate change, the economy, and gun ownership.



Again, that's in a typical year. There is nothing typical about 2020.

On March 17, one day after releasing the results of a survey of Arizona primary voters with NBC News, the Marist Poll, along with its NPR/PBS NewsHour partners, released a national poll of Americans' views on the rising threat of the coronavirus. Of the respondents, 56 percent described the virus as a major concern while 38 percent believed the risks were being blown out of proportion.

The same day, Marist College announced it would soon shift to distance learning and require students to leave campus for the remainder of the semester. The exodus meant Miringoff no longer had students to staff the Institute's phone bank, so polling stopped. And as the COVID-19 pandemic encroached on daily life and social distancing became the norm, the presidential campaign fell off Americans' collective radar seemingly overnight.

"It's understandable that the presidential race isn't a priority," Miringoff says. "People are more interested in health care. The media and the public have refocused."

As of this writing, Miringoff — who has been conducting business from his dining room table — expected to have a reorganized remote polling system in place by the beginning of May. One advantage for a professional pollster is that people who are staying close to home during an extended period are both more available and more inclined to share their views.

"We found this to be true after 9/11," he says. "People have a lot to say, and they're eager to communicate it. In a way, polling will be easier."

If you're a fan of news and opinion programs, then it's likely you've seen Miringoff at work. He's a popular guest who is valued for dispassionately and precisely dissecting the public's perceptions of

the day's major issues. The respected aggregate polling site FiveThirtyEight gives the Marist Poll top marks for accuracy.

The Marist Institute conducts its polls with media partners: NBC News for state polling, and NPR and the PBS Newshour for national surveys. "I respect the abilities of the journalists whom I've gotten to know, and I'm disturbed by the challenges to the media — which have always been there in different degrees and intensities — and to our institutions."

Miringoff sees a strong level of engagement and connection among his students, both liberal and conservative. However, he worries about the echo chamber of social media.

"Finding middle ground is harder," he says. "People on both sides of the political spectrum tend to be reinforced in their views right now. Campaigns have become more about rooting; they've become more gladiator in style. Both sides just go into the ring and club each other. Facts, reason, and logic don't carry the weight they used to."

When it comes to polling, however, data is king. And although many have criticized the 2016 presidential campaign polls as inaccurate, Miringoff maintains that isn't the case.

"The polls did not have a bad day," he says. "Our final national poll had Hillary Clinton winning by two points, which was within the margin of error, and she actually did win the popular vote by 2.6 points."

The coming presidential election promises to be unprecedented, he notes, thanks largely to the pandemic's influence on how the candidates will conduct their campaigns.

"There's a good chance there won't be any in-person conventions or rallies, and in-person voting in November is questionable," he says. "The communication from each candidate will be different from anything we've seen."

Lee Miringoff first considered attending Clark because of one simple piece of data: The University was relatively close to his hometown of Poughkeepsie. But when he visited the campus in his senior year of high school, the friendliness of everyone he encountered helped convince him this was the right school.

The Goddard Library became his special haunt. "I had my cubicle," he recalls. "I pretty much lived on the fourth floor."



In fact, he says, those who know him joke that he missed the social tumult of the time because of his marathon library sessions. A certain measure of insularity was nothing new for Miringoff. When he arrived on campus in the fall of 1969, his new classmates asked him if he'd attended the Woodstock music festival, which had taken place in Bethel, New York, just across the river from Poughkeepsie. "No," he answered. "Why?"

A creature of habit, Miringoff entered Sanford Hall, Room 121, his freshman year, and soon roomed with Gary Rosen '73. They stayed together for their entire four years at Clark...all in Sanford Hall, Room 121.

His academic introduction to Clark University was the Problems of Philosophy course taught by the late Gil Markle in Atwood Hall. "He had a Ph.D. from the University of Paris and another from Yale; one was in physics and the other was in philosophy. He would strut down the aisle and the room would get quieter and quieter until he hit the stage, tossed off his leather jacket, and fascinated his students for 50 minutes."

Miringoff's most important classmate was Nancy Robinson, his future wife. This March, they were in the process of moving out of their home of 40 years when Miringoff discovered boxes of Clark memorabilia in the attic — including his notes from Problems of Philosophy.

"I didn't understand much of what Gil Markle was saying," he says. "Though it was interesting, it was way higher than I could get. I remember thinking, 'Oh my god, is this college?'"

As a government and international relations major, Miringoff

thought a career in government might be his destination. Instead, grad school beckoned. He earned a doctorate in political science at MIT. "I was 24, but I probably looked 15," he remembers. "The idea of getting in front of a class was odd."

The earliest version of the Marist Poll originated in his classroom in the fall of 1978.

Miringoff was teaching a course on voting behavior when a student asked if the class could do a poll. He wasn't a fan of lecturing anyway, so he ripped up his course outline.

"I told them we would be studying theories of voting behavior with a practical application," he says. The class recruited 100 of their fellow students to conduct exit polling on county election day. Several of the students later appeared on a local radio show to discuss the results.

"We found some unusual electoral outcomes, which we thought were a mess during the day but turned out to be accurate," Miringoff recalls. "Voters elected their first Democratic county executive that day by carrying the most conservative areas of the county."

The day's experience provided an essential lesson all pollsters must learn, he says: Believe your data, because you've got nothing else.

It's not all politics for Miringoff and the Marist Poll. In partnership with "Real Sports" host Bryant Gumbel, his team conducts surveys on issues like concussions in the NFL, athletes' use of marijuana, and the biggest sports scandals and achievements in a given year. There's no small irony that among his fellow students in his old Problems of Philosophy course were Wally Halas, who went on to serve as Clark's athletic director and head basketball coach from 1974 to 1987 (and whose grandfather was founder of the Chicago Bears), and Jeff Lurie, now the owner of the Philadelphia Eagles. "If only I had known who was sitting in class with me," he marvels.

One of the Institute's most famous polls began 30 years ago, when Miringoff was "coming to terms with middle age."

He had just turned 39 and decided to tack a question onto the end of a national poll he was conducting: "Do you consider 39 to be young, middle-aged, or old?" The next year, he posed the same question about the age 40. Miringoff has continued to ask the same question each year, with the figure corresponding to his own age. This year, he turns 69. "It's getting less funny," he confesses. Interestingly, he adds, "middle age" was last year's winner, with "old" in second place and "young" in third.

"Who are the people who think 68 is young?" he laughs. The question is rhetorical. As Miringoff has learned, taking the temperature of public opinion means the results may surprise you.

## Career Connections Center adapts to a new reality

Clark students may have left campus, but the work of preparing them for meaningful careers goes on. To meet the challenge posed by COVID-19, the Career Connections Center, part of the LEEP Student Success Network, has created an online center connecting students with advisers, mentors, and alumni who can help them continue their career explorations remotely.

“As students concluded their virtual semester off campus, many were facing uncertainty about summer research opportunities, internships and post-graduation employment,” says Donna Curry, senior executive director. “No matter what stage our students are in terms of planning, our core message to our students, recent graduates — and employers — is that we at the Career Connections Center are here and want to help, as do our alumni.”

Curry recently heard from an accomplished mathematics and computer science major about his experiences seeking employment in the COVID-19 era. He told her he had been interviewed by a number of companies, and one in particular was prepared to give him an offer — but it paused all hiring until the economic situation improves.

“We will support him the best we can to make sure he has a good outcome,” Curry says of the student. “Our CCC staff are working with students on contingency plans, thinking creatively about how to build experiences to practice and acquire skills, and encouraging students to check in with us as they hear from employers.”

Career Connections Center staff offers students guidance, connections, and opportunities “by leveraging our most important resource — our alumni and parent community,” Curry says. She notes that because this work has been a priority of President David Angel, the Center has resources and talent to move nimbly and effectively to support students in their career development journey and “launch” from Clark. Most notable is ClarkCONNECT, the University’s virtual community with more than 2,600 alumni, proving to be an essential component of Clark’s student support network.

The Center has grown its social media brand and reach,

expanding content to include “pop-up advising” featuring alumni who advise students on topics including how to stay productive and optimistic and how to network virtually. The CCC also is hosting a summer webinar series on nut-and-bolts topics and industry insights presented by staff, alumni, and employers.

The Career Trek program offers interactive field trips where students meet with alumni at their companies. Here, they learn what skills are needed in various industries, expand their professional networks, and increase their awareness of career possibilities. This year, the “trek” was a Zoom conference with two alumni employees and a talent acquisition specialist at Ceres, a sustainability nonprofit in Boston.

“Dozens of Clark students have applied to internship and entry-level positions at Ceres, and those who participated in our virtual trek got the added bonus of insight from two alumni with sustainability-focused careers and unique tips from a talent-acquisition specialist on how to make their résumé and experience stand out,” says Rosie Gallant, director of employer engagement.

Career Connections Center advisers have continued meeting one-on-one with students. “Our team of advisers has put together a package of support materials to help students adapt their job and internship search during the COVID-19 pandemic,” says Michelle Flint, director of career development. “We’re also meeting virtually with students every day.”

Before social-distancing measures took hold, Marima Oka ’23 worked with Flint in person to develop her résumé and to begin searching for summer internships. Their conversations continued over Zoom once COVID-19 forced a change in operations.

Flint helped the biochemistry and molecular biology major prepare for an interview for a Brooklyn Project Healthcare internship (a program founded by a Dr. Lewis Goldfrank ’63). Online mock interviews got Oka ready and relaxed with the process. “Michelle asked questions I wouldn’t have ever thought of,” Oka says. She landed the internship.

**“WE’RE MEETING VIRTUALLY WITH STUDENTS EVERY DAY.”**

Since 2017, ClarkCONNECT has linked students with alumni for mentorship, career preparation, and jobs.

ClarkCONNECT has expanded its reach where alumni now can network with one another, explore employment opportunities, and consult fellow alumni about career enhancements or new directions. Make the most out of your ClarkCONNECTIONS!

**ALUMNI PARTICIPATION IS THE KEY**

- Join the platform
- Mentor a Clarkie
- Share an opportunity
- Hire a student
- Network

INSIDE

Our persevering alumni / Remembering Prof. John Reynolds / Did someone from your class get married?



**I SAW MY FIRST DEATH FROM COVID-19 TONIGHT**

— Dr. Meredith Garven '06



## Like all of Clark, our alumni persevere



In April, the Clark Alumni Council held what is likely its first-ever meeting by Zoom. It was an unusual way to bring together our volunteers from around the country, but a powerful example of how the Clark community responds to challenges.

During our conversation, President David Angel shared details on the University's shift to remote learning and how Clark's

students and faculty are adjusting to a new educational model. He also described the questions and challenges he and senior leaders are considering given the unknowns and uncertainty surrounding COVID-19.

President Angel and President-elect David Fithian '87 are facing issues that our beloved alma mater has never had to address before. It's a time for us, as alumni, to come together as a community with many peas in the pod to support Clark students and each other.

The council also reviewed some of the excellent work done by the alumni and Clark Fund staff to provide connection and community to fellow alumni. We have shifted to virtual programming, including digital reunions and meetups, career webinars, and even a digital scrapbook of campus photos and videos as technology has afforded us the opportunity to do so.

I hope you participated in A Week of Community & Caring, which featured a day of giving, wellness events, a livestreamed concert, and events to celebrate the classes that would have held their reunions this year. The event included a day honoring the Class of 2020, which has lost out on so much, including its last Spree Day and, most importantly, in-person Commencement festivities.

The meeting was bittersweet, as it was also among my last as president of your Alumni Council. My two years have flown by and I am truly grateful to my fellow Council members for their dedication and hard work. During the course of my tenure, the Council accomplished many things, including:

- Launch of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, which engaged alumni across the world. The Task Force's work allowed us to learn more from our alumni about how they would like to be connected and has helped us plan new ways of engaging and building community among our alumni of color and LGBTQ+ alumni.
- Expansion of the Council's reach and membership to better represent our alumni body; new committees are examining programming, admissions volunteer roles, communications, and alumni recognition.
- Deeper engagement with University leaders. During the past two years, we've met virtually and in person with senior Clark leaders to discuss how the Council and, by extension, alumni can help Clark.

I have served on the Alumni Council and Nominating Committee for many years and have been fortunate to get to know many Clarkie volunteers. It has been an amazing and humbling experience, as well as a thrill to serve Clark and support the incredible work of our dedicated staff and alumni.

I am delighted to hand over the reins of the Council to a terrific leader. Mary Owens '86 has been my partner and collaborator for these past two years. She will become president this summer and is well-suited to serve in this role. She has overseen the communications and nominating committees and is a strategic and thoughtful leader. Clark is definitely in great hands.

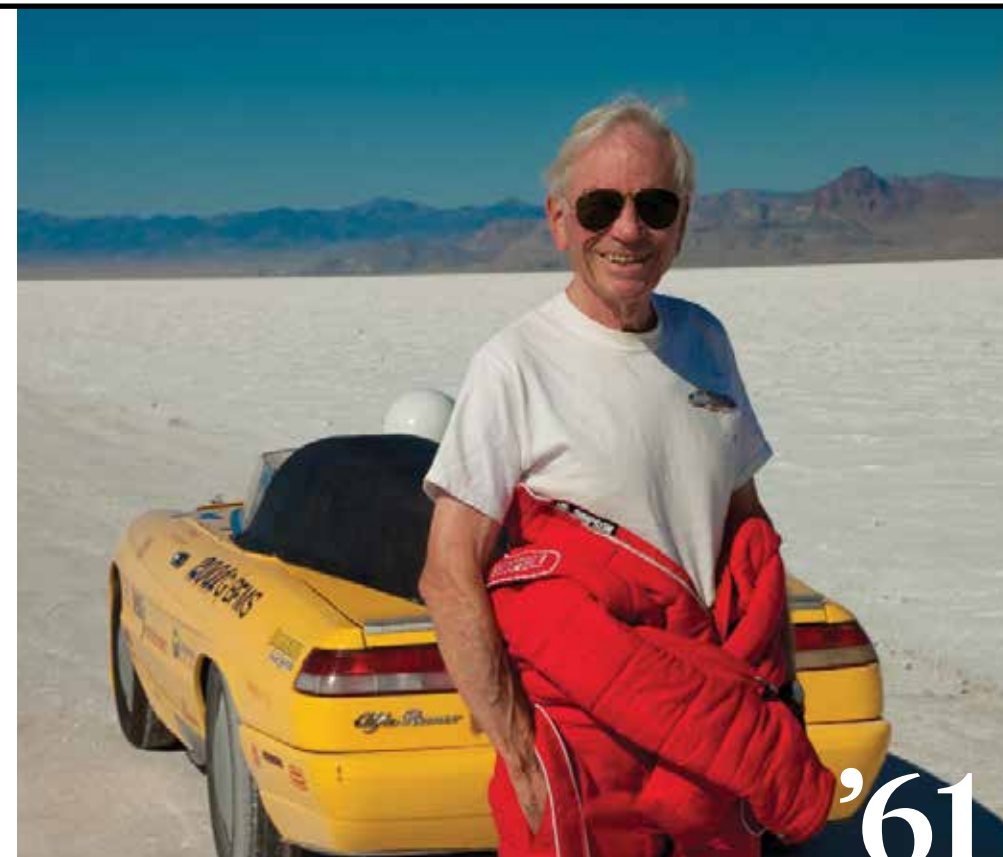
Clark is made stronger by the work of hundreds of volunteers who provide hours of counsel and guidance for our University and the broader Clark community. I hope you will take the time and consider serving. It's a rewarding and fulfilling experience that will, I hope, deepen your affection for a place we hold so dear.

Fiat Lux.

**DR. HOPE K. ARYEETEEY '98**  
President, Clark University Alumni Council

### ALUMNI COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

The Clark University Alumni Council connects or reconnects Clarkies with the University. We promote activities and share news that will deepen their affinity with a community that launched passions, careers, and relationships. Through our interactions, we also drive positive and lasting change that redefines what it means to be a Clarkie, and excites and inspires graduates to participate, to give, and to be champions of the Clark experience.



### 1973

**SANDER RIKLEEN**, a partner in the Boston law firm Sherin and Lodgen LLP, has been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America* for his work in commercial litigation and real estate law. Sander's practice includes a wide variety of commercial trial work, with considerable experience in real estate litigation, securities arbitration, and appellate work. He has more than 40 years of trial experience in the state and federal courts and arbitration forums. *Best Lawyers* is considered the oldest and most respected peer review publication in the legal profession and highlights the top 5 percent of practicing attorneys in the U.S.

**DR. THOMAS RUTH**, Ph.D. '73, TRIUMF Emeritus Senior Scientist, has been elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. The election honors Thomas' significant contributions to a variety of research pursuits within nuclear medicine and nuclear chemistry. Thomas is widely recognized for his expertise and work at the leading edge of radioisotope applications in nuclear medicine, from studying the origins and progression of neurological conditions such as Parkinson's disease to future-facing personalized medicine and cancer treatment using therapeutic radioisotopes, including alpha-emitting isotopes. He established the TRIUMF-University of British Columbia PET program (which operated in collaboration with the Pacific Parkinson's Research Centre) in 1980 and was appointed its director in 1989.

**↑ WILLIAM (BILL) LIGHTFOOT'S** memoir, "First Half," is available through Amazon in both paperback and e-Book editions. The hardcover edition is available in Goddard Library. Bill reports, "There is a good deal of material in the book about my time at Clark and I'm hoping that at least a few of my former classmates order the paperback version of the book and check it out. Who knows, they may even find themselves in there!" Bill was profiled in the Spring 2011 *Clark* magazine for setting a land-speed racing record (230.590 mph) in the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah (pictured above).

### 1975

**ELIZABETH APPEL** has published her first novel, "Good Luck and a Benevolent God," under the pen name Zeb Appel. Kirkus Reviews wrote of the book, "Appel writes in the natural prose of a raconteur, rising occasionally to the level of lyricism. A well-told account of a striver and dreamer who got some of what she wanted." Elizabeth, who is also a playwright, is married with two successfully launched children and recently retired from university teaching and a career in business and government. Her next novel, "The Median," is due for release in late 2020. She looks fondly on her years as a Clarkie.



**↑ RONALD ("RONN") BECK** received the Harry R. Carroll Distinguished Service Award at last year's New England Association for College Admission Counseling annual meeting. The award is the Association's highest honor and recognizes university admission professionals whose contributions and achievements merit special recognition. From 1987 to 1992, Ronn was Clark's first regional admissions officer living in California and directing recruitment activities on the West Coast. He returned to campus as senior associate director with international responsibilities, and in 1996 he led the first group of U.S. college admissions counselors to Shanghai, China. He has since traveled to four dozen countries on five continents, served on the College Board summer institute faculty, and is currently the director of international recruitment and admissions at Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I.



### 1976

**← PETER WAYNE** writes: "In September 2011, at the age of 56 and in relatively good health, I suffered a myocardial infarction, better known as a heart attack. In retrospect, it was a watershed moment in my life because when my

cardiologist deemed me healthy, I began a cardio-rehabilitation program. There, I was introduced to aerobic activities, strength-resistance exercise, and the importance of incorporating fitness and exercise into one's lifestyle." In 2016, Peter became a certified personal trainer and has incorporated his business, Fitness Training by Peter, to help his clients fulfill their health and fitness goals with at-home individualized training. Contact Peter at trainingbypeter@gmail.com

## class notes



'84

↑ Two Clark University graduates are among this year's recipients of the Gusi Peace Prize International Award. **DR. BERNHARD SABEL**, Ph.D. '84, and **DR. GARY DUNBAR**, Ph.D. '88, were honored in Manila, Philippines, in November. Bernhard is professor of medical psychology at Otto von Guericke University in Magdeburg, Germany, and was recognized for his groundbreaking

work in restoration of visual functioning. Gary, the executive director of the Field Neurosciences Institute in Saginaw, Mich., and the John G. Kulhavi and the E. Malcolm Field Chair of Neuroscience at Central Michigan University, was honored for his global contributions in both the educational and research domains of neuroscience. At Clark, the doctors worked together in the lab of Dr. Donald G. Stein, a pioneering neuroscientist who taught at the University for more than 20 years and championed the role of neuroplasticity in promoting recovery of function after brain damage, a legacy that both Bernard and Gary have carried throughout their careers.

## 1990

**CARRIE CULLEN HITT** assumed a new role as the executive director of the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium, which is focused on reducing the cost of offshore wind through the advancement of technology and manufacturing. Its more than \$40 million in initial funding comes from the state of New York and the Department of Energy, with support from Maryland, Massachusetts, and many companies in the industry.



'88

↑ **BRIAN STERN**, an associate justice with the Rhode Island Superior Court, recently hosted **EMANUEL SAPALO '21** as part of the Career Connections Center Alumni Job Shadow Program. "His story is amazing," writes Brian, shown above with Emanuel. "His family was rescued by the UN in the Congo, lived in a refugee camp, and just resettled in Worcester a few years ago. To top it off, Emanuel has a 3.8 at Clark and wants to go to law school." Brian posted about the experience on LinkedIn and reports, "The response has been overwhelming."

## 1993

**HEATHER RUSSELL FINE** has joined the Pennsylvania office of Tanenbaum Keale LLP. An experienced litigator who focuses her practice on complex product liability and mass tort defense, Heather handles all aspects of complex product liability cases from inception to verdict and through appeal. She has successfully handled personal injury and commercial matters, from breach of warranty arbitrations to complex product liability trials involving claims of catastrophic personal injury, across the country. She is a member of the Product Liability Advisory Council, International Association of Defense Counsel, Defense Research Institute, and American Bar Association. Heather earned her law degree from the University of Maine School of Law.



'97

↑ **PETER GRAY** and Rui Sun are proud to announce the birth of their son, Samuel Blake Gray, on July 29, 2019, in Stamford, Conn.

## 2001

**DANIEL BRESSETTE** has been named executive director of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), a nonprofit organization promoting sustainable societies and accelerating the transition to a new, low-emissions economy based on energy efficiency and renewable energy. Prior to joining EESI, Daniel was the vice president of policy at the Alliance to Save Energy, where he also served as the executive director for its Energy-Efficient Codes Coalition. Previously, Daniel was the Maryland Energy Administration's senior energy policy manager, where he helped allocate more than \$50 million in federal recovery funding and oversaw a diverse portfolio of state energy efficiency financing initiatives. He has provided expert testimony to Congress, the Maryland General Assembly, and multiple regulatory agencies, and served on a range of national committees and work groups.

## 2002

**STEVEN MANSON**, Ph.D. '02, has produced and offered to students an open-source textbook, "Mapping, Society, and Technology." The book addresses ways people, companies, and governments "use and misuse maps and map technology to tell stories, save lives, rig elections, and spy on you," according to its cover. Steven is a professor of geography and associate dean for



'08

↑ **EMILY ZOBACK** '08, MPA '09, married Drew Silverman in Newport, R.I., on Oct. 12, 2019. Clarkies in attendance included, from left, Jess Lewczyk '10, Andrew Ninnemann '10, Laura Faulkner '10, MPA '11, Anna Rosofsky '10, M.A. '11, Emily Holland '09, Brian Hersey '07, Maria Duffy '09, Drew, Scott Zoback '04, MPA '05, Matt Wrubel '09, Sarah (Milardo) Roth '08, MPA '09, Erika (Scopino) Labbe '08, Marc Labbe '08, Kristin Healy '08, MAT '09, Emily, Rebecca (Leighton) Healy '08, Kimberly (Citrin) Shames '08, and Margaret (Harris) Goldstein '08. Not pictured: Scott Cobban '04, MSPC '05

research and graduate programs for the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota. He says providing the book to 900 students a year has saved them a worst-case amount of \$100,000 a year over traditional textbooks. "Having kids myself and looking at college costs, I understand that books are a huge part of a student's costs," Manson says. "We are saving students literally hundreds of thousands of dollars — and that's a good thing." The book was also placed in the Open Textbook Library, one of the largest catalogs of open textbooks in the world, based at the UMN's College of Education and Human Development. It is being used by at least three other universities across the United States, and people are dipping into the book from around the world, he says.

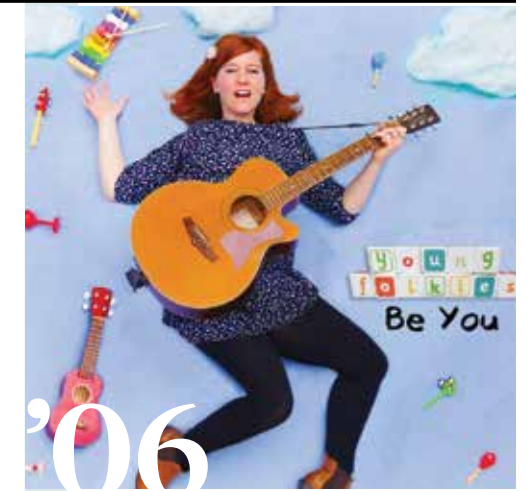
## 2003

**JEFFREY MALANSON** '03, M.A. '04, is the director of strategic planning and implementation for Purdue University Fort Wayne. In this role, he has organizational oversight of the university's strategic planning and implementation processes, including

communication, action planning, and budgeting. He also is establishing the university's first Office of Academic Innovation, which will be responsible for long-term academic strategy and planning.

## 2011

**JOEY PERR** '11, MAT '12, has published his first graphic novel, "Hands Up, Herbie!," which follows artist and activist Herb Perr — Joey's father — from a mob-linked Jewish family in Brighton Beach, N.Y., through the studios of Helen Frankenthaler and Mark Rothko, Reagan-era art activism, and a reckoning with the responsibilities of raising a family. Broken Frontier, a website covering the comic industry, wrote, "[Perr] fully taps into comics' ability to not only document but give life to a subject's words. ... It is Perr's work as a graphic documentarian that successfully communicates both experiences in a way that pulls the reader in."



'06

↑ **MARISA LEVENSON** has released her first album, "Be You," under the name Young Folkies. The album features her favorite nursery rhymes as well as original songs that both parents and children can enjoy. "The songs teach about social and emotional awareness, and kindness toward others," she writes. "Be You" is available to stream and buy from digital music services including Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon.

↓ **ARMEN KASSABIAN** is a U.S. Department of State English Language Fellow on the tropical island of Mauritius, where he trains pre- and in-service English teachers through a mindfulness-centered communicative approach that incorporates social and emotional learning. Along with teacher training, Armen's duties include curriculum development and administering assessments at the Mauritius Institute of Education. He also helped organize the largest English-teaching conference in the history of the island. "I've become a more flexible, confident, and reflective educator and teacher trainer because of my fellowship," Armen explains. After completing his fellowship, Armen plans to apply for the English Language Specialist Program and a doctoral program focusing on the connection between social and emotional development, language acquisition, and social capacities.





**ANNA STEINBOCK**, '11, MPA '12, and **SAM SHEPLER** '11, MSPC '12, were married on Sept. 7, 2019. Clarkies on hand to celebrate included (standing, from left) Gabe Gerzon '11, MSPC '12, Michael Lopes '14, Leah Fitzgerald '11, MBA '12, Victoria Corke '11, Casey Larkins '11, Anna and Sam, Emily Rouleu '11, Gus Brewer '11, Britney Wigley '11, MAT '12, Andy Newton '11, M.A. '12, Ann Kerrin '11, Alex Dunn '11, MBA '12, Sam Morse '11, MPA '12, Philix Liu '11, MBA '12, Michael Maggio '12, MBA '13, and (kneeling) Cooper Hart '12, Gina Bennett '12, Rachel (Berkowitz) Ehly '11, MPA '12, Jen Aballo '11, and Annie Giesecker '11.



**MIKE ERESSY**, MAT '12, married Katie McNamara on Nov. 23, 2019, in Worcester. Clarkies in attendance included, from left, Kendra Cox '02, Mike, Ann Rokosky '11, Bethany Kenstowicz '07, Andre Kenstowicz '11, Jeremy Sanders '11, and June Eressy, mother of the groom and former principal of Clark partner schools University Park Campus School and Claremont Academy.



**ALLY BOGUHN** '12, MSPC '13, and **JARROD BRENNET** '12, M.A./CDP '13, were married on Oct. 6, 2018, on Bailey Island, Maine. Clarkies in attendance included Maggie Federici '12, M.A. '14, Elizabeth Harris '13, Samantha Horn '10, MPA '11, Shoshana Zuckerman '12, Arianna Enos '13, Laura Peres '12, Katie Freidman '12, Joe Krahe '12, Charlie Tripp '12, Graham Twibell '10, Kate McPhillips '12, Erin Ross '12, Steve Duffy '12, Angelica Surra '12, Rachel Kossar '12, and Jake Kramer '12.



**OLIVIA LOTHSTEIN** and **MAX TRAVERS**, both members of the class of 2011, were married on Aug. 3, 2019, in Sheffield, Mass., Mass. with plenty of Clarkies in attendance.



**JOANNE BARRETT** and **CASEY EPSTEIN**, both graduates in the class of 2014, were married on Aug. 17, 2019, in Minneapolis. A number of Clarkies celebrated with them, including (back row, from left) former dean of admissions Don Honeman, Elliot Altbaum '14, M.A./GIS '15, Mike McDougall, Ari Marion '14, Rebecca "Bee" Bernstein '15, Zachai Kalet-Schwartz '15, Kevin Dunn '15, Rian Watt '14, Levi Natkins '13, MAT '14, Michelle Andrews '14, M.A./GIS '15; (front, from left) Alina Michelewicz '14, M.A./CDP '15, Charise Canales '13, M.A./CDP '14, Diane Boodrookas '14, Tony Saracino '14, Casey and Joanne, Lydia Berry '15, Jenny Six '14, Gabe Epstein '17, M.A./CDP '18, and Amanda Levasseur '18, MBA '19.

**Eliot G. Striar '62**



Eliot G. Striar, 79, an attorney in Columbia, Md., passed away on Dec. 20, 2019. He will be deeply missed by his family, dear friends, colleagues, and the many clients he helped throughout his career.

Eliot was born in Worcester in 1940 and lived there throughout his childhood. After graduating from Clark, he earned a law degree from Boston University and an L.L.M. from New York University.

A commitment to social justice was a core part of his life. After law school he became an AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer in Baltimore, an experience that cemented his focus on helping people in need.

In 1971, Eliot married Sharna Lieberman and they moved to Ann Arbor, Mich. Eliot's civic mindfulness continued in his role as an assistant corporation counsel for the County of Washtenaw. For many years he volunteered as an usher for University of Michigan football games. He was an avid tennis player and baseball fan, and a lover of books and the outdoors.

In 1985, the couple moved to Columbia, Md., where Eliot became an associate in the law firm of Talkin and Abramson. In the early 1990s, he opened his own legal practice in Columbia and was the founder of First Columbia Title Company. He continued to practice real estate law up until his death.

Eliot is survived by three nieces, Faith Doub, Abby Dworkin Diab, and Missy Dworkin; two nephews, Seth Fieldman and Jonathan Fieldman; and his ex-wife, Sharna Striar. He was predeceased by his parents, his sister, Suzanne Fieldman, and brother, Paul Striar.

**Melvin H. Worth Jr. '50, M.D**

Melvin H. Worth Jr. '50, M.D., a surgeon, died on Aug. 19, 2019, in Sun City, Fla.

In addition to his private practice, Dr. Worth was the founder and director of the Trauma Service of Bellevue Hospital (1966–1979), and director of surgery at Staten Island University Hospital (1979–1996). He also was an associate professor of medicine at NYU, and a clinical professor at Downstate Medical School.

Dr. Worth was appointed by New York Governor Mario Cuomo to the State Hospital Planning and Review Committee in 1988, and served until 1995. He was president of the New York Surgical Society and held offices in other professional organizations.

In retirement, he volunteered and served for more than 20 years as a consultant and scholar-in-residence for the National Institute of Medicine, and became a member of the Cosmos Club. Dr. Worth also volunteered for the Sun City Center Emergency Squad.

He graduated from the New York University School of Medicine in 1954. He completed his internship and residency at the NYU Medical Center and served in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1957.

Dr. Worth was predeceased by his daughter, Carol, and son, David. He is survived by his wife, Alice; daughter, Nancy, and grandson, Benjamin.

**Carol M. Sica**

Carol M. Sica, former professor and director of the theatre arts program at Clark, died on March 17, 2020, in Sheffield, Mass.

Sica is survived by her wife, former dean of the college Marcia Savage '61, M.A.Ed. '62, L.H.D. '92. She also leaves her daughter, Julie Savage-Boeding, son-in-law, Trevor Boeding, and her young grandson, Liam Boeding.

Sica attended Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., and earned a master of fine arts from the Yale School of Drama in New Haven, Conn., before beginning her career as a professor of theater at Hofstra. She joined the faculty at Clark from 1976 to 1980, then became director of special events at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y., where she also was active in the theater department. She retired as professor emeritus and moved to Sheffield in the Berkshires, where she remained for the rest of her life.

In Sheffield, Sica spent 10 years as a member of the Stockbridge Festival Chorus and was active in many community groups and projects. She especially delighted in working with children's theater productions.

**JOHN T. REYNOLDS**



John T. Reynolds, professor emeritus of biology, passed away on Jan. 27, 2020. He taught at Clark from 1956 until his retirement in 1995. ■ As well as teaching undergraduate courses, Reynolds was the principal instructor for more than 40 graduate students working in his interest areas of applied and environmental microbiology, environmental health, and risk assessment. He was the author or co-author of many articles in those areas. In 1964, he was an Office of Naval Research/Ford Foundation-sponsored lecturer at the University of Recife, Brazil, the University of Lagos, Nigeria, and the University of Ife, Nigeria. During the 1966-67 academic year, he was a Fulbright lecturer in the Republic of Vietnam and Southeast Asia. ■ During his time at Clark, Reynolds held administrative appointments including the Biology Department chair, director of the Master's in Public Health Program, and chair of the faculty. ■ Reynolds began active duty in the U.S. Navy in 1942, just days after graduating from St. Charles High School in Waltham, Mass. He served as a hospital corpsman with the 100th and 148th Naval Construction Battalions, and served as an independent duty corpsman on the USS ARD-28 when World War II ended. He spent more than two years in the Pacific, participated in the Marshall Island and Okinawa campaigns, and was discharged as a Pharmacist's Mate First Class in 1946. He continued to serve in the Naval Reserve until 1954. ■ After the war, he earned his bachelor's degree from Boston College, a master's and doctorate from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and conducted postdoctoral work at the Institute for Marine Science at the University of Miami. He also received a master's of public health from the Harvard University School of Public Health. ■ Professor Reynolds leaves his son and daughter-in-law, Stephen and Beth Reynolds; grandsons, Sean Reynolds and Matthew Reynolds; sisters, Eleanor Devlin, Patricia McKinnon, Bernice Brown, and Catherine Bacon; and his sister-in-law, Joan Konieczny.



**FRANK "STEVE" BURTON '56**

Frank "Steve" Burton, of Damariscotta, Maine, passed peacefully on Oct. 9, 2019, with his wife, Nancy, at his side. A proud Clarkie through and through, he maintained many lifelong connections to the University. ■ Growing up in Worcester, Steve attended Clark as a commuter student. His older brother, David '54, was his first Clark mentor and companion on their daily walks to campus from their June Street home. Tuition needs were met through afternoon work at a downtown department store and a modest \$400 loan from the Rotary Club Education Fund of Worcester. To return that generosity, Steve joined Rotary after graduating from Clark, and was active for more than 50 years, priding himself on perfect weekly attendance for five-plus decades. ■ During his Clark student years, Steve met his future bride. On a Saturday night, arrangements were made for a blind date between five Clark men and five Becker women. More than just luck of the draw, Steve and Nancy were matched for the date in accordance with his prior request to be "paired up with the tallest gal." That simple premise led to 61 years of devoted marriage. ■ Steve attended numerous Clark reunions and made annual donations to The Clark Fund with a regularity to set one's watch to. He thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities to chat with current students who called each year for his gifts. He served many years as an alumni admissions representative, driving to various college fairs throughout the state of Maine and advocating for Clark University with high school guidance counselors. ■ Steve and Nancy had two sons, Jonathan '92 (now associate director of major gifts at Clark) and Andrew '95. It was a point of pride to see both boys follow in his footsteps to attend and graduate from his beloved alma mater.

**MONICA M. PRZELOMSKI-PACIFICO '77, M.D.**

Monica M. Przelomski-Pacifco '77, M.D., of Auburn, Mass., died on March 27, 2020, in Worcester. Born in Webster, Mass., Dr. Przelomski-Pacifco earned a degree in nursing from Quinsigamond Community College, then a bachelor's degree magna cum laude in biology from Clark. She went on to earn her M.D. from UMass Medical School and completed her neurology residency at UMass Memorial Medical Center and St. Vincent Hospital, finishing her fellowship in EMG at Massachusetts General Hospital. Her medical career spanned over 10 years at Fallon Clinic, where she worked in the Neurology EMG Department until her retirement. She also worked as an assistant professor of neurology at UMass Medical School. Dr. Przelomski-Pacifco did extensive research and published a major paper in the journal *Neurology* titled "Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) 1970 to 1984, in Taunton, Mass." In her spare time, she enjoyed painting, both with watercolors and oils, for which she won several awards, along with flower gardening, sewing, and waterskiing. Dr. Przelomski-Pacifco is survived by her husband, Dr. Luigi Pacifco, and her two children, Antoinette and Vincent Pacifco.

**ROBERT J. CLARKE '67**

Robert "Bob" John Clarke, a retired foreign service officer who held posts in countries including Nicaragua, Thailand, and New Zealand, passed away May 30, 2019, in Rockville, Maryland, of advanced-stage cancer. Born in New Haven, Conn., he earned a bachelor's degree in history from Clark, a master's in political science from the New School for Social Research in New York, and a master's in interdisciplinary studies from the National Defense University, Washington, D.C. He also served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, posted to the Fulda Gap, Germany. Clarke enjoyed a 33-year diplomatic career, starting with his first tour as a consular and political officer in Managua, Nicaragua (1979-81), just as the Sandinistas came to power, and ending with his final tour as Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand (2009-11). Serving in posts both large and small, Clarke relished the opportunity to strategically analyze political phenomena and to exert his strong interpersonal skills while working with host country officials to understand and solve



knotty problems. He engaged on a wide variety of issues of global importance, including as special assistant to Secretary of State George Shultz (1985-86). At the U.S. Mission to NATO in Belgium (1993-1996) he drafted major policy points that guided senior decision-makers when the U.S. led NATO in armed intervention. While serving as senior desk officer for Indonesia (1998-2000), Clarke drafted key elements of U.S. policy toward Indonesia as East Timor regained its status as an independent nation following

**BARRETT MORGAN, M.A. '71**

Barrett ("Barry") Morgan of Worcester passed away peacefully on April 17, 2020, from complications related to COVID-19. It was at Clark that Barry met his wife, Mahroo (Tavakolian) '64. Upon completion of her degree, they lived in Mahroo's native Iran, where Barry worked for an American engineering company conducting geological prospecting in the Southeast desert of the country. The couple later moved to Worcester, where Barry joined the David Clark Company, a maker of high-altitude aviation and industrial protection equipment, and later purchased the company with several colleagues. Throughout his life Barry was an ardent supporter of Worcester's many cultural and civic institutions. Barry is survived by his wife, Mahroo; his daughter, Anna Mitra and her husband Philip Moremen; his son, Ralph Tavakolian and his wife Olga, and five grandchildren.

violent unrest and Indonesia's first democratic elections in 1999. As counselor for political affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok (2002-05), Clarke shaped official U.S. understanding that Muslim unrest in Southern Thailand arose from separatist motivations, not international terrorist backing. And as consul general in Hermosillo, Mexico (2005-08), he oversaw a major expansion of the office's visa services and reporting coverage. In his final tour serving as deputy chief of mission in Wellington, New Zealand, Clarke led the development and implementation of changes that reversed a 25-year history of stalled U.S.-New Zealand relations, including securing presidential authorizations. In 2011, Clarke retired, but continued to work as a contractor for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. In this capacity, he assisted refugees in Pakistan, Iraq, and Cuba. Clarke is survived by his wife of 48 years, Rosalind, of Washington, D.C., and his daughters, Lisa and Jill, of Montgomery County, Maryland.

## in memoriam

### PASSINGS

**HOWARD E. PAGE, M.A. '38, PH.D. '40**  
Vero Beach, Fla., 1/20/2020

**ALTHEA W. MACAULAY, M.A. '40**  
Fredericton, New Brunswick, 11/17/2019

**MARY (VOGT) WOODLAND, M.A. '43**  
Homewood, Ill., 2/19/2020

**JOHN T. MILLER '44**  
Arlington, Va., 6/8/2019

**MARY ERMACK '45**  
Grafton, Mass., 1/19/2020

**WALTER S. NYLUND '46**  
Enfield, N.H., 9/9/2019

**ROBERT F. DEROSIER '48, M.A. '49**  
West Hartford, Conn., 6/8/2019

**CHARLES KLAMKIN '48**  
Willow Grove, Pa., 8/30/2019

**SONYA (JOHNSON) WESTERBACK '48**  
North Kingston, R.I., 10/13/2019

**STANLEY M. BOYNTON '49**  
Somerset, Mass., 7/11/2019

**MELVIN M. PALLEY '49**  
Worcester, Mass., 12/16/2019

**BARBARA J. (OSTEROFF) ROSE '49**  
Gardner, Mass., 1/1/2020

**CHARLES O. ANDERSON '50**  
Auburn, Mass., 2/1/2020

**HAROLD R. CHESSON '50, P '86, P '01**  
East Brookfield, Mass., 7/26/2019

**ANNA M. DUFFY '50**  
Worcester, Mass., 10/6/2019

**ROBERT E. JOHNSON '50**  
Mystic, Conn., 8/13/2019

**MARIE F. MORRILL '50**  
Southbridge, Mass., 8/21/2019

**MELVIN H. WORTH '50, P '76**  
Sun City Center, Fla., 8/19/2019

**ERNEST H. FINE '51**  
Carlsbad, Calif., 8/23/2019

**NANCY A. THAYER GRANT '51**  
Nashua, N.H., 6/22/2019

**ROBERT A. LANCEY '51**  
Shrewsbury, Mass., 2/2/2020

**MARGARET A. (MARLBOROUGH)  
MATTHEWS, M.A.ED. '51**  
Millbury, Mass., 2/5/2020

**WALLACE H. MYERS '51**  
Worcester, Mass., 10/29/2019

**WILLIAM J. SCHOLLARD '51**  
Worcester, Mass., 6/13/2019

**PETER A. BENSON '52**  
San Mateo, Calif., 1/28/2020

**RICHARD A. CAIN '52**  
Bayville, Maine, 12/9/2019

**ROBERT E. KING '52**  
Castleton on Hudson, N.Y., 9/21/2019

**ALBERT B. O'DONNELL '52**  
Worcester, Mass., 9/25/2019

**WILLIAM F. BEEMER, M.A. '53**  
Orlando, Fla., 7/28/2019

**JEAN A. CONDON BRUSO '53**  
Worcester, Mass., 9/25/2019

**HOLMES V. TRACY '53**  
Pelham, N.H., 9/13/2019

**GLADYS M. FORZLEY MACKOUL '54**  
Brewster, Mass., 6/6/2019

**NELSON E. OCKERBLOOM, M.A. '54**  
West Grove, Pa., 8/18/2019

**BERNICE B. BURDULIS FERNANDEZ '55**  
Dade City, Fla., 11/23/2019

**F. STEVENSON BURTON '56, P '92, P '95**  
Damariscotta, Maine, 10/9/2019

**CHARLES I. BLOOMGARDEN '57**  
Huntington, N.Y., 2/20/2020

**JOSEPH L. TOUSSAINT '57**  
Indianapolis, Ind., 12/24/2019

**CHARLES A. DEGRANDPRE '58**  
Portsmouth, Maine, 2/12/2020

**GERALD F. NUGENT '58**  
Shrewsbury, Mass., 8/11/2019

**ALBERT A. BISCEGLIA '59**  
Hyannis, Mass., 10/26/2019

**HENRY W. BOWDEN '59**  
Lancaster, Mass., 6/21/2019

**RUTH A. RAILA '59**  
Harwich, Mass., 8/15/2019

**RICHARD A. BATES '60**  
Shrewsbury, Mass., 12/16/2019

**HARVEY GREENBERG '60**  
New Haven, Conn., 9/13/2019

**IAN K. GRAHAM '61**  
Stanwood, Wash., 12/20/2019

**VIOLA E. POLLARD KING '61**  
Worcester, Mass., 8/5/2019

**JOHN F. MCMANUS, M.A.ED. '61**  
Malibu, Calif., 8/2/2019

**LOUIS M. SANDMAN '61**  
Boston, Mass., 12/12/2019

**RAYMOND C. DUVARNEY '62, PH.D. '68**  
Lilburn, Ga., 11/6/2019

**BEVERLY J. (WRIGHT) GIGLIOTTI '62**  
Teaticket, Mass., 8/6/2019

**WALTER E. PRIESTLEY '62, P '89**  
Worcester, Mass., 12/13/2019

**SUZANNE I. (SKINNER) SOPPET '62**  
Leominster, Mass., 8/7/2019

**ELIOT G. STRIAR '62**  
Columbia, Md., 12/20/2019

**JOHN C. KISSEL '63**  
South Windsor, Conn., 1/4/2020

**PAUL E. ROGERS '63**  
Charlton, Mass., 7/21/2019

**THOMAS E. ST. PIERRE '63**  
Shrewsbury, Mass., 1/3/2020

**ANTHONY M. DEVOE '64**  
Ipswich, Mass., 9/25/2019

**JUNE COLLINGS MOORE '64**  
Norton, Mass., 7/30/2019

**BRUCE DRUCKER '65**  
Wellfleet, Mass., 4/7/2020

**STEPHEN G. KEITH '65**  
Preston, Conn., 8/26/2019

**ALAN C. SHRAYER '65**  
Douglas, Mass., 6/19/2019

**DOROTHY E. PETRALIS, M.A.ED. '66**  
Worcester, Mass., 10/2/2019

**ROBERT J. CLARKE '67, P '95**  
Washington, D.C., 5/30/2019

**RUTH R. (WHEATON) EVANS, M.A.ED. '67**  
Worcester, Mass., 6/30/2019

**DAVID I. COOK, MBA '68**  
Holden, Mass., 2/7/2020

**KURT E. EDGREN '68**  
Southborough, Mass., 10/4/2019

**BRUCE D. SHOICKET '69**  
Boston, Mass., 2/10/2020

**JOHN A. GAGLIASTRO '70, MPA '79**  
Worcester, Mass., 1/30/2020

**WILLIAM J. GRANDONE '70**  
Fiskdale, Mass., 8/4/2019

**DAVID B. GRASS '70**  
McLean, Va., 9/13/2019

**JOHN R. WILLIS '70**  
Auburn, Mass., 2/16/2020

**JOSEPH P. FALLON '71**  
Sterling, Mass., 8/17/2019

**HERBERT E. WRIGHT '73**  
Milford, Mass., 8/20/2019

**SR. LORRAINE DOUCET, PH.D. '74**  
Manchester, N.H., 2/4/2020

**JOHN T. DOWD '74**  
West Boylston, Mass., 9/19/2019

**JAMES G. DUNN '74, P '11**  
Patterson, N.Y., 9/23/2019

**THOMAS F. GUILFOIL '74**  
Dudley, Mass., 11/22/2019

**PEGGY D. MUSCENTE '74, M.A.ED. '77**  
Brooklyn, N.Y., 8/1/2019

**PAUL J. O'BRIEN '74**  
Auburn, Mass., 1/3/2020

**FREDERICK W. PILCH, MBA '74**  
Douglas, Mass., 9/22/2019

**WILLIAM L. PALY '75**  
Marblehead, Mass., 10/7/2019

**ANN W. (TAYLOR) RAWSTRON '75**  
Northborough, Mass., 11/17/2019

**RALPH WALKER '75**  
Worcester, Mass., 6/25/2019

**VICTOR AMENTA '76**  
Leominster, Mass., 11/19/2019

**CHRISTOPHER J. BRASSARD '76**  
Fort Worth, Texas, 2/28/2020

**JOHN C. LABUKAS '76**  
Stoddard, N.H., 1/30/2020

**JAMES A. BARYS, M.A. '77**  
Oakham, Mass., 11/4/2019

**PAUL M. GARDNER '77**  
Plymouth, Mass., 6/20/2019

**PATRICK M. O'TOOLE '78**  
Shrewsbury, Mass., 2/23/2020

**EDWARD J. FARYNIARZ '79**  
Harwinton, Conn., 1/1/2020

**DONALD C. SMALLEY '79**  
Bradenton, Fla., 7/1/2019

**REBEKAH WELLS, D.ED. '79**  
Brookline, Mass., 6/24/2019

**PAUL L. DYBERG '80**  
Worcester, Mass., 1/16/2020

**AUDREY I. (LOWE) BIRCH '82**  
Berlin, Mass., 12/30/2019

**LAWRENCE BURKE '82**  
Northborough, Mass., 6/2/2019

**ROBIN H. (LIGHTMAN) GRANAT '82**  
River Vale, N.J., 9/14/2019

**JOHN B. MCLAUGHLIN, MPA '84**  
Leominster, Mass., 9/14/2019

**PHYLLIS A. RUSSELL, MHA '84**  
Kennebunk, Maine, 8/25/2019

**JOAN M. ANTONIO '85**  
Westborough, Mass., 9/17/2019

**LAURA COLANINNO '91**  
Franklin, Mass., 5/30/2019

**BEVERLY J. (DAGENAIS)  
MENTZER '91, M.A. '00**  
Bolton, Mass., 9/19/2019

**ANTHONY J. CONNORS, PH.D. '05**  
Westport, Mass., 9/20/2019

**KAYUR P. SHAH '05**  
Quincy, Mass., 6/17/2019

**AYAAN F. AGANE '08**  
Attleboro, Mass., 9/1/2019

**ERIN L. MURPHY '12, MAT '13**  
Acton, Mass., 12/3/2019



# A legacy among the stacks

**DAVID WIDOFF** immigrated to Worcester from the part of the Russian empire that is now Lithuania when he was 14 years old.

“He had very little formal education, but he was a great reader all his life, and he and my mother encouraged their two boys in every way possible to pursue our education,” his son, Mark Widoff '63, says.

Mark and his brother, Joe Widoff '69, both attended Clark University. At the beginning of each semester, when they returned home with a stack of school books, their father – who worked at a bakery – would sort through the pile, picking out what he wanted to read first. “He was getting his Clark education vicariously through us,” Mark says.

After he retired, David Widoff took a job as greeter at Clark's newly opened Robert H. Goddard Library. He enjoyed interacting with students, and worked there until his death in 1981.

To honor their parents, Mark and Joe created the David and Minnie Widoff Book Fund in 1986, establishing a collection of history books that continues to grow each year. In addition to making annual gifts to build the principal of their endowed fund, Mark and Joe have also included bequests in their wills to ensure that the Widoff Book Fund supports the education of Clark students long into the future.

“Clark and the Widoff family shared each other's values,” Joe says. “We believed in education and taking care of people. The accessibility of education is a value a lot of people share – we certainly did – and that's why Clark has a special place in our hearts.”

*To learn about ways you can leave a legacy for Clark with a gift during your lifetime or from your estate, contact Mary Richardson, director of planned giving, at 508-793-7593 or [marichardson@clarku.edu](mailto:marichardson@clarku.edu).*



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## Dr. Carl Chudnofsky '81 answers the call for leaders in the pandemic fight

By Jeremy Shulkin '07, MAT '08

### HIS IS NOT DR. CARL CHUDNOFSKY'S FIRST PANDEMIC.

As chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine for the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine and frontline ER doctor, Chudnofsky has known what it's like to prepare for everything from Ebola to SARS. But the team of physicians, staff, and residents in the emergency departments and an emergency treatment clinic at the four Los Angeles-area hospitals under his oversight had to train like never before for COVID-19.

"We went from full-service [emergency medicine] to preparing my departments for what we thought might be a New York kind of onslaught," Chudnofsky said in a late-April interview. "We spent countless hours getting ready."

California has not experienced the same kind of devastating outbreak as New York, which Chudnofsky attributes to the governor's early stay-at-home order and social distancing, as well as a more dispersed population across the state. His hospitals have still faced the challenge of caring for a swelling number of COVID-19 patients. Half of those patients are in critical condition and require ventilators for three to four weeks, a significantly longer period of time than the average ventilation for diseases like asthma, pneumonia, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

"I've been through some bad times before but nothing like this," Chudnofsky said, noting the dilemma of dealing with a "dynamic process" where information and protocols may change on an hourly basis.

"We've been able to provide a high level of care," he said, "and we've been able to keep our

staff safe. I'm proud of everybody here. It's been a real team effort, as emergency medicine usually is."

The "team effort" begins at the top. Aside from his administrative responsibilities, Chudnofsky has put his own emergency medicine experience to clinical use, jumping in to treat COVID-19-positive and non-COVID patients alike. Easter Sunday was the first day in over a month that he didn't spend time in the emergency room in one of his four hospitals.

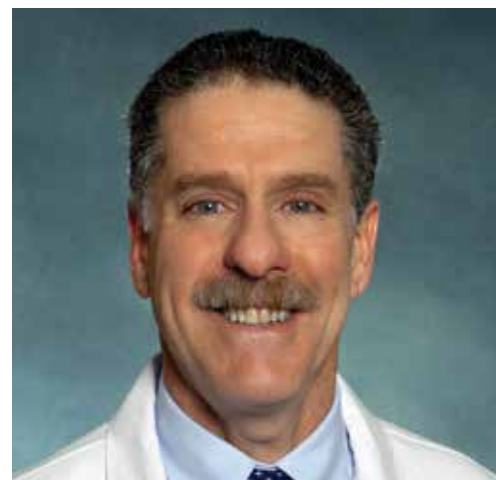
For Chudnofsky, it's a simple equation: "I can't expect my staff to run to the front lines and put themselves at risk if I don't do the same. When

**"THIS DISEASE IS GOING TO CHANGE ALL OF US."**

the department chair shows up for every bed huddle and every shift and asks, 'How are you guys doing? Do you have everything you need?' I think that says something.

"I've been trying to be a good leader by supporting my people and keeping them calm."

The *Los Angeles Times* in April chronicled Chudnofsky's efforts on behalf of his doctors, nurses, and technicians, which include his hospitals providing housing for those who need to self-quarantine and for frontline caregivers



who do not want to place their families at risk.

Chudnofsky's own hands-on experience with emergency medicine began when he worked for Worcester EMS (Emergency Medical Services) during his junior and senior years at Clark. From there, his career moved him around the country: medical school at George Washington University, post-medical training in Cincinnati, then back to Worcester for three years at UMass Medical Center as an attending emergency physician. He worked at the University of Michigan and in the Einstein Hospital Network in Philadelphia before arriving at USC in 2000. Many of these stops blended clinical work, research, and administrative duties, making him well-suited to shepherd a hospital through a once-in-100-years medical crisis.

Afforded a brief moment to reflect on California's response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Chudnofsky cautiously highlighted a positive: Affected patients were spread out across California's emergency rooms well enough to allow medical teams to handle the volume to avoid the ventilator shortages that have plagued other states. As of this interview, it appeared new cases had plateaued. But he warned that the virus and its compounding effects will loom much longer, and the virus could rebound in the fall. It's imperative, he said, that people maintain social distancing for the foreseeable future.

"This disease is going to change all of us forever, I think. It just shows you how vulnerable we are and how careful we should be — and we need to be better prepared for the next one."

*Shortly after being interviewed for this story, Dr. Chudnofsky contracted COVID-19 while intubating patients. After a period of quarantine and recovery, he is doing well.*





## Sean Munroe '20 nets Clark scoring record

BY KYLE PRUDHOMME

When he watched high school junior Sean Munroe participate in a prospect camp near Boston, Clark men's soccer head coach Matt O'Toole knew he'd found a special player.

Talented, yes, Munroe was certainly that. But over the past four years, the senior forward exhibited a competitiveness and persistence that made all the difference on the soccer field.

"There are coaches in our league throughout the course of conference play who would say, 'You can't count a Clark team out,'" O'Toole says. "Not until the final whistle do we stop playing, and I think a lot of that comes from the tenacity Sean plays with. Unless the clock is done, he will try to find a way."

Raised in a military family in Silver Spring, Maryland, Munroe learned the importance of always giving your best effort — a simple philosophy at the core of everything he strives

to accomplish. This mindset led Munroe to historic success on the Clark soccer field: He graduates as the all-time leading goal scorer (41) and point scorer (99) for the Cougars.

"It was a really good senior season," Munroe recalls. "Reaching the personal goals was exciting for me, and as a team we made the playoffs again. Obviously, we were a little let down in the end [Clark lost to WPI, 1-0, in the semifinals], but we're still very proud of everything we were able to do."

In his first season in 2016, Munroe started 16 of 18 games and scored seven goals. As a sophomore, the forward netted 15 goals to earn the first of three straight New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) First Team All-Conference nods. He also began gaining familiarity with the record books.

"When I scored 15 goals, this goal and point record came to light for me," Munroe says. "I wanted to break the records, but, ultimately, breaking those came from just going out there and doing anything I could do to help the team win."

The Cougars won frequently, with Munroe leading the charge. In their four years, the team's senior players helped Clark notch 71 victories, earn three NEWMAC semifinal appearances, and emerge as one of the top offenses in program history with 164 goals scored.

Munroe's commitment to a high level of performance helped him inside the classroom as well. The biochemistry and molecular biology major earned three consecutive NEWMAC All-Academic awards, and he was named a United Soccer Coaches Division III Scholar All-American last fall.

Munroe is quickly adjusting his sights to what lies ahead. He intends to pursue a master's degree through Clark's Accelerated B.A./Master's Program and then apply to medical school.

"From soccer, I've gained a work ethic that I will be able to apply to everything I do," he says. "I'm repurposing the drive I had on the field for my studies and using the values I gained as a student-athlete. I'm excited to see what comes next."

## Clark women's lacrosse makes its historic debut

BY CAMDEN MCLAUGHLIN

The COVID-19 pandemic took its toll on all aspects of Clark life, and athletics wasn't spared. But before the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference made the difficult decision to halt all games and matches this spring, Clark had something to celebrate.

On Feb. 22, Clark's newly formed varsity women's lacrosse team made history with a 16-2 victory over Bay Path University in the first match played since the team was elevated from club to varsity status this year. The team went on to earn a 3-2 record before the season's remaining 12 games were canceled.

Clark women's lacrosse debuted 10 years ago as a club sport. A group of determined people then committed themselves to bring it to the varsity level, says Trish Cronin, director of athletics and recreation.

"President Angel and previous athletic directors worked on this well before I was able to move it through," Cronin says. "The students petitioned years ago to do this, and the athletic board was very supportive of the request." As plans came together, the University provided field accommodations and practice time to help players hone the skills they'd need to become varsity student-athletes.

To lead the team, Cronin hired coach Julie Beer '07, who is no stranger to launching and relaunching Division III women's lacrosse programs. Beer came to Clark after building the program at Centre College in Danville,



Kentucky, where she coached eight years and compiled an 86-39 record. Prior to her time at Centre, she was the assistant coach for the Framingham State women's team during its inaugural season. Beer also served as assistant athletic director and restarted the moribund women's lacrosse team at Anna Maria College.

As the 2020 season was set to commence, Beer noted that she not only wanted her Clark team to do well, but she also hoped to shock the rest of the NEWMAC teams. "Prove the doubters wrong and make a splash a little bit," she says of her goals.

The competitive fire emerging from her team as they prepared for their first season was inspirational, Beer said. She continually reminded her players of their role in setting a framework of excellence for future squads.

"There are pieces that have to be laid to establish a strong foundation, and these girls understand that everything they do these next couple of years will pave the way for the program and for the people after them," Beer says.

The women's lacrosse program likely will reach many milestones in the coming years.

Beer saw the potential early on. "They actually are very confident and very intense, and the level at which they 'bring it' is something I've never seen before," she said before the first match. "They are killing it, and they want to be successful."

"We set team goals, most of them being progress goals," she added. **"Always hustle, always move forward, always learn from your mistakes — progress, not perfection."**

In its abbreviated first season, the lacrosse team showed flashes of dominance, with double-digit victories over Rivier College (22-7) and Nichols College (20-9). Junior captain Anna Joyce recalls the rush of emotions during the team's opening-day victory over Bay Path.

"The locker room was pumped up, and everyone was out-of-their-minds excited" before the match began, she says. "We had a lot of good energy going into our warmups."

"The first goal was scored by Ilah Hardersen, and we were like: First goal in Clark history! That's awesome!"

Shortened season or not, Hardersen's goal signaled that a new Clark athletic legacy is about to be built.



A selection of recent publications by our faculty:

**Open Adoption and Diverse Families: Complex relationships in the digital age**

**ABBIE E. GOLDBERG (Psychology)**  
Goldberg looks at the unique challenges that open adoptions create for birth parents, adoptive parents, and their children — especially in the age of social media, where photos, familial connections, and details of our lives are documented and public. The book draws on extensive interviews with lesbian, gay, and heterosexual couples who adopted through private domestic adoption or foster care. Goldberg followed the families over the course of the past decade.

Her goal is to “demystify the experience of open adoption — as well as the fears, concerns, and feelings of adoptive parents navigating openness.”

**Securitization Revisited: Contemporary Applications and Insights**

**EDITED BY MICHAEL J. BUTLER (Political Science)**  
“Securitization” is the process by which an issue is elevated to the level of a national or international security threat on par with a missile attack or land invasion. But are these threats real or perceived? Butler has assembled a collection of contributions (including one by Katerina Antoniou '10, lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus) that illustrate and critique the changing scope and focus of security studies and policy since the end of the Cold War.

**Beyond Betrayal: The Priest Sex Abuse Crisis, the Voice of the Faithful, and the Process of Collective Identity**

**PATRICIA EWICK (Sociology); with MARC W. STEINBERG**  
Ewick and Steinberg explore the Catholic Church priest abuse scandal, the Boston Archdiocese’s systematic efforts

to cover it up, and the response of some Catholics who vowed to keep their faith while pushing for change. The book charts a nationwide identity shift through the story of one chapter of Voice of the Faithful, an organization founded in the scandal’s aftermath to help survivors of abuse to pursue a broad set of structural changes in the church.

**Trumping Politics as Usual: Masculinity, Misogyny, and the 2016 Elections**

**ROBERT BOATRIGHT AND VALERIE SPERLING (Political Science)**  
The authors examine the ways in which gender debates were critical to how Democrats and Republicans campaigned for the U.S. House and Senate in 2016 as a man and a woman competed for the nation’s highest office. They dissect how Donald Trump’s rhetoric affected judgments about those debates at every political level. The book also explores how Trump and other world leaders use masculinity in their establishment of political authority.

**Mastering Menopause: Women’s Voices on Taking Charge of the Change**

**DEBORAH M. MERRILL (Sociology)**  
Merrill reveals that contrary to popularly held beliefs, some women find menopause to be a positive experience. She conducted intensive interviews with women who had recently undergone the transition (or who were experiencing varying stages of menopause) and examined menopause within a social context, focusing on how women’s perceptions, thoughts, and practices influenced their experiences. Her book includes case studies of women from various racial and socioeconomic backgrounds who share their struggles with and approaches to managing “the change.”

“The topic of menopause is important because it affects every aspect of women’s midlife period: their health, sex lives, relationships with family, and how they feel about themselves,” Merrill writes.

**CARR NAMED TO PRESTIGIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL PANEL**

Professor Edward Carr, director of the International Development, Community, and Environment Department, has been named the Climate Change Adaptation Adviser on the Global Environmental Facility’s Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel.

With this appointment, Carr becomes one of only seven panelists making key decisions and providing guidance to the Global Environmental Facility’s (GEF) portfolio, which exceeds \$1 billion per year. Carr likens the GEF to a venture capital fund that uses its portfolio to catalyze or otherwise influence projects proposed under international environmental conventions.

Carr’s appointment arrives at a critical time, as the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) builds climate change adaptation into the entire GEF portfolio. In December, the GEF approved a \$64.8 million work program for climate change adaptation in the world’s poorest countries.

Carr will work with other panelists and the STAP secretariat to ensure funded projects in areas like climate change mitigation and adaptation, land degradation, and biodiversity are based on current science.



**ROBINSON LEADS LIBRARY’S DISTANCE-LEARNING RESPONSE**

Following the retirement of longtime University Librarian Gwen Arthur, Laura Robinson took the helm of Clark’s Robert H. Goddard Library in February. But she assumed more than just the leadership of the University’s knowledge hub — she also inherited a developing crisis.

After a few weeks of adjustment in her new position, Robinson and her staff joined the rest of the Clark campus community in finding ways to meet the challenge presented by COVID-19, giving Clarkies the resources needed to finish off the semester remotely.

“This crisis has been an exercise in prioritizing and focusing on what is most important in librarianship,” she said in March. “That means listening carefully to the community we serve and being nimble in offering that community the services and collections it needs, even in challenging circumstances.”

Library staff spent several weeks scanning print materials and adding online holdings to complement remote learning. “In just a couple of weeks, they scanned and uploaded all of the books faculty members have put on reserve in the library — we’re talking tens of thousands of pages — so that students are able to remotely access all of the knowledge required by their professors,” she said.

Robinson came to Clark after working 14 years at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. “Through the interview process I began to develop a deeper appreciation of the richness here. I sensed that Clark’s mission and the spirit of this community were aligned with my ideals and the purpose of my work as a librarian.”

**\$12M LABOR GRANT IS CLARK’S LARGEST EVER**

Clark University was recently awarded a \$12 million apprenticeship grant from the Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration, the single largest federal grant Clark has ever received.

The grant will provide business technology training nationwide to people struggling with unemployment and underemployment, and to those who seek to master relevant technology skills in an evolving workplace.

The “Scaling Apprenticeships Through Sector-Based Strategies” proposal was written in close partnership with Public Consulting Group, Inc. of Boston, and will be implemented through a consortium of institutions of higher education, technology industry partners, and workforce boards across the nation. A Tech Quest Apprenticeship Expansion Consortium (TQ Consortium) has been developed to promote and implement apprenticeships.

The Tech Quest program will provide IT and IT-related apprenticeships to a minimum of 5,000 people over the next four years in Florida, Massachusetts, California, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Texas, and Missouri.

**IT IS NOW THE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT**

The Graduate School of Management is now known as the School of Management. The Board of Trustees approved the name change in February.

“This name change comes after careful deliberation among our faculty and staff, students, alumni, and the larger Clark community,” Dean Priscilla Elsass wrote in an email announcing the change. “We wanted a name that more accurately reflects the School of Management’s role at Clark University and acknowledges our strong presence in both undergraduate and graduate education. While our graduate enrollments have long been critical to our success, our undergraduate enrollments are also a significant piece of the school’s identity.”

The name change does not alter the school’s policies and programs, Elsass said.



It’s said that education opens all kinds of doors. But it helps if you’ve also been handed an oversized golden key. Professor Robert Deam Tobin, the Henry J. Leir Chair in Language, Literature, and Culture, was awarded a Key to the City of Worcester for his work on “LGBTQ+ Worcester — For the Record,” a 2019 Worcester Historical Museum exhibit that documented and celebrated the history of the LGBTQ+ community in Worcester County. The exhibition was in collaboration with Holy Cross and WPI.

## Clark's flea market time capsule

Their dates of graduation from Clark are separated by the 42 years that straddled the Great Depression, World War II, and the Vietnam War. But a recent serendipitous discovery introduced writer Harvey Solomon '74 to the Clark world of Archie Biron '32, who passed away in 1995 after a career teaching foreign languages at Colby College.

Solomon credits his own "eagle-eyed brother" with stumbling on and snapping up four years' worth of *Clark News* (precursor to *The Scarlet*), once owned by Biron, at a Maine flea market. The dates of the 100-plus newspapers from fall 1928 to spring 1932 corresponded with the four years that Biron spent at Clark.

Solomon likens the find to "a time capsule of Clark" that illuminates the era's society and culture. A former history major and author of the new book, "Such Splendid Prisons: Diplomatic Detainment in America During World War II," Solomon recently wrote a story for the Clark website about the events and traditions that shaped Biron and his fellow Clarkies.

Among the luminaries who visited campus were aviator Charles Lindbergh (calling upon physics professor and rocket pioneer Robert Goddard), renowned Spanish classical guitarist Andrés Segovia, and "Our Town" playwright Thornton Wilder. Solomon also notes that while a number of local businesses advertised in *Clark News*, the most prominent and consistently featured product was the cigarette.

The article recalls that fraternities thrived on campus, and that Clark's Glee Club could often be heard on WORC radio. Clarkies



Scenes of Spree Days past, and Archie Biron '32 (at right).

thrashed out the issues of the day in the Debating Society, performed onstage in the Clark University Players Society, and competed in collegiate and intramural sports, which included student-faculty games.

And then there was Spree Day, a time for food and festivities highlighted by the annual freshman-sophomore rope pull across University Pond. Solomon quotes an admonishment from a disapproving student editor: "This Spring holiday, which is not held at most institutions, is of questionable value. If it is made a means of coercing the more industrious or less wealthy into conforming to the desires of a few sociably minded leaders,

it had better be ended altogether." Thank goodness, frivolity prevailed.

*Clark News* only occasionally covered events beyond campus, but the newspaper did report on Japan's invasion of Manchuria and the rise of fascism in Germany — harbingers of a life-altering passage for numerous Clarkies. Solomon writes: "Many Clark students and alumni, including Archie Biron, would answer the call to serve less than a decade later when the attack on Pearl Harbor brought the U.S. into World War II." *Read Harvey Solomon's full story about the recovered cache of Clark history at [clarku.edu/biron](http://clarku.edu/biron).*

## Bill Racki does battle against the unseen enemy

BY JIM KEOGH

When Bill Racki says, "I've never seen anything like it," people take notice.

As well they should. A Clark custodian for 49 years, Racki has worked here for more than a third of the University's 133-year history. He witnessed student protests during the Vietnam War, helped clear the campus after the crippling Blizzard of '78, and grieved with fellow Clarkies on 9/11.

But the impact of COVID-19 on the institution has been singular. Racki can't recall another instance when Clark students were sent home en masse and the campus was largely locked down.

"The closest comparison I can make is the 1979 oil embargo, when oil prices quadrupled," Racki recalls. "All the workers were sent home for a month while Clark figured out what it was going to do. But that occurred during winter break, so it didn't have the kind of impact we're seeing now."

Racki and his fellow employees from Facilities Management have been committed to keeping COVID-19 at bay. In the weeks during and following the exit from campus of students, faculty, and staff, they donned gloves and protective gear and, armed with cleaning agents, scrubbed and disinfected surfaces in residence halls and common buildings in a hard-fought campaign to eradicate any potential traces of the virus.

Their efforts unfolded in a compressed time schedule, says Dan Roderick, director of Facilities Management. In a normal year, much of the cleaning work that was done by his team is typically accomplished when classes are completed, after which they prepare for Commencement, then "flip the campus" for summer use to get ready for fall. It's a process requiring



Bill Racki and Sandy Bernard sanitize a Clark-owned apartment on Maywood Street in the early days of the outbreak.

several weeks, but which was being completed in a matter of days. (Clark's campus Commencement ceremony was readjusted to an online-only event. As of this writing, the date when in-person classes would resume was undetermined.)

In addition to sanitizing Clark buildings, Facilities Management readied Blackstone Hall to house the undergraduate students who remained on campus.

"This year we've had to do everything on a dime," Roderick says. "I've stopped being amazed at what our folks accomplish with our resources and staff numbers. Everyone has stepped up to go well beyond what we normally do."

Racki has seen Clark surmount "every bump in the road" and expects no less today, despite the extent of the COVID-19 disruption.

"My mother, who is 94, believes the closest thing to what we're facing now is the polio scare of the 1950s," Racki says. "Equating this to anything in our lifetime is hard to do."

Racki knows every inch of the Clark campus. After serving in the Coast Guard and attending Worcester State College, he started his Clark career in the administration building on Downing Street (now Woodland Street) — the

"epicenter of the University," he says. A week into the job, student activists shut the building down. "I was sent home, but with pay," he recalls with a laugh. (In his first year he also met a special Clarkie, Claudia Hill '71, and they married in 1972.)

These days, the campus is largely unoccupied except for the students living in Blackstone Hall and a smattering of employees who continue to use their offices. And there's Bill Racki, still on the job after nearly half a century.

That's okay with him. He knows the work he and his fellow team members do is essential to protecting the safety and well-being of everyone who steps foot onto the campus that he loves.

"When I have to retire, I still won't want to go," he says. "I really like the place."



## Dispatches from the ER

By Dr. Meredith Garvin '06

I saw my first death from COVID-19 tonight. I think Department of Health tests are pending. I stood helplessly outside the isolation room while my colleagues put in the most valiant, yet futile, effort to resuscitate him. His wife stood at the door and clung to the glass while CPR continued. She couldn't even hold his hand. We did everything modern medicine has to offer to save this man. He walked into the ER just eight hours prior to his cardiac arrest. I'm at a total loss as to what just happened and how to fix it.

I had an elderly patient commit suicide tonight because he thought he might have coronavirus. He was mentally ill his whole life. Coronavirus was what pushed him over the

edge. He hanged himself. I had to tell his family out in the parking lot that their loved one was dead – in the rain, wearing a mask that became soaked because they were too afraid to come into the hospital. They couldn't even see my entire face. I hope they could hear the despair in my voice, see the tears in my eyes, and understand how much I care.

I never talk about the really difficult stuff that keeps me awake at night. The everyday patients between the heart-stopping trauma and the bizarre psych stories that enter my mind when I hit the pause button. Because I think people don't really want to hear that part. They probably think, Hey, you signed up for this, you know? And they're right. It truly is my privilege to care for people at their most vulnerable moments in life. That's the reason I get up every day. It's what motivates me to endure the tough stuff. But it doesn't mean that it's not worth talking about.

This has been the worst week of my entire residency.

Last night, I had a patient with a devastating, spontaneous brain bleed. She was on Coumadin, a blood thinner. Just spontaneous. It happens, I know. She was elderly – 94 years old. Of all the tragedies in this job, this particular one is actually not that sad. If I were to be happy and relatively healthy at age 94 and one day just drop dead, I think that's probably the best way to go. Minimal suffering. Negligible pain. Beautiful, actually.

The problem is, when I called her daughter to tell her that her mom had less than a few hours to live, she refused to come to the hospital because she was afraid of coronavirus. She had health problems of her own and was scared to come in. The only reason the woman didn't die totally alone was because a wonderful nurse sat with her and held her hand during her last breaths. A month ago, I never could have imagined this scenario. Never would have thought patients would be dying alone, without their loved ones nearby and only hospital staff to comfort them. Now that is a tragedy.

This virus could break us. It could break me.

Even as I ask myself, How will I do this? I already know the answer. It's there, in the back of my mind, deep in my heart.

The answer is that it doesn't matter *how*. It only matters that you *will*.

*Dr. Meredith Garvin '06 is an emergency medicine resident physician at Kent Hospital in Rhode Island.*



*“The scholarship made it possible for me to go to Clark.”*

MELANIE ADAMS '22 describes herself as a “multipotentialite” – a creative person with many passions. The psychology and management double major is a research assistant in Professor Abbie Goldberg's lab, where she works on a long-term project studying diverse, adoptive, and LGBTQ families. She also is a certified yoga instructor and has received support from Clark's entrepreneurship program to launch a small crochet business.

The Nanigian, Nazareth & Manasseh Adams scholarship made a college education accessible for Melanie as she pursues her dream of merging her psychology and business training to become a yoga therapist in a studio she owns. Your gift helps fund scholarships for deserving students like Melanie Adams whose talents and skills are as robust as their aspirations.



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