Spring/Summer 2026

"We have a story to tell."

Clark

From Dream to Destiny

100 YEARS AGO, **ROBERT H. GODDARD** PUT HUMANITY ABOARD A ROCKET RIDE TO THE FUTURE

OPPOSITE: STEVEN KING PHOTO

SPRING/SUMMER 2026

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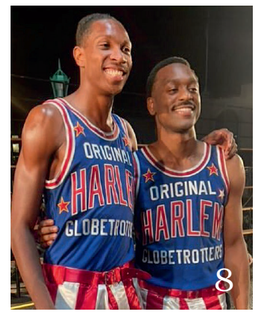
FEATURES

"WE HAVE TO TAKE CHANCES."

DEPARTMENTS



"Being a Globetrotter in the [Timothée Chalamet] movie was pretty easy for me."

"There was something in the air at Clark."

President's Message
David B. Fithian '87

Who will be our next Goddard?

A MYTH WE SOMETIMES subscribe to is that greatness happens in isolation. The image of the solitary scholar emerging with a transformational discovery has a certain romantic appeal. But the truth is typically more complicated. Meaningful breakthroughs emerge more often from communities of people working together—bound by shared purpose, trust, and sustained effort.

Few Clark stories illustrate this better than that of alumnus Robert Goddard, whose successful launch of the first liquid-fueled rocket 100 years ago changed what humanity could imagine, and rested not just on his brilliance, but on his willingness to experiment, fail, learn, and try again.

That chilly March afternoon in 1926 was the culmination of years of calculation, trial runs (some ending in fiery crashes), and relentless problem-solving. Goddard was supported by mentors, colleagues, students—and by his wife, Esther, whose devotion to documenting his work and protecting his ideas helped preserve his legacy. His voracious intellect and ferocious drive propelled us toward space, but his success was shared with others at Clark who had a hand in lighting the fuse.

That spirit remains alive at Clark, underpinning the work we undertake every day as a community.

As we navigate a challenging and changing higher education landscape, we are taking deliberate, collaborative steps to rethink how we operate, how we support our academic programs, and how we prepare for a sustainable future. Faculty and staff across the University have worked closely with leadership to shape a plan that strengthens academic growth, reinforces our shared values, and provides students with the skills and experiences essential for life after Clark.

Our goal is not simply to maintain the Clark mission, but to strengthen it. We seek to educate students who bring intellectual rigor together with independence of thought—and who are prepared to put both to meaningful use.

We see that work taking shape across the University. In the School of Climate, Environment, and Society, faculty and students use satellite data and artificial intelligence to address global sustainability challenges. In the Becker School of Design & Technology, Clark has built an international reputation for "serious games" that inform and engage, including a recent collaboration with Cherkasy State Business College in Ukraine. And through the Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise, Clark has been recognized by the Commonwealth for innovative approaches to supporting youth mental health, including new technologies and partnerships with local schools.

The foundation for all of this was laid by Clarkies like Robert Goddard, who take action when the moment calls for it. Our work has always mattered beyond the Clark campus, and always will.

At Clark, we look to answer a simple question: Who will be our next Goddard?

Clark

Spring/Summer 2026

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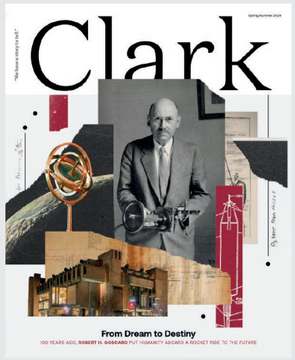

On the cover: Rocket pioneer Robert Goddard. Illustration by Blake Cale.

Editor's Note
Jim Keogh

15-Minute Countdown

I'VE PREVIOUSLY TOLD THIS story in this space, but that was in 2011, so please extend me a little grace for the repeat.

For a cover feature, I interviewed astronaut Buzz Aldrin to talk about his dad, Edwin Aldrin Sr., a 1915 graduate of Clark. Edwin Sr. had been a student of Clark physicist Robert Goddard, whose rocketry experiments gave us the modern space age. Edwin's son, of course, was the second man to walk on the moon—a historic achievement with a direct line to Clark. Beyond that, Buzz insisted it was Edwin who connected Goddard with famed aviator Charles Lindbergh, who then made the crucial introduction to the Guggenheim family that gave Goddard access to the funding he needed for his rocketry research in Roswell, New Mexico.

What a story! But there was one logistical problem with my Buzz conversation: Aldrin's handlers had allotted me a maximum of 15 minutes to speak with him. And that precious time was quickly getting eaten up because the astronaut was sharing details about his moon landing while I desperately, awkwardly, tried to steer him into a discussion of his father's life and career.

As the minutes ticked away, a voice in my head finally convinced me to take a breath, stop panicking, and appreciate one very significant fact: Buzz Aldrin is describing for *you*, one-on-one, what it was like to leave footprints on the lunar surface. So just … listen.

And that's what I did. Ultimately, he gave me 45 minutes and talked plenty about his father.

Problem solved. Because he's Buzz Aldrin.

The 100th anniversary of Goddard's first successful liquid-fueled rocket launch reminded me of the many incredible Clark hooks in the history and perpetuation of the space program. John Emond '74, a retired NASA analyst and manager, returned to campus in March to recall how Goddard's seemingly primitive experiments a century ago laid the blueprint for propelling humankind into the cosmos.

No matter how far we travel in the universe, we can always trace the journey back to that memorable launch. Robert Goddard made sure Clark's stamp has been on every mission since. Let there be light years.

COURTESY CLARK ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

RED SQUARE

News from Clark's Campus Gathering Place

Rocket Man

ROBERT GODDARD (SECOND FROM LEFT) AND HIS TEAM PREPARE FOR A LAUNCH IN THE NEW MEXICO DESERT. READ ABOUT CLARK'S CAMPUS HEROES WHO ENSURE THAT HIS STORY ENDURES. P. 6.

CYNTHIA SHENETTE (L.) AND CATHERINE STEBBINS.

STEVEN KING

Campus Heroes

Curating a Legacy, and a Legend

IN THE STORAGE area of Clark University's Archives and Special Collections, shelf after shelf is lined with boxes that hold the life's work of a man who dreamed of the stars. Letters, diaries, patent filings, archival boxes bursting with newspaper clippings—the Robert H. Goddard Collection is vast, irreplaceable, and unique to Clark. And for the past year and a half, two dedicated Clark employees have been working to bring that collection into the digital age, one scanned page at a time.

Cynthia Shenette, head of archives and special collections, and Catherine Stebbins, digital projects librarian, began their deep dive into the Goddard materials about 18 months ago. The centennial of Goddard's pioneering liquid-fueled rocket launch on March 16, 1926, was approaching, and they knew the moment called for something ambitious. What they found when they turned their full attention to the collection far exceeded their expectations.

Before they began their quest to digitize portions of the collection, the only resource available on Clark's Digital Commons repository was the "finding aid" to the Robert H. Goddard Papers, a 100+ page index to everything in the collection. None of Goddard's actual papers or materials were accessible online. They were starting from scratch.

The work has been painstaking—flatbed scanning each delicate page. Students helped with the scanning, but "we wanted to do it right, to provide enough context," Stebbins says. "Visitors are given the space to understand what they're looking at and where it fits in the collection. We're not just dropping a picture and giving a date."

Shenette and Stebbins are quick to point out that another collaborator has shaped this project: the late Esther Goddard, who spent decades after Robert's 1945 death meticulously organizing, transcribing, and curating her husband's papers, diaries, patents, and more. Her official collection of his papers, a three-volume set published in 1970, totals more than 1,700 pages. All of Robert's materials came to Clark later that decade, and her own papers were willed to the University after her 1982 death. (Read more about Esther starting on page 34.)

Esther photographed and filmed his experiments, and Clark has those photos and film reels in the collection. "She was the curator, the image-builder, the manager of his life," Stebbins says. "We look at him as this larger-than-life figure, and that's because of Esther."

"If she wasn't there, where would all of this have gone?" Shenette wonders. "Some might have been saved, but it certainly wouldn't be in the shape it is."

Media

The Write Stuff

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BELIEVES ROCKET CAN REACH MOON

Smithsonian Institution Tells of Prof. Goddard's Invention to Explore Upper Air.

MULTIPLE-CHARGE SYSTEM

Instruments Could Go Up 200 Miles, and Bigger Rocket Might Land on Satellite.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Announcement was authorized by the Smithsonian Institution tonight that Professor Robert H. Goddard of Clark College had invented and tested a new type of multiple-charge, high efficiency rocket of entirely new design for exploring the unknown regions of the upper air. The claim is made for the rocket that it will not only be possible to send this ap-

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Robert Goddard was no stranger to media coverage.

During his lifetime, the Clark alumnus and professor was the subject of many breathless accounts detailing his efforts to fire a rocket into space. Goddard was both a skeptic and opportunist when it came to the attention, recognizing that the press, while a distraction, could also be employed as an ally to raise his professional profile and enhance his visibility with potential funders. With his wife Esther as his demi-PR agent, he cultivated a press-friendly persona as the dogged, mild-mannered physicist who dared to act on his most fantastical aspirations.

One hundred years after Goddard's maiden launch of a liquid-fueled rocket, the scientist continued to attract media interest. In the days surrounding the March 16 anniversary of the launch, Goddard was a very familiar presence, with stories appearing in major media outlets like *The New York Times, The Boston Globe*, ABC News, and WBUR in Boston. The Clark faculty and staff who were interviewed included Physics Professor Chuck Agosta, who spoke about Goddard's astounding science acumen, and Catherine Stebbins, digital projects librarian, who shared details of Goddard's remarkable life.

RD SQ

Student Success

There's Nothing 'Nasty' About this Nate

For **NATE EDWARDS-ROSENEY '26,** a love of basketball has opened doors. The Clark senior has played collegiately, professionally, and even on the big screen.

Edwards-Roseney portrays a Harlem Globetrotter in *Marty Supreme*, which stars Timothée Chalamet as the real-life Marty Mauser, a 1950s-era table tennis savant who flexed his skills as a halftime act at Globetrotter games.

Edwards-Roseney landed the opportunity through two of his connections from the basketball circuit, the late Chicago Bulls star Bob Love and former Harlem Globetrotter Kenny Blend. Love told him that to fit the look of a Globetrotter, Edwards-Roseney would have to cut his hair, something he hadn't done in six or seven years. "It felt worth the risk," he says.

On set, Edwards-Roseney took on the role of "Nasty Nate," learning ball-handling tricks from a different era and adapting to the slow, methodical rhythm of filming. He spent weeks practicing vintage Globetrotter moves, sitting through makeup and wardrobe, and working for long stretches that produced only seconds of footage.

"I like to play [basketball] with a lot of freedom and really express myself, so being a Globetrotter in the movie was pretty easy for me," Edwards-Roseney says. "I got to have fun and goof around a little bit. The anticipation I felt toward acting is very similar to a game—you're locking in and getting your game face on."

Some days, Edwards-Roseney shared scenes with Chalamet. Another day, he posed for a team photo staged in Egypt. "Being on film is one of the only times life actually feels like a movie," he says. "The whole thing was surreal."

A psychology major with a minor in education, Edwards-Roseney was a guard on Clark's men's basketball team for two years. He later joined a professional placement team coached by Ivan Sinjkevic of the International Basketball Federation, designed to give players exposure to agents and contract opportunities. Edwards-Roseney accepted an opportunity to play professionally in Serbia last year. The pace was fast and the expectations high.

"It was really eye-opening," he says. "I got to see how I fit in with the talent pool around the world."

Back at Clark, Edwards-Roseney has spent much of his time focused on giving back through the MAAX (Maximizing Adolescent Academic eXcellence) social development curriculum developed within the Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise at Clark. As part of a fellowship with the Institute, he worked at Southbridge High School in Southbridge, Massachusetts, helping run a ninth-grade wellness class centered on life skills, self-regulation, and reflection. The program is designed to help students see themselves in college mentors who share similar life experiences.

"I try to stay relatable and down-to-earth, and that approach has helped me foster relationships with some of my high-schoolers. I've seen them open up and talk to me about some of their struggles in school," he says.

"For me, it's always about giving back to who gave to me, pouring back into who poured into me."

The Mosakowski Institute and Southbridge Public Schools collaborated on the creation of a sensory immersion room where distressed students can decompress, calm themselves, and learn to manage their behavior.

"It's about asking what the problem is and how we can solve it," Edwards-Roseney says. "I come from the inner city of Boston and attended a charter school. I noticed a difference in resource allocation and opportunity in general. When I went to a private middle school, I started to see a huge difference in the worlds that people are living in. My work with the Mosakowski Institute is my way of helping bridge that gap."

BY JUSTIN SCHWARTZ '27

> "It's always about giving back to who gave to me, pouring back into who poured into me."

NATE EDWARDS-ROSENEY (L.) ON THE SET OF *MARTY SUPREME*

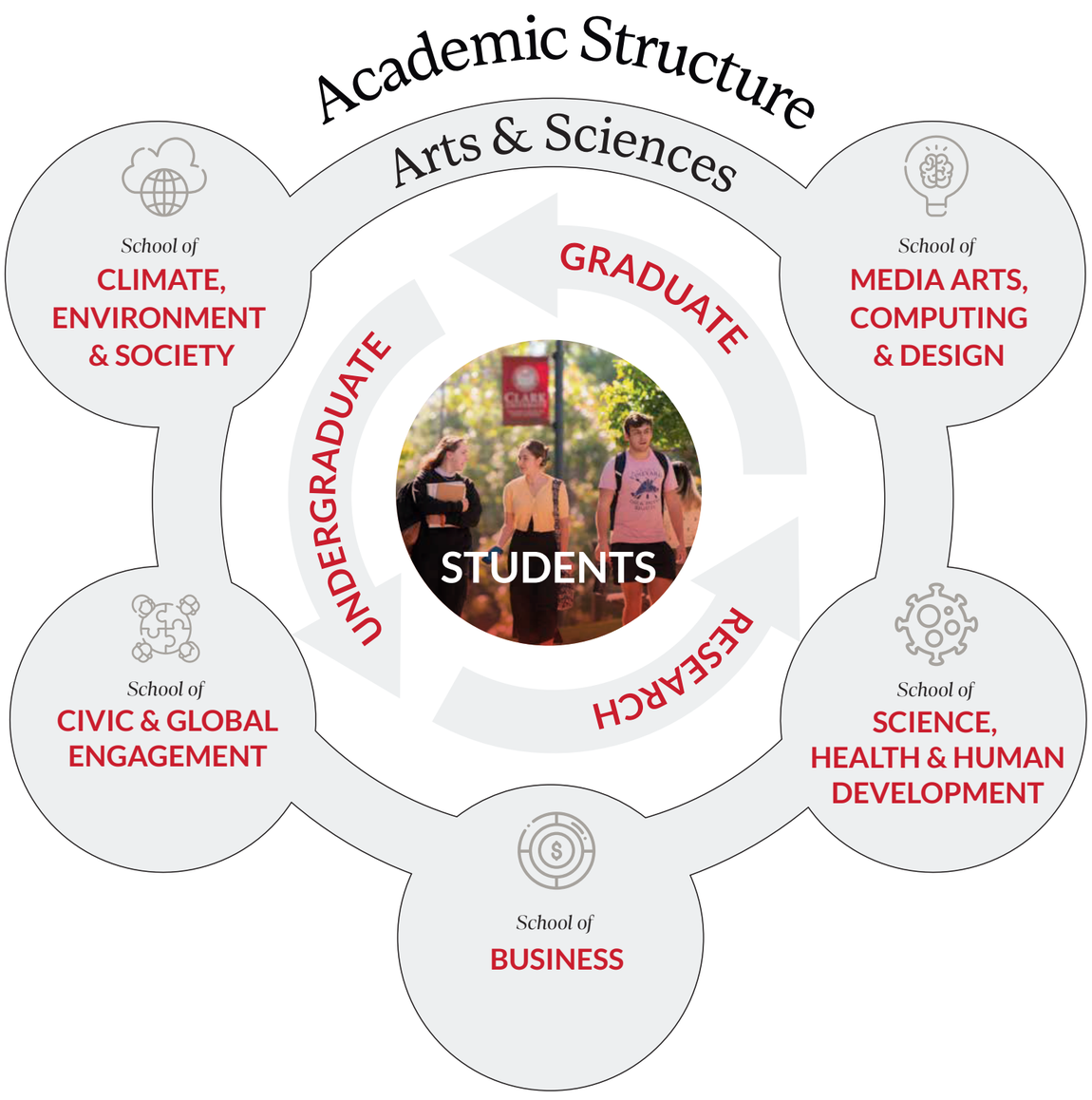
P. 8 STEVEN KING PHOTO; P. 9 PHOTO COURTESY NATE EDWARDS-ROSENEY

The Big Picture

Truth Teller

Wearing a signature black hoodie and standing before a full house in Tilton Hall, longtime political science professor and author Cynthia Enloe delivered her final scheduled lecture at Clark University, “Feminist Curiosity is for These Dark Times.” Always pursue the truth, she urged her audience during the Oct. 16 address. “If the truth doesn’t feel hard, then you don’t have the truth. If it doesn’t feel hard to find, it’s not the truth. If it doesn’t make you uncomfortable, you’re probably not there yet.” It was a fitting coda to a storied Clark career, and was followed by a parade of well-wishers, colleagues past and present, and appreciative former students who greeted Professor Enloe with bouquets and hugs.

STEVEN KING



Clark Success

Opportunity. Investment. Transformation.

LAST MAY, Clark announced a Transformation Plan to ensure a strong and competitive future for the University. The plan continues to build on Clark Inspired—the strategic framework that defines long-term objectives and priorities for the University's ongoing work—and responds to a higher-education landscape shaped by shifting perceptions of the value of a degree and enrollment uncertainty.

The Transformation Plan achieves three key objectives for ensuring a strong and sustainable future for Clark:

▸ Refocusing offerings around areas of strength most relevant to meeting the needs of a changing world while sustaining Clark's liberal arts foundation to further drive outcomes and better meet student needs/preferences.

▸ Reorganizing and right-sizing operations to better support the honed academic offerings and direct limited resources in the most productive way possible.

▸ Reenergizing by building reputation, boosting student recruitment, and inspiring pride and engagement that is well-supported by high morale and an expanded resource base.

Clark's comprehensive restructuring of academic programs brings greater clarity and focus to areas of academic strength and distinction, and better aligns offerings with student interests and an evolving job market. This includes a five-school structure and a strong College of Arts and Sciences serving as anchor and connector for all undergraduate academic programming (see sidebar).

Among the plan's champions is Clark Trustee Ron Shaich '76, whose $20 million gift to Clark—the largest single gift in the University's history—will help support expanded enrollment and financial aid initiatives; the continued progression of The Clark Experience; and other academic and programmatic initiatives that enhance students' educational experience and amplify areas of institutional focus. The Shaich Scholars program will offer selected first-year students direct access to Ron Shaich through annual master classes and curated cohort conversations, mentorship from members of his network, and experiential-learning support.

The Transformation Plan optimizes Clark's relationship-rich, hands-on, purpose-driven education rooted in authentic faculty mentorship, student engagement in research and creative practice, and interdisciplinarity. It centers The Clark Experience, the University's pledge to every undergraduate that they will leave Clark with the confidence, creativity, and tenacity to succeed and lead a life of consequence, on whatever path they choose.

The Clark Experience has evolved in many important and tangible ways over the past year, including:

▸ The Career Connections Center has been reorganized to better support students in navigating their career and life journeys and accessing high-impact experiential-learning opportunities.

▸ The ePortfolio allows every student to integrate the entirety of their Clark journey into their own visible and complete personal story.

▸ The annual Sophomore Summit offers deeper career and academic action planning early in students' academic trajectory, and the Honors Program and Clark Degree in 3 are uniquely geared toward inspiring highly motivated students.

▸ Unconventional Masterclass has global leaders in business, technology, public service, and more sharing expertise and mentorship with Clark undergraduates. The Penn Scholars program, supported by Trustee Erica J. Penn '84 and her husband, Kevin Penn, provides students with immersive, hands-on experiences through curated sessions across key fields including artificial intelligence, finance, health, and marketing.

THE FIVE SCHOOLS

Clark academics are being reorganized and reenergized in the following schools:

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS: Established in 1982, the School of Business frames business education around leadership, social responsibility, sustainability, and ethical practice. The School holds AACSB accreditation.

SCHOOL OF CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT, AND SOCIETY: Launched in 2025, the School strengthens Clark's visibility and impact in climate- and environment-related research, education, and engagement. It is grounded in Clark's legacy of climate-related work in the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and geography.

SCHOOL OF MEDIA ARTS, COMPUTING, AND DESIGN: To be launched in Fall 2026, the core academic units include the Becker School of Design & Technology; Computer Science; Visual and Performing Arts; Mathematics; English; and Creative Writing. Programming bridges creative practice, humanist inquiry, and technological development.

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH, AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: With an anticipated launch in Spring 2027, the School will bring together the core departments and programs of Biology; Chemistry; Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Physics; Psychology; and Sociology. It will advance research and education at the intersection of natural sciences, human behavior, and health, and integrate molecular, biological, psychological, social, and environmental perspectives to improve health outcomes across diverse populations.

SCHOOL OF CIVIC AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT: With an anticipated launch in Fall 2027, the School will focus on relationships between societies, states, individuals, and cultures. Core embedded departments and programs will include History; Language, Literature, and Culture; Philosophy; Political Science; Education; and the Center for Gender, Race, and Area Studies.

RD SQ

Sports

JORDAN ADEYEMI'S NONPROFIT HAS PLENTY OF SOLE

One night in the summer of 2020, with much of the world in COVID-19 lockdown, Jordan Adeyemi's family watched a movie.

Pelé: Birth of a Legend chronicled the life and career of the Brazilian soccer star, from a childhood of grinding poverty to the highest reaches of fame and success. Adeyemi found a section of the film particularly moving: A teenaged Pelé and his teammates compete in a tournament barefoot because they can't afford cleats. That team, known as The Shoeless Ones, transcends the patronizing attitudes of their better-equipped opponents to earn a victory in the final.

"Pelé came from a community that lacked resources," the Clark sophomore notes. "I've been exposed to a lot of incredible opportunities and experiences, and I think that's because of the resources and networks I've had access to. This was eye-opening for me."

Inspired by the film and with the support of their parents, Jordan, then 14, and his then-10-year-old brother, Jason, launched the nonprofit The Shoeless Ones, through which they collect and distribute new and gently used athletic shoes to communities where they're needed.

To date, The Shoeless Ones has engineered the collection and donation of 850 pairs of shoes in Adeyemi's native Atlanta, in New Hampshire, where he attended Phillips Exeter Academy, and in Lagos, Nigeria, where his parents were raised before immigrating to the United States. As of this writing, he was facilitating donations in Worcester. The brothers typically work with local charities and service organizations who handle distribution to the various communities—for instance, Soccer in the Streets has been a key ally in Atlanta, and Jordan's aunt is The Shoeless Ones' liaison to recipients in Nigeria.

Adeyemi, a midfielder/winger on the Clark men's soccer team, says people have been responsive to their mission. "They're seeing that these shoes are going to somebody who can use them. There is a real purpose to it."

A data science major with a psychology track, Adeyemi expects to pursue a data analytics career in the health care sector, possibly in the mental health field. His internships—with Clark's Office of Strategic Analytics, Assessment, and Institutional Research; with the social impact management team at Coca-Cola in Atlanta; and currently with Mass Audubon, working with the Habitat Management Guideline Database—have already given him deep experience in a two-year span.

"These shoes are going to somebody who can use them. There is a real purpose to it."

As this story was being written, Adeyemi had just begun training for the spring soccer season, with 7 a.m. workouts on the Granger Field under coach Sam Matteson. He describes his role on the team as "a connector and creator" who thrives in the transition game between offense and defense, getting the ball to the strikers but also creating his own opportunities to attack the net. And when the opponent is on the march, Adeyemi becomes a critical cog in protecting Clark's end of the field.

As his sophomore year nears its close, Adeyemi is considering what the future may hold for The Shoeless Ones. He hopes to keep his nonprofit viable after he graduates and even expand its reach, but he's unsure whether he'll have the capacity to do so.

"Right now, I'm looking at career paths, working at an internship, and I've got soccer and schoolwork, so I really can't say for sure what shape The Shoeless Ones will be in two to three years," he says. "I do hope it's something I'm able to continue and balance, and maybe even incorporate, with my life and work. I truly want to see that happen.

"The Shoeless Ones has been a key part of my life. We're seeing how these shoes are making a difference in kids' lives, and that's pretty special. It's beautiful."

JIM KEOGH

TOP LEFT PHOTO: STEVEN KING

Cougars Reach First NEWMAC Final in 20 Years

Clark women's basketball team powered its way to the NEWMAC finals before falling to Smith College, 72-65. It was Clark's first appearance in the conference title game since 2005. Coach Bridgette Reyes' squad finished the season with a 19-9 record.

The Cougars reached the NEWMAC Tournament for the 18th time and won their first tournament game since 2017 with a decisive victory over WPI in the quarterfinals, earning them their eighth semifinal appearance in program history. Clark advanced to the final with a 68-51 victory against Babson.

Against No. 1-ranked Smith (27-1), Clark led going into the fourth quarter, but the Bears rallied for the victory.

Despite the loss, Clark players put forth a tremendous effort. Among the impressive numbers:

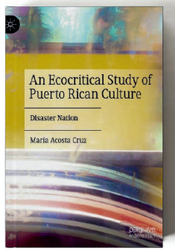
- Clark made 22 shots, hit 10 three-pointers, grabbed 26 rebounds, dished out seven assists, and forced 18 turnovers.
- Atiya Watson '29 netted a career-high 24 points with seven made shots, connected on seven free throws, and hit three triples.
- Kailey Rios '27 added 11 points, made three 3-pointers, and tallied three steals.
- Emma Drefs '27 also reached double figures with 10 points and a pair of threes.

The men's team (12-13) also earned a berth in the NEWMAC tournament before losing a hard-fought quarterfinal battle to Salve Regina, 67-61.

Bookshelf

Selections from Our Scholars

CLARK UNIVERSITY FACULTY HAVE PUBLISHED WORKS ON SUBJECTS RANGING FROM THE HISTORY OF PUERTO RICO'S TRAUMAS TO MINORITY EXPERIENCES IN ACADEMIA TO THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE.

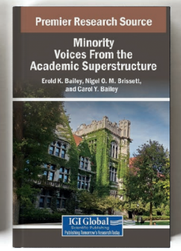


▸ LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE

Disaster Nation: An Ecocritical Study of Puerto Rican Culture

María Acosta Cruz

Contrasting Puerto Rico's eco-political history with its narrative and symbolic routes of disaster, trauma, and resilience, Acosta Cruz notes points of convergence and divergence. This book documents the continuities and discontinuities of how disasters are represented and underrepresented from earlier eras to the present.

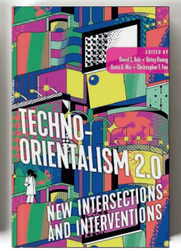


▸ SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Minority Voices from the Academic Superstructure

Co-authored by Nigel Brissette

The experiences of racial minorities in the United States education system remain a pivotal point of academic discourse. Brissett and his co-authors explore the current state of minority experiences in academia while offering effective coping strategies through the lens of CRT principles and postcolonial theory.

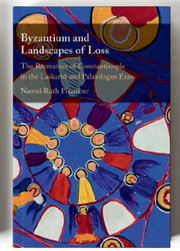


▸ ENGLISH

Techno-Orientalism 2.0: New Intersections and Interventions

Co-edited by Betsy Huang

Building on the groundbreaking *Techno-Orientalism: Imagining Asia in Speculative Fiction, History, and Media*, published by Rutgers University Press in 2015, *Techno-Orientalism 2.0* addresses the impact of a volatile post-pandemic present on speculative futures by and about Asians.

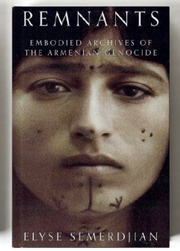


▸ ART HISTORY

Byzantium and Landscapes of Loss

Naomi Ruth Pitamber

Pitamber presents the art, architecture, and material culture of a little-known Byzantine dynasty, the Laskarids of Nicaea (1204–1261), uncovering their multiple contributions to the so-called Palaiologan Renaissance, which occurred in Constantinople after the city was regained in 1261.

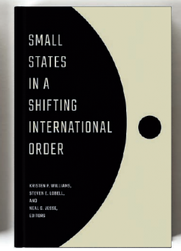


▸ HISTORY

Remnants: Embodied Archives of the Armenian Genocide

Elyse Semerdjian

Semerdjian explores the Armenian Genocide through the traces left in the memories and on the bodies of its women survivors. Awards for *Remnants* include the 2024 Best Book Prize from the Association for Middle East Women's Studies and the 2025 Raphael Lemkin Book Award from the Institute for the Study of Genocide.



▸ POLITICAL SCIENCE

Small States in a Shifting International Order

Co-edited by Kristen Williams

Williams and her co-editors use case studies (like the Baltic states, Costa Rica, and Sweden) to show how small states are active agents, not just subjects, in global affairs. They offer a new framework for understanding international relations in a turbulent world and reveal how states pursue security and influence.

SNOW: STEVEN KING; GOLDMAN: NATALIE HOANG '25, MBA '26

THINGS GOT A LITTLE FLAKY

The two feet of snow that fell on Worcester in January was a challenge; the additional foot in February was an insult. Barely passable roads. Classes shifted online. The quixotic hunt for a parking space in a city with an active parking ban.

Every generation at Clark has its own snowfall memory. Students who were on campus during the Blizzard of '78 speak of that storm both with awe and affection. Anyone at Clark in 2015 will remember Worcester recording the highest snowfall total in the country, even edging out perpetual winner Buffalo. Flip through any yearbook, and you'll find a photo of someone making a snow angel.

What's to complain about? We just accept that wintering in Worcester is a thing—our thing—and plow forward.

Short Stories

A True-Blue Clarkie

MATT GOLDMAN '83, MBA '84, L.H.D. '15, co-founder of Blue Man Group and owner of the Astor Palace Theatre in New York, returned to campus in November with Laura Camien, Broadway producer and founder of The Spark File, to share ideas on how to build and grow creative communities, inspire innovation, and communicate with authority and impact. In a Tilton Hall presentation to students, faculty, and staff, Goldman recounted the successes and failures from his own career that have helped him develop strategies to establish an environment in life and work where creativity can thrive and shift "those breakthroughs, those a-ha moments, and epiphanies from being random and occasional to intentional and frequent."

Short Stories

NATALIE HOANG '25, MBA '26

MODEL STUDENTS

Everybody should get the chance to walk the red carpet at least once in their lives, Clarkies included. At the annual Clark Thrift Store fashion show, students gathered in The Grind to show off the signature looks they've curated during their time on campus. It was hard to tell who was having more fun, the models or the audience.

STEVEN KING

A CLARKIE'S GENIUS RECOGNIZED

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation named cartographer **MARGARET WICKENS PEARCE, M.A. '95, PH.D. '98,** a 2025 MacArthur Fellow, recognizing her work creating maps that foreground Indigenous peoples' understanding of land and place and visualize their knowledge, history, and stories.

The Fellowship is awarded to outstanding individuals who have shown exceptional originality in and dedication to their creative pursuits. Fellows earn what's known as a "genius grant," an unconditional $800,000 stipend. Recipients are nominated by leaders in their respective fields and considered by a selection committee.

Pearce, who studied in the Graduate School of Geography, collaborates with Indigenous communities to resurface their history, knowledge, and presence throughout North America and draws from a collection of archival materials. She has a permanent exhibit titled "Native Truths: Our Voices, Our Stories" at the Field Museum in Chicago, and this past fall opened "The Cold at Inuit Nunangat" in collaboration with the Canadian-American Center at the University of Maine.

Professor Morgan Ruelle with Teferi Abate, a senior research anthropologist at Yale and an expert on agrarian practices in Ethiopia's Wollo region.

SEEDING A PARTNERSHIP

As part of a research project with Professor Morgan Ruelle of Clark's School of Climate, Environment, and Society (CES), Marshall Fredericksen, M.S. '26, spent last summer interviewing farmers who have proven resilient in the face of drought, famine, and conflict in Ethiopia's Wollo area.

Funded by The Rockefeller Foundation, the two researchers and their partners in the U.S. and Ethiopia are investigating whether farmers' traditional practice of growing grain mixtures could offer a climate-resilient solution to food insecurity in Ethiopia and other parts of the world.

Now, Ruelle and his CES colleagues are expanding their collaborations in Ethiopia. In October, Clark signed a three-year agreement with one of the project's partner institutions, Wollo University, to "support collaborative research, teaching, and student engagement between our two institutions, with the intention to renew and deepen our partnership over time."

The agreement also allows for faculty and student exchanges and "a streamlined application pathway for Wollo students pursuing graduate study at Clark," along with "shared seminars, workshops, and short-term programs, staff development, and exchange of academic resources."

CARNEGIE SALUTES COMMUNITY WORKS

In January, Clark learned that it had received the 2026 Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement, which recognizes the University's commitment to building partnerships, collaborating with the public and private sectors, and making a positive impact in the Worcester community and beyond.

This elective designation is awarded by the American Council on Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Clark, which previously received the classification in 2010, is among the more than 230 schools that received the classification this year.

"We are proud of, and celebrate, our commitment to creating partnerships that lead to collaborative and meaningful change within the community shared by Clark, the Main South neighborhood, and the city of Worcester," said Clark President David Fithian. "We are living when pluralistic civic engagement is urgently needed to better serve the common good, and where shared responsibility for one another is essential to shaping a stronger future for all."

Clark's deep engagement includes multiple projects in and for local schools, including the expansion of the University Park Partnership zone, which gives more neighborhood students an opportunity to attend Clark tuition free; Liberal Arts for Returning Citizens, an education program for formerly incarcerated people; and the Collaborative for Community Engagement, which develops and coordinates engagement between Clark and the Main South neighborhood through programming, resources, and opportunities that meet local needs.

IT WAS ALL GOOD

The Becker School of Design & Technology hosted the Games for Good Conference, showcasing advancements in "serious" game storytelling and technologies that promote positive social impact and change. Of the more than 350 attendees, two very special guests appeared virtually from Cherkasy State Business College in Ukraine. Svitlana Ustychenko, director of the college's language center, and Iryna Ivanova, associate professor of the Department of Design and Socio-cultural Disciplines, joined BSDT Dean Paul Cotnoir and Becker Professor Minka Stoyanova via Zoom to discuss a unique partnership between the two institutions.

In the fall of 2024, Cherkasy and Becker collaborated on the Resistance Games course, which brought together students and faculty from both countries to explore digital pathways to intercultural understanding through game design, critical media studies, and language learning.

There were tangible challenges. Participants at Cherkasy operated in crisis conditions across platforms like Moodle and Discord, with rolling blackouts perpetually threatening to disrupt classes (as well as Zoom transmissions).

Ivanova reported that the Ukrainian students have since presented their work at several conferences. "This course went deep into their heart and soul," she said

Syllabus

“My goal is to make my students better-informed citizens.”

COURSE

Money and Banking

TEACHER

Edouard Wemy

Most of the students in Economics Professor Edouard Wemy’s Money and Banking class do not own homes. They haven’t launched careers, started families, or invested heavily in the stock market. But those things are coming, and Wemy wants his students to be prepared for them by better understanding U.S. monetary policy. “My goal is not to convert my students to economists,” he says, “but to make them better-informed citizens.”

Each year you prepare students to participate in the Fed Challenge at the Boston Federal Reserve Bank. Describe what that is.

The Challenge is an activity created by the Federal Reserve system that gives students in different regions of the country an opportunity to compete against each other by making a policy recommendation about whether the Fed should increase or decrease interest rates. Faculty from the various schools are the judges in each region—we compete in the Northeast region against schools like Harvard, MIT, Babson, and Boston College. The winner actually gets to move on and make their pitch to the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. You really have to know your stuff to get that far. Preparing for the Fed Challenge used to be part of this class, but I’ll be teaching it as a separate Problems of Practice course next semester.

How much about money and banking do students typically know when they enroll in this class?

This is an elective, and there are prerequisites to taking this class, so students know the basic concepts of how the economy works—how we compute GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and CPI (Consumer Price Index), international trade, labor issues, etc. We have to lay the foundation first, but they’re obviously showing some level of passion for the subject. I think a lot of students take it because they want to understand money. People like to talk about money.

Do student have any misperceptions about money?

I guess their view of money is different from the way we think about it in the macro economy, and that’s an interesting part of it. When they come to the class, they need to learn about the role that money plays in an economy and how it is used to generate economic activity, or at least to manage economic activity. I would say they don’t understand that the money supply is controlled by the Fed. They may hear in the news that the Fed increased or decreased the interest rate, and we’ll have a discussion about the impact that the rate can have on day-to-day decisions. The goal of economics is to understand the world around you so you can make better financial decisions.

They need to be able to have a sound understanding of interest rates, and what money is and how money is created before we move on to talk about how the Fed uses the tools in their toolbox in order to influence economic activity.

Besides a learning curve, there must be something of a “life curve” to all this as well.

[Laughs] A few years after they’ve graduated, former students will email me and say something like, ‘Now I see why you kept talking about GDP and inflation in class.’ All of a sudden, it becomes relevant.

Do you ever wade into the politics surrounding the Fed leadership?

None of my courses revolve around politics, but politics and economics are intertwined, so those issues are hard not to get into at some point. I ask my students if they are paying attention to what’s happening in the news with regards to how the administration is behaving toward the Fed chairman. Once they understand the importance of what the Fed does, then we can move on to why it is important to have an independent Fed. The independence of the Fed is something that over time has been relatively unchallenged, and now it is not. But there are reasons why it’s structured this way, because monetary policy impacts the lives of millions.

STEVEN KING

From Dream to Destiny

100 years ago, Robert H. Goddard put humanity aboard a rocket ride to the future

BY JIM KEOGH
PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE KING

As a boy, Robert Goddard

would climb into the cherry tree in his Worcester yard and gaze into the night sky. He didn't wish upon the stars, but instead envisioned how to reach them. Years later, in his high school commencement address, he prophesied, "The dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow."

More than a century ago, on March 16, 1926, Goddard, now a Clark-trained scientist, launched a liquid-fuel rocket into the sky from the frozen ground of his Aunt Effie's farm in Auburn, Massachusetts. The rocket flew 41 feet into the air and landed 184 feet away, traveling for 2.5 seconds.

They were 2.5 seconds that changed the world.

Goddard had met his dream head on. Just four decades after that launch in Auburn, his pioneering experiments would help put astronauts on the moon and inspire generations to consider the possibilities of interplanetary travel. He'd removed the "fiction" from science fiction and made a defiant leap into the cosmos, the destination endless.

In the following pages, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Goddard's historic launch with a gallery of artifacts housed in the Clark University Archives and Special Collections. They are items, most of them worn and weathered, that reveal a brilliant and churning mind.

There were no cherry trees in the Roswell, New Mexico, desert where Robert Goddard relocated to continue his rocketry experiments. But in a deeper sense, the roots of that Worcester tree where he'd once perched stretched all the way to those western sands and beyond. The promise he made to himself high in its branches drove him to make discoveries that would alter his fate, and lift humanity skyward.

(Opposite) In 1959, Robert Goddard was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the highest U.S. civilian honors, for his pioneering work in rocket development (this is the Clark Archives' bronze reproduction of the original). The medal has long expressed appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions, beginning with its first recipient, George Washington, and including honorees who reflect a vast range of accomplishment and sacrifice, from George Gershwin to Rosa Parks to Mother Teresa. The efforts to put humans into space have been amply recognized: The crew of Apollo 11 and NASA's "hidden figures" mathematicians are medal recipients.

"It's appalling how short life is and how much one would like to do. We have to be sports, take chances, and do what we can."

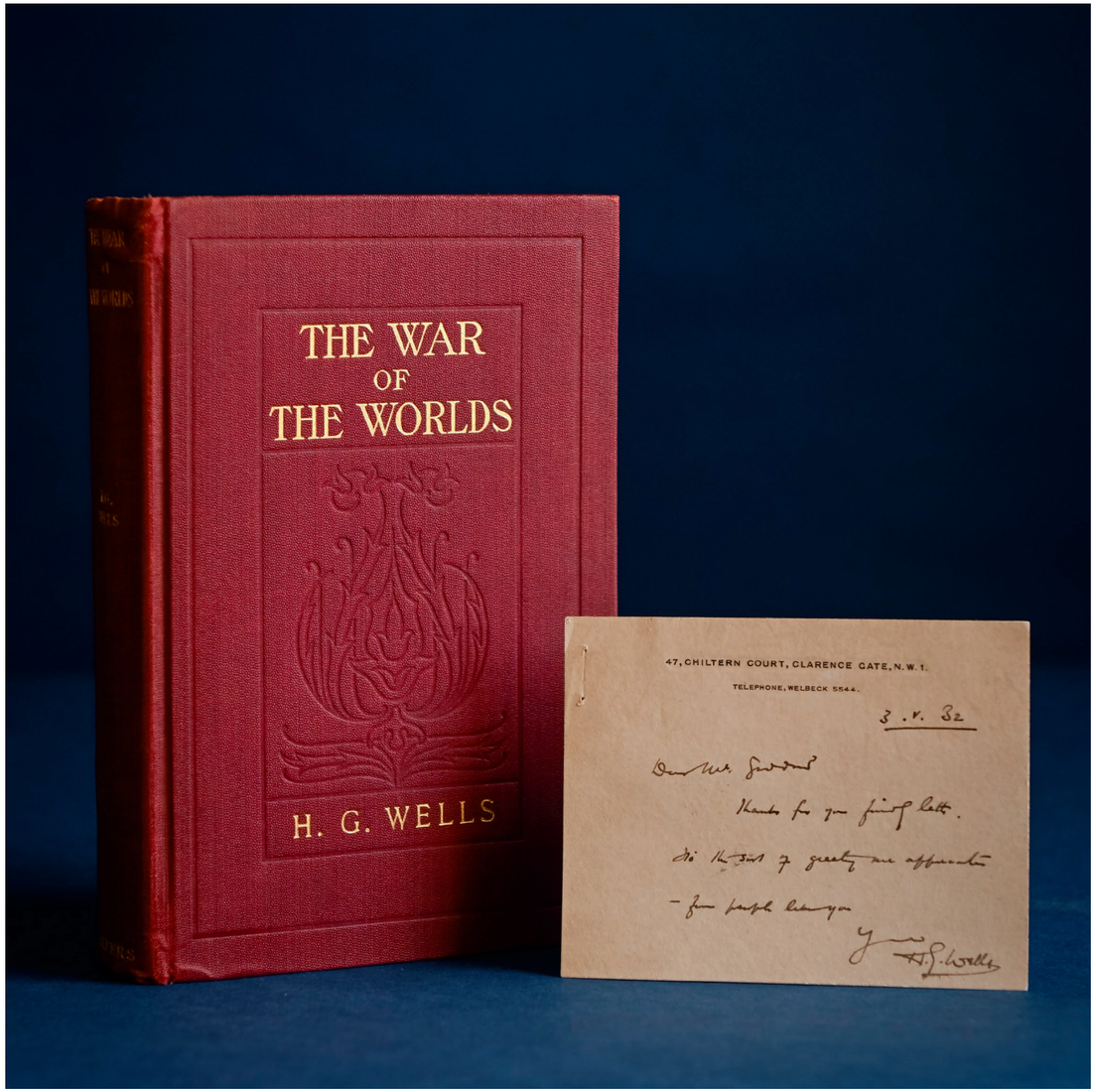
—ROBERT GODDARD

This early gyroscope of Goddard's is worn and nicked and probably still bears traces of his DNA. While launching a liquid-fuel rocket into the sky is the scientist's most renowned intellectual feat, figuring out how to steer it once it got there may have been his most overlooked. Goddard experimented obsessively with gyroscopic technology. In 1907, he published "The Use of the Gyroscope in the Balancing and Steering of Aeroplanes" in *Scientific American*, and in 1932, he conducted a brief test in which a rocket's flight path could be primitively—but successfully—controlled. Goddard's early technologies were foundational to the sophisticated systems that guide today's spacecraft, planes, and seagoing vessels.

(Opposite) Several health ailments kept young Robert Goddard housebound for much of his childhood, but he used the quiet time to become a voracious reader. One of his seminal influences was H.G. Wells' science fiction classic *The War of the Worlds*, which set the Worcester boy's imagination afire with the possibilities of interplanetary travel. Goddard never forgot the author's impact on him and later wrote him a fan letter, which elicited a handwritten response from Wells: "Thanks for your friendly letter. It's the sort of greeting we appreciate—from people like you."

"Maybe by working patiently but not long at time you may turn out some first-rate work yet."

—W.F. MAGIE, HEAD OF PRINCETON'S PALMER PHYSICAL LABORATORY, TO ROBERT GODDARD



THE LAUNCH OF A GODDARD ROCKET
IN ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO.

“Even though the release was pulled, the rocket did not rise at first, but the flame came out, and there was a steady roar. After a number of seconds it rose, slowly until it cleared the frame, and then at express-train speed, curving over to the left, and striking the ice and snow, still going at a rapid rate. It looked almost magical as it rose, without an appreciably greater noise or flame, as if it said, ‘I’ve been here long enough; I think I’ll be going somewhere else, if you don’t mind.’ ”

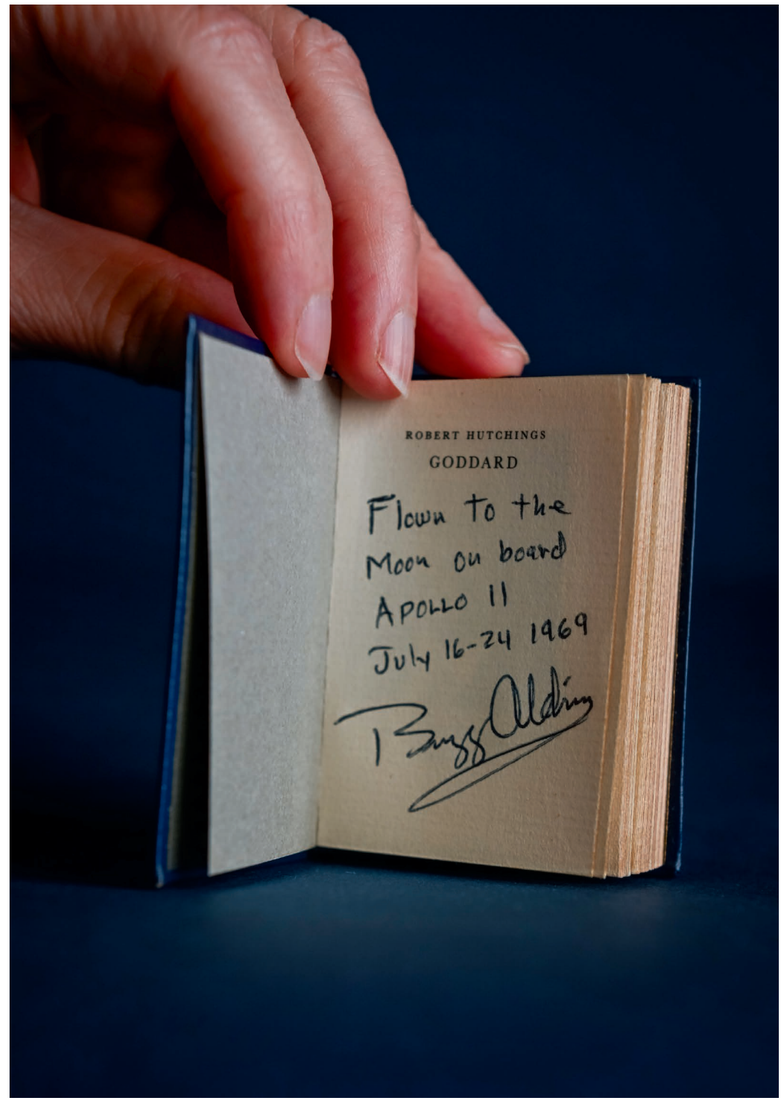
—ROBERT GODDARD, RECOUNTING HIS HISTORIC ROCKET LAUNCH

“He was generally looked upon as being slightly but harmlessly mad, with his absurd ideas of design rockets that could travel to the moon as an initial step toward his ultimate objective, Mars.”

—HUGH L. KENNLEYSIDE, M.A. 1921

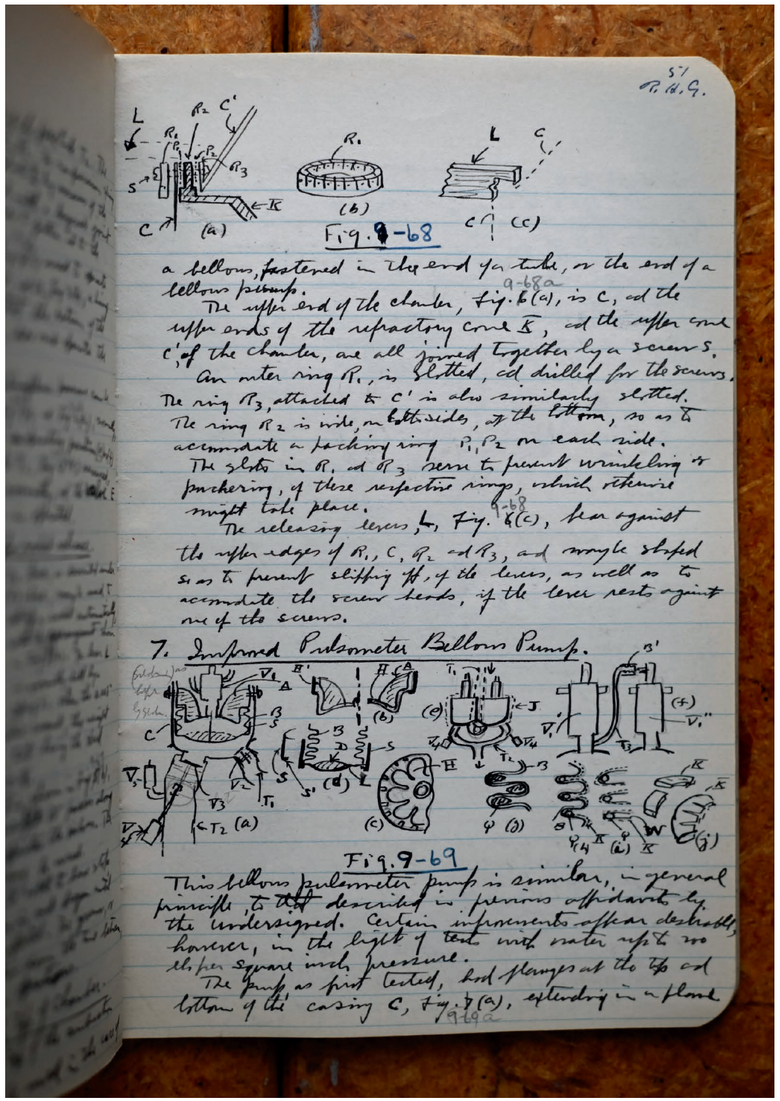
(Opposite) One of Goddard’s early launch frames—fitted together from pipes and joints—is shown reassembled in the Goddard Library. From his Aunt Effie’s farm in Auburn, Massachusetts, Goddard sent the first liquid-fuel rocket 41 feet into the air and 184 feet from the frame that sat in the grass. The rocket flew for 2.5 seconds, a brief but historic journey.

An artifact may travel a great distance to reach its final destination in a university collection. But 238,857 miles (477,714 miles round-trip) through the void of space? That was the journey of a credit card-sized book titled *Robert Hutchings Goddard — Father of the Space Age*, the autobiography of the rocket pioneer and long-time Clark professor. The leather-bound tome with gold-leaf edging was the first book ever flown to the moon. Astronaut Buzz Aldrin actually had brought two copies of the book without thinking to inform NASA, but he later confirmed they had accompanied him to the moon aboard Apollo 11. He gave one copy to Robert Goddard’s widow, Esther, who donated the book to Clark’s archives.



“My husband felt that he was a very fortunate man. He was doing precisely what he wanted to do most in all this world.”

—ESTHER GODDARD



Robert Goddard began keeping a diary in 1898, and he didn’t stop writing until his death in 1945. His research notebooks burst with detailed accounts of his ideas, observations, inspirations, and experiments, some entries accompanied by hand-drawn illustrations of rocket components and their interactions. He and Esther took care to have his notebook pages notarized—Goddard was intensely protective of his inventions and wary of the theft of his intellectual property by competitors in Germany and Russia. While the prose that flowed from his pen tended toward the technical, he sometimes hinted at the poetic. In an entry reflecting on his historic 1926 launch, he imagined the rocket describing its own brief, erratic flightpath: “I’ve been here long enough; I think I’ll be going somewhere else, if you don’t mind.”

(Opposite) This liquid-propellant rocket motor of Goddard’s is from about 1930. Just a year earlier, he’d launched the first liquid-propellant rocket to carry scientific instruments (an aneroid barometer and thermometer). The rocket flew to 90 feet but crashed, the noise and resulting grass fire creating a public sensation. It was reported that the publicity led to Goddard’s rocket work coming to the attention of aviator Charles Lindbergh, who connected him with the Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics. However, in a 2011 interview with *Clark Magazine*, astronaut Buzz Aldrin insisted that his father, Edwin Aldrin Sr., Clark class of 1915 and a former student of Goddard’s, made the fortuitous introduction of Lindbergh to Goddard.

Esther & Bob

Esther Goddard's fierce devotion to her husband kept his memory alive, and built a legend

BY MELISSA LYNCH '95, MSPC '15

On Friday, August 10, 1945, Esther Goddard opened a pocket-sized diary and turned to the day's page.

Picking up her pen, she carefully wrote, "Darling Bob slipped away."

The journal was not her own. Her husband, rocketry pioneer Robert Goddard, was a compulsive diarist, recording his work and activities over nearly 50 years. That summer, when worsening esophageal cancer had made it impossible for him to keep the diary current, Esther did it for him. She would not let his story sit unfinished.

Her husband's life was over, but Esther's work had just begun.

This small, private act of grief is also a window into who Esther Goddard was: meticulous, devoted, and fiercely in control of the narrative. Because while Robert Goddard is cited as the the pioneer of modern rocketry, a key reason we remember him at all is because of her efforts to ensure he never be forgotten.

In 1919, Esther Christine Kisk, then 18 and a recent high-school graduate, was working as a typist in the office of Clark College President Edward Sanford, earning money for her own college tuition. Robert Goddard was chair of the Physics Department.

Robert and Esther began seeing each other frequently. He visited her at home, where he played the piano for her, took her for walks and ice cream, and "wrote gushy letters," according to David A. Clary, author of *Rocket Man: Robert H. Goddard and the Birth of the Space Age.*

It was a perfect match. Esther was intelligent, strong-willed, energetic yet reserved, and physically striking. She was passionate about cultural disruptions, like new books and fresh theories. A Clark biologist described Esther as "not a common person."

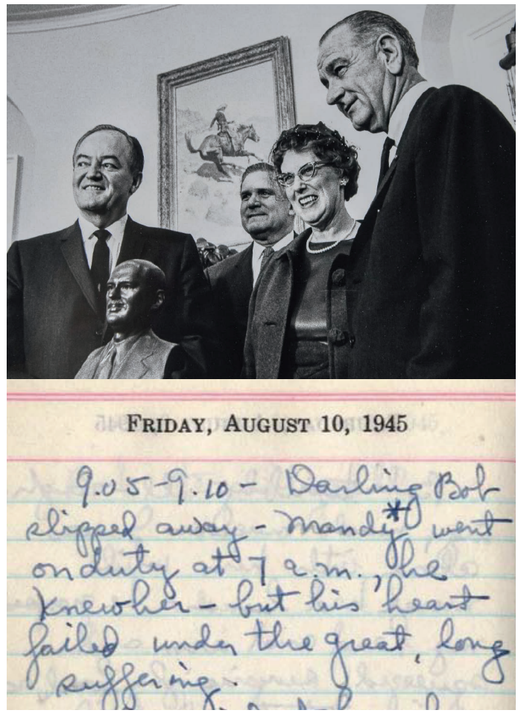
They married in 1924.

Robert Goddard was raised with an overattentive mother and grandmother who catered to his every need, and Esther continued the tradition of a strong woman taking charge of his well-being, and of the image he projected to the world. She often accompanied her husband to work, documenting his experiments through photography and, later, film. Those photos are now part of Clark's Robert and Esther Goddard Collection, portions of which have been digitized and are now accessible online.

"She is the curator, the image builder, the facilitator," says Katie Stebbins, digital projects librarian at Clark. "She managed his life for him. She was a patent-getter, a documenter, a photographer, a filmmaker. Basically, any photo or video we have of him, whether it's here or New Mexico, was taken by Esther."

In Martin Lehman's *The High Man*—a biography written after Robert's death, under Esther's supervision—a family friend notes, "Esther's job was to see that he was effective and happy; and in her lifelong modeling of Bob's façade as that of a 'great man,' she would certainly see that he was constantly encouraged about his own achievement and his qualities, his stature."

When Robert launched the first liquid-fuel rocket on March 16, 1926, Esther was there, as she always was, movie camera in hand. She didn't capture the actual rocket flight, but did take photos of Goddard and his team before and after the launch, memorializing the occasion for posterity.



(TOP) ESTHER PRESENTED THE 1966 ROBERT GODDARD MEMORIAL TROPHY TO PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON; AT LEFT IS VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY. (ABOVE) ESTHER'S JOURNAL ENTRY ON THE DAY OF HER HUSBAND'S DEATH.

Stebbins and Cynthia Shenette, head of the Clark University Archives, say that Esther's dedication was evident as they prepared materials for the launch centennial. "She was there. She lived it—and was always by his side," Stebbins says.

"She had an emotional attachment to the work that nobody else would have," Shenette adds.

After Robert's death in 1945, Esther made it her mission to secure his legacy. Less than a year after his death, she delivered a speech in which she described a boy from humble beginnings who dreamed big dreams and pursued them throughout his life. She painted a picture of a distinguished but absentminded professor who refused to give up, even in the face of ridicule.

She gave the same speech for 30 years.

At the urging of her husband's longtime patron, Harry Guggenheim, Esther secured patents for Robert's inventions for which he hadn't yet applied. The arduous process resulted in 131 additional patents in Robert Goddard's name, bringing the total to 214.

She also joined Guggenheim in a patent-infringement claim against the U.S. government, eventually agreeing to a settlement that paid her $400,000 over 20 years. When that news broke, United Press International reported, "Now he is generally credited with being the 'father of modern rocketry,' the German V-2 missile, the American bazooka of World War II, and eventually the entire family of U.S. space and military rockets."

"The patents were my primary goal," Esther told Guggenheim. "To me, they are quite simply the whole foundation upon which you and I have built the shining image that is Goddard today."

While the patent negotiations were happening, Esther decided it was time for a biography, and Milton Lehman was hired to write it—but Esther was in control.

She gave Lehman only those papers she wanted him to see, and edited the manuscript to ensure the biography presented the Robert Goddard she wanted the world to know. The book's drafts with her handwritten edits are housed with her papers at Clark.

Clark also has a 22-volume set of Goddard's research notes, drawings, and photos that Esther collected, curated, and presented to Clark, the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, and the Roswell Museum and Art Center in New Mexico. Later, Guggenheim and Esther curated a three-volume set of her husband's papers—more than 1,700 pages of diary entries, notes, and correspondence—published by McGraw-Hill in 1970. She left out personal papers and anything that put him in a bad light. Only items that Esther considered significant and worthy of preservation were included.

Along with those multivolume sets, Esther gave all of her husband's (and later, her own) papers to Clark. She had originally intended for those to go to the Library of Congress but changed her mind in 1964 when she learned of the University's plans to build the Robert Hutchings Goddard Library.

"She documented everything meticulously. And then, posthumously, she curated everything—one project after another, making sure different institutions had copies of the work," Stebbins says. "She was essentially building his legacy from the ground up."

Esther made sure that Robert Goddard received proper recognition from those in power. He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1959, the same year NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center opened; the Smithsonian's Langley Medal in 1960; and the Daniel Guggenheim Medal, the highest honor in aeronautics, in 1964 (Orville Wright received the first Guggenheim Medal in 1929). In 1964, he was honored with a U.S. postage stamp.

Since 1958, the National Space Club has given the Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy to individuals or groups who made the most impact on space activities in the previous year. It is presented at an annual dinner that Esther attended for many years.

Esther was also invited to attend a 1970 presidential dinner celebrating the Apollo 11 space mission, whose astronauts stepped on the moon just two months after the dedication of Clark's Goddard Library. Astronaut Buzz Aldrin—whose father, Edwin Aldrin Sr., a member of the Clark Class of 1915 and Goddard's student—had helped cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony.

Esther invited President Richard Nixon to attend the library dedication, but he was unavailable. Instead, he wrote to Esther, "I share your pride and your excitement," and noted that the mission to the moon was made possible "by the vision, courage, and generous talent of your late husband."

In 1965, when President Lyndon Johnson declared March 16 "Goddard Day," Esther said, "I am deeply proud and grateful for what we have done for his memory. It is far more than he, or I, might have dreamed of."

The Robert and Esther Goddard Collection holds more than most people realize. There are pressed flowers from Esther and Robert's wedding. Boxes of press clippings and editorial cartoons from the 1920s. Photos and film reels. Shelves and shelves of patent files—the legal foundation of a legacy Esther refused to let anyone else claim.

And then there are the diaries, in which Robert recorded the daily texture of his life beginning in 1898: movies attended, books read, rockets launched (both successfully and failed). In June of 1945, Esther's additions begin, describing his coughing spells and doctor's recommendations.

On June 14, she observed:

When I woke, Bob was awake, and said "I've been lying here watching you. I didn't know anyone could be so beautiful."

At the bottom of the page, she added, "I loved him. R was tired to death."

Robert stopped writing in the diary around that time. Esther continued to record their activities; some entries are simply "very ill," or "at hosp.," but some share stories of visitors, treatments, and other interactions.

On August 9, Esther wrote:

Bob terribly ill. ... He grasped my hand and arm and squeezed, surprisingly hard, as if in gratitude. I said "You're trying to tell me you love me? I love you too, Bob."

The next morning, Robert died. "His heart failed under the great, long suffering," she wrote.

Esther did not include these final diary entries in her curated set of Robert's papers. They were too personal to fit into the "Robert Goddard" image she was building.

She kept that part of him to herself.

MAKING AI GAINS

Clark does the hard —and human—work of determining how AI fits into its academic universe

BY MELISSA HANSON

robot gazes straight ahead from the corner of Clark's Robotics Lab, home to the Laboratory for Intelligent Perceptual Systems, where it sits on a worktable surrounded by wires, tools, and parts. This isn't *Star Wars'* C-3PO—but it represents a step toward machines that are capable of culturally competent conversation with a human counterpart.

Computer Science Professor Gary Holness and Sarina Talerico '27, a computer science and data science major, have been building an expressive animatronic robot head from scratch with an open-source reference design and a 3D printer in Clark's Lux Lab. Some parts took more than 40 hours to print, and substantial engineering is involved—the head has 21 motors, miniature cameras, and a variety of sensors that allow it to observe and make gestures.

Artificial intelligence models will enable the robot to assess how a person communicates and respond in ways that are socially and culturally appropriate. This work falls within Embodied AI, a field focused on designing algorithms for physical systems that can perceive, learn from, and interact with the world around them.

Holness and Talerico want to capture, represent, develop computational models of, and track multisensor "temporal sequences" indicating the ways people express emotions—perhaps through a smile or the raising of an eyebrow—so the robot can mirror those gestures, and essentially learn how emotional expression unfolds over time.

"AI involves perception, deliberation, and action," Holness says. "Understanding what action or gesture is appropriate requires modeling how patterns unfold across vision, sound, and movement—and responding in real time."

Researchers, faculty, and students across Clark, in every department and major, are also responding in real time to the questions accompanying AI's growing influence and impact.

Is AI a valuable tool for expanding research capabilities? A quick-and-easy crutch for completing assignments? A collaborator that boosts efficiency? A drain on Earth's resources?

Opinions are complex and varied, and conflicted. But Clarkies are harnessing their curiosity and passion to explore how AI will inform the future of academia and are increasingly eager to play a role in shaping it.

ADVANTAGES AND RISKS

YouTube is frequently on the screen in front of Computer Science Professor Shuo Niu, who researches trends and developments in the online creator community. Many people see AI as a productivity tool, and creators may use it to edit grammar for video scripts or for graphic design.

"There are concerns about the reliance on AI-produced content harming human creativity," Niu says. "It's my job to look into trends with this phenomenon and give guidance to preserve its advantage and mitigate those risks."

With Jimin Lee, a doctoral student in psychology, and computer science major Torin Anderson '27, Niu is developing a tool to support an advanced generative AI prompting technique that enables instructors and students to use GenAI to create new short-form educational videos.

This project is one of eight supported by the Clark AI Innovation Fund established with a $50,000 gift from the Yee Family, including Trustee Brian Yee '93.

Lee's role is to bridge the technical information with educational psychology and learning science frameworks. She focuses on ensuring the "meta-prompting" tool supports meaningful learning rather than solely content generation. The team is still in the development phase, and so far, Lee has been surprised that the design process itself influences learning.

"There's a lot of potential for AI to make everyday tasks easier, to help people work through ideas and lower barriers to learning. At the same time, AI comes with trade-offs. If we lean on it too heavily, it can quietly take over skills we're supposed to be practicing and building," says Lee. "This project is important because it goes beyond using AI as a production shortcut and instead focuses on how people learn with it."

Non-academic units at Clark, most notably the University's Advancement team through its EverTrue Clark Advancement Lab, are also heavily invested in deploying AI as a tool for refining and amplifying key functions and operations.

BIAS IN, BIAS OUT

Onyx Rothman '26, a political science major, knows that what you feed into AI influences what the model serves back. His AI Innovation Grant project addresses concerns about bias in AI—tools like ChatGPT, he says, are trained on data that is overwhelmingly white and Western. Rothman's goal is developing a transcription model shaped by Worcester's linguistic diversity, particularly the city's large Ghanian population, to demonstrate that culture and diversity can be preserved in emerging technology.

"I think pessimism is certainly warranted in the AI space," says Rothman, "but I'm trying to communicate that AI doesn't have to be a terrible technology. I think a lot of people at Clark are very pessimistic about AI, but that's precisely why you might want to be more engaged with it. While I am very worried about existential risks from AI that could disempower humanity, I think that gives me more reason to ensure that there are people with good intentions developing this technology."

Professor Eduard Arriaga-Arango, chair of the Language, Literature, and Culture Department, also believes technology can be more inclusively designed, socially responsible, and connected to community. He's working on two related projects: one that is mapping the way language is used by AI corporations to create an anthropomorphic image of technology, and another that involves training a language-learner chatbot that can illustrate the benefits and drawbacks of using AI. When teaching the University's first Digital Humanities course last semester, Arriaga asked students to question technology from a humanistic perspective.

"We can think with the model as opposed to having the model think for us," he says. "People are hesitant about AI right now, particularly because of the political connection between AI companies and what is happening in our country. They are realizing that we're investing a lot of money in AI and it is also affecting the environment through the creation and use of data centers. That seems to be the new gold rush. I think we need to be on a middle ground in which we look at the impacts and try to control the way we use that technology."

STEVEN KING

PROFESSOR GARY HOLNESS AND SARINA TALERICO '27 AT WORK ON A ROBOT THAT USES AI MODELS TO COMMUNICATE.

AI FOR GOOD

Clark researchers are developing ways in which AI can assist humanity. Abraham Rahman '27, a psychology and management major, has been exploring how AI can enhance accessibility, inspired in part by his experience as someone with ADHD. Rahman is working with psychology major Preeti Bachu '26 and Michael Miller, professor of psychology, on another of the Clark AI Innovation Grant projects. Their project focuses on using AI to summarize scientific articles, which can be

difficult to digest for people who are neurodivergent.

"The work isn't intended to replace people reading scientific articles. It's meant to be a step to help people like me get a good idea of the article, so that when I read the full paper, I have a deeper understanding," says Rahman. "I'm using AI to make people's lives easier in ways that were not possible before. I think it's a way to reduce stress and improve holistic well-being."

Interactive media and game design major Lauren Gallagher '26, MFA '27, is using her Clark AI Innovation grant to explore whether non-player characters (NPCs) can intelligently interact with players in a video game. She was inspired after attending the PAX East gaming convention and wanted to see what boundaries she could push in this new territory of technology. Gallagher developed a persona for her NPC — Jenny Applebaum, a local apple seller — and connected the character to a local language model to create a playable demo. The goal was for the player to convince Jenny to sell them an apple.

"Only a few game studios are doing this, so I was hacking and slashing my way through, trying to get it to work. When you're experimenting, it feels like the Wild West," says Gallagher. "When players were interacting with Jenny Applebaum, they were being really creative. There was a lot of delight and joy. Now I want to refine it and add more NPCs to see if they can interact with each other."

IN THE CLASSROOM

About 25 faculty members are seated at tables in the Grace Conference Room for a workshop titled "Developing Guidelines for AI Use in Your Classrooms," one of four AI-related seminars that are being delivered to faculty in the spring semester. To launch the discussion, moderator Mark Jacobs '89, MFA '25, asks the attendees to gauge their attitude toward the use of AI in their classes using one of three colors: Green means AI would be fully encouraged "with reflection and attribution"; Yellow means AI use would be limited with clear boundaries; and red means AI is not allowed.

Most give a score of yellow, with two participants splitting the difference by offering "orange." One professor says he's "green" when it comes to his students using AI as a research and organizational tool, and "red" for writing assignments. For the rest of the session, there is curiosity and skepticism, but no outright condemnation. AI is here, they know. It's just a matter of what form it takes in their classrooms and labs.

"It's important to break down the potential uses for AI rather than make generalizations that AI is all good or all bad," says Jacobs. "Instead, let's look at particular uses and evaluate each one independently."

Jacobs, who directs the Socr-AI-tic Lab for Collaborative Pedagogy, says he is focused on promoting the use of emergent technologies that will have the most impact in the classroom. The series of workshops is meant to encourage faculty to consider how AI will be incorporated into their coursework.

"We need to leave the professors at the front and center of their teaching but give them tools that allow them to work well with AI," he says.

That will take some creativity, and perhaps a shift in thinking. "We tend to be more focused on cheating than positive interactions with AI," Jacobs says. "AI has value and needs guardrails as well. The more that we redesign assignments to optimize them for the strengths of AI interaction, and redesign evaluation so that it's difficult to use AI inappropriately, the more effective we'll be as educators."

AI is not new to the classroom. The School of Professional Studies, for instance, was an early adopter in Massachusetts, and for more than a year has offered an M.S. in Applied Artificial Intelligence. The program is taught by industry experts and academics with a focus on hands-on applications and an understanding of the responsible and ethical use of AI.

The Clark Center for Geospatial Analysis has also embraced AI as a critical tool in sorting through and interpreting the burgeoning amount of high-quality data that has become more accessible through cloud computing and storage.

Luke Sheldon '26, a computer science and data science major and member of the Clark Competitive Computing Club, says that for some homework assignments, it's expected that students use AI, but primarily to check answers after making a first attempt without assistive technology.

"If you're not using it, you're ultimately falling behind," says Sheldon. "I think computer science professors are trying to get students familiar with using AI in their workflows because the reality is, in a couple years, you are going to be using it whether you like it or not."

Professors outside the sciences sometimes find it difficult to make rules around AI because the technology can be challenging to monitor.

"We've had policies about plagiarism and attribution, which are cut-and-dried, but this is different," says James McCarthy, professor of geography. "It's not just a question of whether something was written using AI, but a question of 'Did you get the fundamental argument, the thesis, the insight from AI?' That's a bigger issue."

McCarthy is not averse to reasonable use of AI as a research tool, but he has adjusted his teaching approach to include more in-class assignments and activities that emphasize and reinforce students' understanding of the readings.

He believes AI will be a "ubiquitous" presence in his students' careers but foresees that employers and clients will still expect them "to present their ideas in person, defend ideas in person, and debate courses of action in person."

Since AI is here to stay, Miller, the psychology professor working with Rahman and Bachu, has become comfortable with categorizing AI as a co-collaborator. If his students use AI for homework, he asks them to cite the ideas that come from the Large Language Model, or LLM.

"My biggest worry isn't that people are using it. It's that they're using it and not paying attention to who writes what and who does what," says Miller. "We can only operate at a human pace, and AI clearly can go faster and deeper. It's a mind that does things differently than you."

THE BUSINESS OF AI

AI has been a pervasive presence in business for some time, driving decision-making in a number of areas while automating and augmenting aspects of accounting, finance, marketing, supply chains, and strategy. But its absorption into curricula will accelerate as the technologies grow more sophisticated and accessible in business practices, says Jing Zhang, dean of Clark's School of Business. From an AI literacy course at the undergraduate level to master's-level courses detailing its applications in the corporate world, the school has been steadily building its AI-education portfolio, with more on the horizon.

In the fall, the school will offer the newly created major Business Analytics and Applied AI, an interdisciplinary path forward.

"It involves collaboration with computer science, data science, game design, math, and philosophy," Zhang says. "The future of work is changing rapidly, and the University plays a critical role in preparing students for an AI-driven future by combining business thinking, technology understanding, and human skills.

"Through this major we can highlight how the industry is evolving and the skills and techniques that students need to have—how the concepts of machine learning and data analytics models work, and how AI applications can help solve complex business problems. Transformation is not only limited to the addition of a new major. Integration of AI understanding will also take place across the curriculum, making sure our existing majors are updated with relevant knowledge."

Besides the technical skills, Clark's business education will also focus on the durable skills that AI cannot easily replace, Zhang says, including the critical thinking and communication skills that inform how students will engage with AI in the workplace and beyond.

In her Intro to Information Systems class, Zhang's students delve into many aspects of AI, from industry structure, technological infrastructure, and business application, to its impact on everything from institutions to careers to societal norms. She notes that technological innovations have always "unsettled generations," and this generation of students will need Clark's guidance to "understand, apply, and manage artificial intelligence effectively and responsibly."

"So, we don't accept AI blindly, or we don't blindly run with it at 100 miles per hour. Instead, we take it as something that's important, and then we figure out how it can best contribute to our lives."

Author Unmasked

Fantasy writer **George Jreije ’17, MBA ’18,** draws on many inspirations, but his book about a young man’s bout with alopecia will be his most personal yet

BY MELISSA HANSON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE KING

Tarik is a daydreamer, his pre-teen fantasies transporting him as far as his imagination will allow.

But when he begins to lose his hair inexplicably, the vivid scenes dancing through Tarik's mind are monstrously transformed. Nefarious forces seem to pursue him as his tresses thin. He fights the demons ferociously, before resigning himself to a difficult fact: The harder he resists, the harder it will be to adapt to the inevitable.

Tarik may be a fictional character, but his story is grounded in the true-life experience of his creator, George Jreije '17, MBA '18, who, while a student at Clark, endured his own tug-of-war battle with the hair-loss condition known as alopecia. When Tarik makes his debut in *Tarik's Bazaar Adventure*, the tentative title for Jreije's forthcoming graphic novel to be published by HarperCollins, readers will experience the many emotions that swept through him as he underwent a personal metamorphosis.

Once he began to lose his hair, Jreije felt embarrassed and concerned about being judged by his peers. Hair is more than just a physical trait for Lebanese Americans like himself, he says—it's an integral part of the Arab identity. Without hair, he felt exposed; his identity compromised.

Jreije also recognized that he was facing a biological imperative over which he had no control. So, he surrendered to it.

"There was a melting away," he recalls of that time. "The mask was gone."

Getting to this stage required deep reflection, radical self-acceptance, and a fierce support system for Jreije to discover that his "loss" could actually be his gain. The discovery proved to be revolutionary.

"It was like being able to breathe out of a second nostril for the first time when you've only breathed out of one your entire life."

JREIJE GREW UP in the Harry Potter generation, but, unlike many of his peers, he wasn't entranced by the story of the boy wizard—or any other novels, for that matter. He wasn't a regular reader through elementary and middle school.

But by the time he was a junior at Clark, Jreije had read enough books and penned enough essays that he felt inspired to take a stab at writing fiction.

"I wasn't good," he recalls with a chuckle.

"With anything new you try, the more you do it, the more you realize you have room to grow," he says. "That might turn some people off, but it excited me. When I realized I had room to grow, I went at it harder."

The political science major stayed at Clark for a fifth year to earn his MBA, then forged a business career that took advantage of his skills in B2B marketing, digital strategy, and content marketing. Working full-time did not keep him away from his keyboard, where he created the character of Shad Hadid, a 12-year-old burgeoning alchemist who embarks on an adventure at a fabled magical school.

Jreije wrote until he felt confident enough to pitch a literary agent, who began reaching out to publishers. HarperCollins outbid the rest of the "Big Five" publishing houses at auction for *Shad Hadid and the Alchemists of Alexandria* (2022) and *Shad Hadid and the Forbidden Alchemies* (2023), the first two in his fantasy series. A short comic series inspired by the Shad Hadid books is forthcoming as well.

Jreije is expanding his HarperCollins repertoire with *Tarik's Bazaar Adventure* and a second graphic novel to follow, *Lilo and the League of Librarians*, which chronicles librarians fighting off spirits determined to consume books, an intentional metaphor for the wave of book-banning across the country.

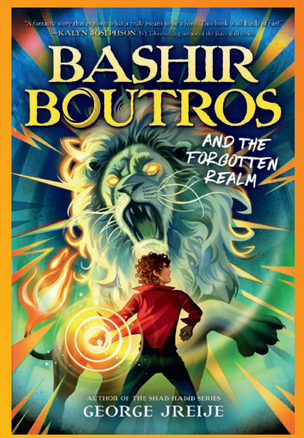
Releasing in May is *Bashir Boutros and the Forgotten Realm*, the second book in another series featuring a formidable pre-teen engulfed in a fantastical adventure. The first installment, *Bashir Boutros and the Jewel of the Nile*, published last year.

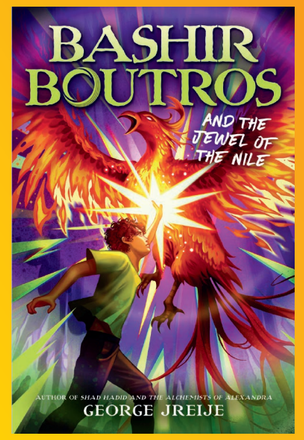
GEORGE JREIJE DISPLAYS THE COVER OF HIS FIRST NOVEL.

Jreije says his brain is too busy to sit still for dedicated writing sessions. Instead, he'll write from bed, in a coffee shop, or during meals, jotting down small bits as inspiration strikes. He'll scribble a few sentences during a TV commercial break, maybe a couple of paragraphs on his commute. He insists these "in-between moments" bring out his best writing.

"Writing a little bit each day creates a story," he says. "It's not this giant act of will; it's actually the sum of a lot of small decisions." These are the kinds of lessons Jreije dispenses as a creative writing teacher for the Gotham Writers Workshop as well as a frequent speaker at conferences and schools.

Through Instagram posts, Jreije deflects criticism that middle-schoolers—and even adults—won't be interested in his books when other popular series like *Harry Potter* and *Percy Jackson* are available on the same shelves. His books have reversed the tropes of the fantasy genre. Instead of characters arriving at





(LEFT) PANELS FROM TARIK'S BAZAAR ADVENTURE WITH ARTWORK BY UMAIR NAJEEB KHAN. (ABOVE) COVERS OF JREIJE'S BASHIR BOOKS; ARTWORK BY KHADIJAH KHATIB.

intrinsically magical places such as Percy Jackson's Camp Half-Blood or Harry Potter's Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Shad Hadid arrives at Alexandria Academy to find that alchemy has been banished from the premises, gatekept by villainous forces. Shad must find a way to restore the lost art.

"The magical school isn't quite so magical until Shad makes it so," Jreije says. "Everyone tells Shad that alchemy doesn't exist and that he looks silly for trying to preach about it and ultimately bring it back. But in being his authentic self, he ignores those voices against all odds."

AT ABOUT THE AGE OF 12, Jreije was diagnosed with alopecia, a condition in which the immune system attacks hair follicles, causing hair loss on the scalp, face, or body. Alopecia areata is one of the more common types of hair loss, according to the American Academy of Dermatology Association, and usually presents in patchy splotches. More rarely, a person can lose hair on their scalp and throughout their body. Initially, Jreije's loss was restricted to his limbs, which made him breathe a little easier.

When high school came around, however, Jreije discovered he had developed the most severe strain of alopecia. During his first year at Clark, the condition accelerated. By his sophomore year, Jreije had lost all his hair.

"It was a wonderful thing to be at Clark because everyone was so welcoming and so kind," he says. "I had a support system at school, and a lot of those folks are my friends to this day. I don't know that I would have had the same support system at another college."

Few people publicly share their alopecia journey—Massachusetts Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and actress Jada Pinkett Smith are among the few prominent figures regularly raising awareness, sporting their baldness with pride. Jreije wanted to enter the public conversation through his writing, but he recognized the story he would tell needed a twist.

"That's how I birthed the idea of adding a fantastical element to Tarik's story," he says, "because, to be frank, I might not have been interested as a reader without it."

JREIJE WAS SURPRISED to discover how much he enjoyed infusing pieces of himself into his writing, which is why we first meet Shad Hadid in front of a bakery window, salivating at the sight of the pastries on the other side of the glass. Jreije bequeathed his own sweet tooth to Shad. On his quest to defeat evil forces, Shad encounters rose water, a key ingredient in baklava, what Jreije calls the "Holy Grail" of Lebanese sweets.

As Jreije transitioned to a vegan diet, his characters opted for plant-based staples of Middle Eastern cuisine. He has grown so fond of vegan kibbeh that the dish appears in the Shad series. "I reference vegan foods in my books now to push my agenda," Jreije says with a cheeky grin.

Shad Hadid's story is ultimately a celebration of Arab culture. The series earned praise from Arab readers who craved more literary representation while also resonating with those eager to learn about a culture new to them. The positive reception inspired him to introduce his audience to alopecia through the character of Tarik, whom he saw as an instrument of acceptance and awareness.

COMING OF AGE in post-9/11 America, Jreije spent years repressing his Lebanese roots. In the grade school lunchroom, peers shot quizzical glances at the lunches his mother packed. Strangers sometimes lobbed the word "Arab" in his direction as though it were an insult.

Writing has become the catharsis for working through the negativity. His characters live their lives fully, even brazenly, in the face of unwarranted scrutiny. Shad Hadid can't resurrect alchemy without wanting to be an alchemist himself, a journey he completes despite judgment and ridicule. Tarik will be encouraged to explore treatment for his alopecia rather than wear his condition proudly (something Jreije also was urged to do). Their stories are meant to inspire readers to cast aside the fear of being different and move forward, empowered to live authentically and unapologetically.

"There's no greater gift in life than having a strong sense of purpose and knowing that what you're doing is helping to foster empathy," says Jreije. "Books do this more effectively than almost anything else because you have no choice but to get inside the heads of these characters whose lives you're experiencing.

"And the more that we can learn to embrace and appreciate the little parts of ourselves, the little experiences, the more we will learn to appreciate everything."

CLARK UNIVERSITY

Mission-driven support

W. Brett McKenzie is a native of New Zealand, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, earned a master's degree at Harvard, and is a lifelong educator. He rightly takes pride in all those things, as well as one more ...

He's a Clarkie.

Brett earned his doctorate in education at Clark in 2000, and in retirement he continues to treasure that singular experience. After serving as a commissioned officer in the Navy, he devoted his career to teaching computer information systems at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island, applying what he'd learned at Clark to more effectively and creatively reach his students and prepare them for the world beyond the classroom.

"Clark is where I truly found myself post-Navy," recalls Brett, who, like many Clark alums, remembers with affection the famous "peapod" poster that celebrates difference and embraces nonconformity. "I had many opportunities to learn in a welcoming community—it was a place where the mission was important to me."

When he began to consider options for his philanthropy, Brett immediately thought of Clark. "The ROI for Clark is very high," he says. "I know that Clark has the ability to stretch a dollar, and I much prefer to see that dollar stretched."

Brett has made a planned gift to Clark through his IRA, knowing it will be employed with great thought and care in support of the Clark mission.

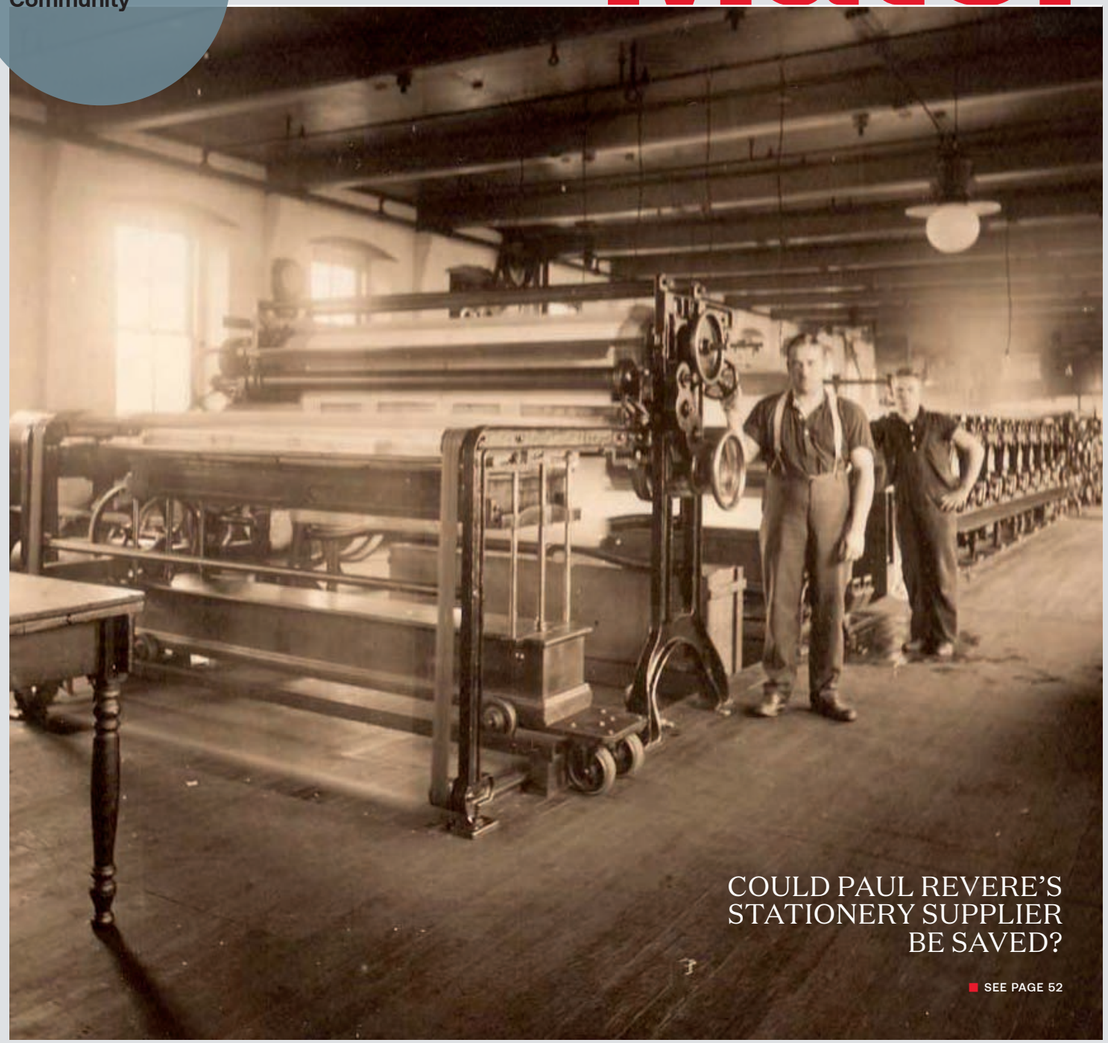
"I have faith and trust the institution will do good things with my gift, and use it where it is most needed," he says. "Of that I am very confident."

To learn more about making Clark part of your giving intentions, contact Kate Rafey '08, MPA '09, director of gift planning, at 508-793-7719 or krafey@clarku.edu.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TODD KLETTER

Alma Mater

Celebrating Clark's Alumni Community



COULD PAUL REVERE'S STATIONERY SUPPLIER BE SAVED?

SEE PAGE 52

Dollars and Sense

‘We Turned the Lights Back On’

TODD KLETTER ’96 invests in a historic company’s turnaround

By Jim Keogh

If you ask someone to name an American paper company, the likely response would probably be Dunder Mifflin, the fictional home of the popular sitcom The Office. Truthfully, who even knows the name of a real-life paper company?

Todd Kletter does.

The Clark alum can tell you all about Crane Stationery. About how the company, founded in 1770, is older than the United States itself. About Crane’s cotton-fiber sheets, which have carried presidential signatures, royal invitations, and U.S. currency. About Paul Revere having banknotes—known as “cod notes”—printed on Crane stationery to help finance the American Revolution.

For most of its two centuries-plus history, Crane Stationery boasted an impressive legacy and peerless craftsmanship. What it didn’t have was a future.

On February 13, 2024, the Cohoes, New York, company was shuttered by its corporate owner, Fedrigoni Group, an Italian paper conglomerate that had purchased Crane’s parent company, Mohawk Fine Papers, and determined that Crane did not align with its business model. The closure meant the loss of more than 80 jobs, including those of some people whom Kletter had come to know through his family’s business, a national distributor of photographic and printing supplies. Coincidentally, Kletter also had worked for 18 months as a consultant with Crane to help them repair their stagnant operations, and he was still friendly with a number of the employees.

As the managing partner of WP Strategic Holdings, a private consulting and investment firm specializing in small and middle-market companies, Kletter found himself in a position not only to reopen Crane’s doors, but also to breathe new life into a legacy brand that had begun its life in the Berkshires before being moved outside of Albany. At the conclusion of three high-speed, high-wire weeks of negotiations with Fedrigoni, WP Strategic Holdings acquired Crane Stationery and initiated an immediate relaunch.

“The day we closed the deal, we restarted,” Kletter says. “No ceremony, no speeches. We turned the lights back on.”

On March 18, 2024, Kletter stood at the door of the Crane Stationery plant and welcomed back press operators, engineers, electricians, and production workers who were eager to return to their workstations, which had lain idle for the past month. Ninety-five percent of Crane’s original workforce was rehired; systems were revamped and stricter financial controls implemented, while the company’s signature craftmanship—such as engraving, letterpress, and hand-inspection processes—remained untouched.

Crucially, the company rebuilt trust with clients. Operations resumed, customers came back, orders were met. By April, Kletter notes, Crane was cash flow-positive, and by late spring it had regained its full pre-closure volume.

Kletter’s entrepreneurial spirit and appreciation for the past are both grounded at Clark, where he majored in history, started a T-shirt business, and established a network of friendships with Clarkies from the Class of 1996 that endures today.

“Clark was a real pivotal moment in my life. It broadened my horizons,” said Kletter, who went on to earn his MBA at Syracuse University.

After his family’s business was sold in 2008, Kletter became CEO of an organic food company before leaving to enter the world of private equity. Today, in addition to his work with WP Strategic Holdings, he is also the chief executive of an artesian water company.

He’s done plenty of deals, but the Crane Stationery saga was personal for him, given his prior experience with the company. When he decided to pursue the purchase, he devoted 20-hour days to reaching an agreement. “We had a melting ice cube,” he recalls. “If it took too long, we would lose employees and have a harder time getting customers back—the business would be unsalvageable. It’s much easier to shut down a company than to start one back up.”

After reopening, Kletter stayed on for a year as chief strategic officer at Crane. In July of 2025, WP Strategic Holdings sold Crane Stationery to a North Carolina firm that he says was well-positioned “to bring the company to the next level.”

But for Kletter, who keeps a Revere-era cod note on his desk as a reminder of the history he helped preserve, the experience means more than dollars and cents.

“Crane holds a special place in my heart,” Kletter says. “I’ve never seen a group of employees rise to an occasion like these employees did. And to be able to say we saved the ninth-oldest operating company in America is pretty wild.”

> “IT’S MUCH EASIER TO SHUT DOWN A COMPANY THAN TO START ONE BACK UP.”

Photo courtesy of Todd Kletter

Subject(s) Matter

‘There Was Something in the Air at Clark’

A pioneering program spread strong writing across the disciplines

By Genie N. Giaimo ’06, M.A. ’07

The mid-1970s to mid-1980s were an exciting and generative time both at Clark University and in the field of rhetoric and composition. As this academic field started to coalesce around a more egalitarian, democratic, and social approach to the teaching of writing, there was also profound support for writing across the disciplines in higher education. Clark was one of many universities that received funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop innovative, co-taught, and interdisciplinary writing courses. With that funding came a new kind of position: a writing center director who would oversee writing across the curriculum.

I will begin by noting that I am biased. As a Clark University double major in English and psychology, I wrote in every discipline I studied—from film studies and geography to psychology, history, and philosophy. Writing was a mainstay, and I was taught by compassionate and adept professors who cared about the craft and content of writing.

I was, however, not given clear guidance on developing my own writing process. As a professor of writing and rhetoric at Hofstra University, I direct a writing center where countless students are trying to figure out their own writing processes, their own craft.

A year ago, a colleague of mine at Salem State University shared a chapter in a long-forgotten book on innovative writing pedagogy.

“Did you know Clark was at the forefront of the writing-across-the-curriculum movement?” he asked. I did not.

In 1975, Clark was granted hundreds of thousands of dollars to create innovative and writing-focused curricula that included preparing faculty across the disciplines to teach writing. To do this work, the grant’s principal investigators hired Leone Scanlon (pictured at right), who would go on to manage Clark’s writing infrastructure for over 20 years.

Scanlon ran the expository writing program that many Clarkies might remember from their first-year composition requirements. The DNA of her ideas was everywhere within these early initiatives.

“There is no institutional history of Leone,” says Marvin D’Lugo, professor emeritus of Spanish. This is a “secret history that very few people have a mild recollection of, and it goes back to 1974 or 1975, when Al Anderson was encouraged to go after funds at the NEH.”

Anderson, professor of philosophy, and D’Lugo embodied the interdisciplinary spirit of their programs. Starting as a professor of Spanish, D’Lugo became one of the first jointly appointed faculty in film studies, long before this was common in academia.

Anderson wrote a pilot program, Concepts of Space, in which cross-disciplinary teams of instructors co-taught classes with common themes, and shared activities and goals.

Despite the program struggling to find its footing early on, the NEH encouraged Clark to apply for a grant on a new form of interdisciplinary writing education, “writing across the curriculum.” Clark eventually earned a three-year, $350,000 grant. “There was something in the air at Clark,” D’Lugo recalls.

And so, the Program in Humanistic Studies was born.

The program’s focus was to explore disciplinary connections through the shared pursuit of writing. Says Anderson, “People were beginning to realize that, especially in the contemporary world, you just can’t separate one discipline from another.”

The mid-1970s marked a period when universities became interested in writing and teaching across disciplines, and Clark University was a leader. For a time, D’Lugo—like Anderson before him—traveled to institutions throughout the country to share the Clark model. “The NEH evaluator said it was one of the best programs in the country,” D’Lugo recalls.

D’Lugo hired Leone Scanlon in 1977 to administer the writing-related parts of the grant. Faculty were selected to join the teaching cohorts and student teaching assistants were trained by Scanlon.

“I was excited by the people I met in my interview at Clark and the variety of work that they wanted to start,” she says.

Around the time Scanlon retired in 1999, the NEH-funded writing-across-the-curriculum program ended, though writing across the disciplines remains a substantial component of the Clark University education.

“Clark was the best place,” Anderson says. “I’ve never encountered an intellectually richer group of students.”

For a fuller version of this story, please visit clarku.edu/magazine.

“THIS IS A SECRET HISTORY THAT VERY FEW PEOPLE HAVE A MILD RECOLLECTION OF.”

Steven King photo

STOMPing Back to Worcester

Daysha Williams ’17 keeps the beat onstage on national tour

DAYSHA WILLIAMS ’17 arrived in Worcester in February with a Nor’easter in the forecast and a table at Da-Lat awaiting her. It was like coming home.

Williams was back in the city with the touring company of STOMP, an inventive and explosive stage show in which the performers bang everyday items—from trash can covers to broomsticks to grocery carts—to create a percussive theatrical experience of music and movement.

“I drum on everything but a drum,” she says. “By the end of the show, you’re dripping with sweat. You leave everything on the stage.”

The Brooklyn native enjoyed the stop at the Hanover Theater and Conservatory for the Performing Arts, where STOMP performed to packed houses. The show’s enduring popularity means Williams and the STOMP cast have played to full rooms across the U.S., as well as on an international tour that included Canada and Dubai.

“It’s electric to look at the faces in the audience when they seem to be asking, ‘How did they do that?’ When kids come to the show, they go crazy. I love it.”

Williams appeared in director Spike Lee’s 10-episode Netflix series based on his groundbreaking 1986 film, *She’s Gotta Have It*, and has done extensive theater work. During her Clark days, she helped run a theater program for students at Claremont Academy.

She was working in residence on *Step Show: The Musical*, a theater piece grounded in traditions of Black culture and requiring intensive singing and dancing, when the STOMP opportunity arose. Williams auditioned successfully, earning a spot in a five-week training regimen to learn the drumming and dancing techniques that bring the show to raucous life. Over the last year, she’s toured in cities large and small, coast to coast.

“Traveling takes a lot of getting used to, and it’s tough being away from my husband,” she acknowledges. “But I’m working with people I enjoy, and if you’re going to go on tour, do it now. This won’t last forever.”

Photographs courtesy of STOMP

Alumni Notes
Tom Hicks

An Expansive View of Clark

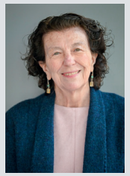
One benefit of serving as president of the Alumni Council has been the opportunity to gain a broader perspective on Clark University from the inside. As students, our focus naturally centers on personal growth—exploring academic interests, career paths, and individual development. While this focus is essential, it can sometimes limit our awareness of the institution beyond our immediate experience.

For example, many students may not realize that the Goddard Library is named for Robert Goddard, a Clark alumnus whose pioneering work led to the first liquid-fueled rocket and ultimately made space travel possible. The recent centennial of his historic launch brought national attention to Clark through coverage in outlets such as *The New York Times, The Boston Globe*, and ABC News—perhaps introducing some Clark students and alumni to this legacy for the first time.

Having always been involved with Clark since graduating in the early ’90s, and returning in a leadership role years later, provides me with a more comprehensive view of our University. As a student-athlete deeply engaged in a major, it was easy to see Clark primarily through the lens of coursework and faculty. Today, witnessing alumni making meaningful contributions around the world has reinforced my appreciation for Clark’s multifaceted educational experience and its role in preparing graduates for diverse paths to success that continue to have positive effects in a variety of fields. Just as Goddard opened the door to space travel, who knows what our current Clark alumni—and our alumni-in-the-making—will do? I look forward to watching it.

As my term as president of the Alumni Council concludes, I am pleased to welcome Brigid Palcic ’11, M.A. ’12, as she assumes this role. I also extend my sincere thanks to all who continue to support Clark through their time, expertise, and generosity. Your commitment helps sustain the University’s excellence.

It has been an honor to serve Clark as a leader of the Alumni Council, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity. I look forward to continuing my involvement with the University for years to come.



WHEN WRITING IS THE BEST MEDICINE

As a physician, Carolyn Roy-Bornstein ’87 devoted her career to treating the medical needs of patients. But it’s as an author that Roy-Bornstein has practiced another form of care: using words to inspire, reveal, and heal. Visit clarku.edu/magazine to learn how she’s helping other doctors find their own literary voices and, sometimes, to heal themselves.

Class Notes

1966

Frederick L Covan is a former chief psychologist at Bellevue Hospital in New York City and the author of *Crazy All the Time; Life, Lessons, and Insanity on the Psych Ward of Bellevue Hospital.* He married **Kalamkas Akhmetova** in 2024, and the couple spent the summer of 2025 visiting Kalamkas’ home country of Kazakhstan.

1976

Philip Smith, a visual artist from Miami, Florida, displayed a retrospective of his work at the Miami Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA) in 2025. The exhibition, Magnetic Fields, was conceived as a survey of career highlights displayed in six groupings: pictures, color, white, black, modern, and energy. Philip’s work, created through a combination of photography, drawing, and painting, has been widely exhibited in the U.S. and abroad, including the Whitney and Beijing biennials, and he is represented in the collections of the Whitney Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Museum of Fine Art, Dallas, Dallas Museum of Art, Perez Art Museum, and Detroit Institute of Art, His memoir, *Walking Through Walls*, was published by Simon and Schuster in 2008.

1981

Vince Scarlata, MBA ’81, a volunteer CEO for Help the Needy in Colorado, has published his sixth children’s book, *Bella: The Lost Momma Bear.* The book is available on Amazon.

1962 Alumni from the classes of 1962 to 1966, all brothers of Phi Sigma Delta, gathered for their biennial reunion in New York City on Nov. 15, 2025. Pictured, left to right: **Steve Wolf ’65, Norm Adams ’65, Billy Mogulescu ’64,** and **Bob Blackman ’65.** Also attending were **Larry Berk ’64, Gerry Cohen ’64, Barry Epstein ’62, Mike (Eli) Freedman ’64, Bob Fuhrman ’62, Owen Katzman ’64, Jordan Krasnow ’65, Dave Orlinsky ’65, Dave (KP) Pasternack ’62, Bruce Rafey ’63, Mark Russakoff ’66, Stu Schechter ’64,** and **Marty Schneiderman ’63**.

1976 **Jane Miner** retired in February 2024 from the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO) in Narragansett after 47 years at the school. She spent the last 20 years as GSO's business manager; previously, she was a full-time marine researcher. Before that, she worked at GSO during summers and vacations while earning her degree at Clark. URI celebrated Jane's 40+ years of service by inducting her into the URI Lifetime Service Society and with a brick in the walkway leading to the main URI library in Kingston. Jane is pictured holding the brick and celebrating with some of her GSO colleagues.

1983

Ken Lerman has joined Quinnipiac University School of Law as an adjunct law professor, teaching Main Street Business Law Practice. Ken was chair of the Business Law section of the Connecticut Bar Association from 2022 to 2024 and served in the CBA's House of Delegates for three terms. Ken continues his law practice as well: KBLpc.com.

1985

Adam Levine, vice chair of the Department of Anesthesiology at Mount Sinai Hospital's Icahn School of Medicine, has been awarded the Jacobi Medallion, one of Mount Sinai's most prestigious honors, which recognizes exceptional contributions in clinical care, research, and medical education. Adam is a professor of anesthesiology, perioperative, and pain medicine; pharmaceutical sciences; and otolaryngology. "Adam has poured his heart into advancing anesthesiology education, leading innovation in simulation training and mentoring countless physicians," writes **Robin Levine '85,** Adam's wife. Find a video about his accomplishments on YouTube (search Jacobi Medallion).

1990

Larry Soler has been awarded the 2025 John Brady Award for Innovation by Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF), the leading Type 1 diabetes research and advocacy organization. Larry was recognized for his commitment and contributions to the advocacy program. He joined the Breakthrough T1D advocacy team in 1998, leading major policy initiatives that resulted in to supplemental federal funding; a national patient campaign that paved the way for regenerative medicine, which has now resulted in the mass production of insulin-producing cells that have been transplanted into patients; and the Artificial Pancreas Project, creating an atmosphere that resulted in the industry's pursuit of game-changing closed-loop devices. He served for six years on the Breakthrough T1D International Board of Directors and is now a member of the Directors Emeritus, as well as an active volunteer.

1983 **Gino Dilorio '83, P '23**, professor of theatre arts at Clark, married Rebecca Tobias '13, MPA '14, on November 1, 2025. Clarkies celebrating included **Ian Byrd '05, Grace Byrd, '05, MPA '06, Sarah Vacca '23, Andrew Dilorio '23, Kate Rafey '08, MPA '09, Professor Matt Malsky, Professor Emerita Ginger Vaughan, Mary Townsend '08, Johanna Plunkett '08, Anne Williams, Simon Eber, Frania Romulus '15, Michael Lushington '82, Emily Sturdivant '13, M.S. '15, Carlos Dobler Morales, M.A. '17, Professor Stephen DiRado, Dean John LaBrie, Johanna Reyes '14, Mairead Dickinson '14, MSPC '15, Anne Culhane-Williams '24,** and **Paige Scrofani '13.**

1992

Martin R. Mendelson writes, "After a decade in clinical dentistry, a medical disability unexpectedly ended my time in practice and pushed me to reinvent my career. That turning point ultimately led me into executive coaching, speaking, and leadership development, with a focus on mindset, optimism, and helping professionals get out of their own way." Martin's book, *One Move Makes All the Difference,* is now available. The book explores how our thoughts shape our reality and how small, intentional shifts in mindset and action can create meaningful change in our work and lives.

1993

Dan Gedacht is serving as Consul General at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq (his second assignment in the country). In his more than 21 years at the U.S. Department of State, Dan has served at embassies and consulates in Jordan, South Korea, Poland, and the Philippines.

2009

Kaytee Gillis has published her seventh book, *The Cycle Breaker's Guide to Healthy Relationships*. She is a licensed clinical social worker and psychotherapist, renowned for her work with survivors of family of origin trauma, including childhood abuse, family dysfunction, and domestic violence. She provides training nationwide on recognizing patterns of domestic violence

1985 **Matthew Potter** is happy to share that his son, Josh, was married on June 1, 2025. Longtime Clark friends who joined Matt at the celebration were (left to right) **Dr. George Golightly '85, Dr. Michael Murphy '85, Lynne Mann Annenberg '87,** and **Matt.** Visit the clarku.edu/magazine for more photos of the Clarkies.

1988 **Ian Whiton** recently gathered with alumni from the classes of 1986 to 2000 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity at Clark. "A good time was had by all, reminiscing about the fun times and camaraderie we shared at Clark."

2004 **Marannie Rawls-Philippe ’04**, PT, DPT, CSCS, graduated from the Tufts University School of Medicine with honors, earning a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. She and her wife, Lindsey Bauer, now reside in Baltimore, Maryland, with their two sons, Lucien (12) and Étienne (6), where Marannie works as a physical therapist.

2016 **Hannah Camiel** married **Mike Markwarth** on October 18, 2025, at the Sea Crest Resort in Falmouth, Massachusetts. The Clarkies who joined the celebration were, left to right: **Kate Rafey ’08, MPA ’09; Judd Rafey ’89; Lisa Cohen ’86; Thea Sahr ’86; Karen Berlowitz ’86; Hannah; Bruce Rafey ’63, P ’86, P ’89, P ’08, GP ’16; Heather Rafey ’86, MBA ’87, P ’16,** and **Stuart Berlowitz ’83.**

2009 **Caleb Evanter ’09, MBA ’10,** married **Kerry Feltner,** executive director of advancement communications and strategic information management at Clark, on October 12, 2025, in Boston’s Arnold Arboretum.

and family trauma and helping survivors move forward. Kaytee writes a popular *Psychology Today* column and is a frequent contributor to *Psychotherapy Networker*, and has been featured on BBC World News and in *TIME* snd *Women’s Health*, among other outlets. Read an interview with Kaytee at clarku.edu/magazine..

2012

Amintas Brandão Jr., M.A. ’12, has received the Rising Star Alumni Award from the University of Wisconsin–Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. After earning a master’s in GIS for development and environment at Clark, Amintas went on to earn a doctorate at UW-Madison, where he is a researcher in the Global Land Use and Environment Lab. Amintas spent a decade as a researcher at Imazon, a conservation nonprofit based in Pará, Brazil, prior to coming to the U.S. for graduate school.

2020

Ruth Fuller is working in her dream job: managing a local independent bookstore (Wild Meadows Books and Café in Williston, Vermont). Previously, she worked as a part-time bookseller on Cape Cod, as sales manager at Phoenix Books in Burlington, Vermont, and as assistant textbook buyer at the University of Vermont. She writes, “But really, all I’ve ever wanted was to be in charge of a bookstore.”

2022

Nathaniel Mattera is attending medical school in Chicago. Since graduating from Clark with a degree in philosophy, he has served in a number of roles within the U.S. Army, including platoon leader, intelligence officer, and his current position, medical detachment officer in Rhode Island. Nathaniel recently had the privilege of presenting his work at the MacLean Conference in Chicago.

NO ANIMAL LEFT BEHIND

SUE FURTADO ’85 is the co-founder and CEO of WAGS, Waiting Animals Getting Support, a foster-based animal rescue based in Dighton, Massachusetts.

Before WAGS, Furtado spent 22 years working with adolescents in state care—children placed in custody because of abuse, neglect, and trauma. She now serves as director of quality management for a large social justice agency, overseeing 150 programs; it is not a small job, and she runs WAGS, which is funded solely by donors and fundraising, “in the hours that are left over.”

WAGS, licensed in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine, has placed animals in 32 states and rescued animals from just as many. There is no physical shelter; every animal that comes through WAGS lives with a foster family.

Read an extended interview with Sue at clarku.edu/magazine.

SUE FURTADO ’85 WITH TWO WAGS DOGS: PERCY (LEFT), RESCUED JUST BEFORE HE AND HIS SIBLINGS WERE SCOOPED UP BY A KNOWN DOG FIGHTER, AND GEORGIA, FOUND ABANDONED ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AS A VERY YOUNG PUP.

1996 Clark couple **Shelby Tutty, MHA ’96**, and **Michael Tutty, MHA ’96**, joyfully celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last May. Shelby is the president and founder of The Periprofessional, LLC, which provides reliable solutions to women’s challenges through the menopause transition. Michael is a group vice president at the American Medical Association and serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations. They celebrated with friends and family and look back fondly on their time at Clark. They are proud parents of twins.

1999 **Hai Ly** and **Nicholas Burk**, both graduates of the Class of 1999, celebrated their 20th anniversary by renewing their vows in August 2025. Their two children served as witnesses to their ongoing commitment and love. Hai and Nicholas met at Clark and dated throughout their time on campus.

In Memoriam

Anthony J. Cannon ’77, M.D.

TRUSTEE, PHYSICIAN

Clark Trustee Anthony Jerome Cannon ’77, MD FACE, passed away on September 14, 2025, in Marlton, New Jersey, surrounded by his loving family.

Dr. Cannon was a distinguished clinical endocrinologist with over four decades of experience in the medical field. He earned his medical degree from Cornell University and later obtained subspecialty certification in endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism.

Holding medical licenses in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Dr. Cannon made significant contributions to both medical education and clinical practice. In January 2024, he was appointed associate professor of internal medicine at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University. His final clinical role was with Cooper Care Alliance in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, where he continued to serve patients with compassion and excellence.

Dr. Cannon was actively involved in medical research, publishing extensively in esteemed journals such as the *Journal of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy* and *Diabetic Medicine*. He also held leadership positions within the American Diabetes Association, the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, and the South Jersey Medical Association.

Dr. Cannon received the American Diabetes Association Chair’s Citation Award in 2015 and was named a Fellow of the American College of Endocrinology in 2012.

Dr. Cannon traveled widely, enjoyed golfing and gardening, and found quiet pleasure in reading. A true autophile, he proudly entered his vehicles in car shows, sharing his enthusiasm with others.

Donald Provost

FACILITIES

Donald J. Provost, aged 63, passed away unexpectedly at his residence on November 6, 2025.

Donald enjoyed a lengthy career at Clark University, where he held various roles including grounds and electrical maintenance, retiring in 2024 after 45 years of loyal and dedicated service. The faculty and students at Clark, along with the owners and patrons of local restaurants, became like family to him. He cherished mornings at Annie’s Clark Brunch, where he would socialize with friends from Clark and regulars at the diner. During his younger years, he took pleasure in power lifting and later became a mentor to students.

Donald was a genuine motorcycle enthusiast, enjoying backroad rides regardless of the weather or the distance.

Henry James Steward

GEOGRAPHY PROFESSOR

Henry “Harry” James Steward, professor emeritus of geography and renowned expert in cartography, passed away on November 29, 2025, two decades after retiring from Clark University in 2005.

In his almost three decades at Clark, Steward taught graduate and undergraduate courses on a wide range of cartographic topics, including introduction to cartography, field mapping and remote sensing, map design, automated cartography, topographical mapping, the history of maps and mapmaking, and mapping for international development.

Born in London’s East End three years before the beginning of World War II, Steward would spend much of his childhood in a city ravaged by the Blitz and wartime deprivation. He earned a B.S. in geography and economics from the University of London, and a Ph.D. from the University of Wales, where he delivered a dissertation on cartographic generalization. Prior to joining Clark’s Graduate School of Geography in 1978, he held faculty appointments at Columbia University, Kent State University, and Ohio State University.

Serena Hilsinger

ENGLISH PROFESSOR

Serena Hilsinger, novelist, poet, literary critic, and Clark professor of English from 1962 to 2000, died on February 13 in her home In Rockport, Massachusetts. Those who knew Serena well will remember her as a feminist. For her, feminism was not simply a political viewpoint, but a way of living.

During the 1980s, when Clark made the effort to hire more women faculty, Serena served as a supportive, sometimes feisty, mentor and role model to younger colleagues in a community that had been male-dominated. She introduced women writers into the English curriculum and, with political scientist Cynthia Enloe and several others, founded Clark’s Women’s Studies program, which soon offered a Ph.D. After Serena retired to Rockport with her lifelong partner, Lois Brynes, the couple enjoyed concerts at the Shalin Liu Performance Center, walks on rocky beaches, and visits to Halibut Point.

While Clark discontinued the Women’s Studies Ph.D., as well as many courses Serena once taught, nothing could change the love, knowledge, and inspiration she gave her students and colleagues. They will always remember her, with gratitude.

Lawrence Hershoff ’71

TRUSTEE, BANKER

Former Clark University Trustee Lawrence Hershoff ’71, of Sunset Beach, North Carolina, passed away peacefully on January 30, 2026, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Larry enjoyed a long and distinguished professional career in banking, finance, and education. He served as executive vice president of Fleet Bank and its various subsidiaries in Rhode Island, and later as senior vice president of Citizens Bank and its various subsidiaries. Following his banking career, he worked as a finance consultant and served as an adjunct lecturer in finance at Bryant University, retiring in 2011.

His civic involvement was extensive and reflected a lifelong commitment to stewardship and service. He served as treasurer of multiple organizations in Rhode Island and as chairman of the San Miguel School in Providence.

He was a leader in supporting the Kappa Phi Scholarship at Clark and an active member of the Alumni Council. In the Fall 2019 issue of *Clark Magazine* he recalled the legacy of the “tontine”—the pledge by Kappa Phi members that the last living member of the fraternity will offer a toast from a bottle of Glenlivet scotch whisky that is stored in Clark Archives.

Larry was the founder and lead male singer of Chip and the Old Blocks and loved to fish, play bridge, and golf. His obituary noted that Larry “met life head-on and refused to waste time second-guessing decisions. He lived fully.”

Patricia E. Brissette ’68

TEACHER, VOLUNTEER

Patricia (DeGroat) Brissette ’68 passed away peacefully in her sleep at her home on November 25, 2025. Patricia (Pat, Teash) was beloved to her family and friends as well as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sibling, aunt, cousin, and friend. She also made lasting contributions to her community as a science teacher, a civic volunteer, and conservationist.

A native of Cooperstown, New York, she met Francis (Fran) Brissette ’67, the love of her life, at Clark, and they were married in 1968. They celebrated their 57th anniversary on August 24.

In 2010, Pat joined Elyse Darefsky ’79, Meg Lines ’68, and Donni Rodman ’69 to organize a celebration of women’s sports at Clark. Among the special honorees were athletes from some of the first classes of women admitted to Clark in the 1940s. Pat’s efforts were critical to recognizing these alumnae’s pioneering place in the University’s history.

She was an engaged member of her community of Boylston, Massachusetts, and taught science in area schools while instilling a passion for learning and education to her children, grandchildren, and everyone she taught.

David M. Close, Ph.D. ’73

PHYSICIST

David Matzen Close, 84, of Johnson City, Tennesse, passed away on April 8, 2026. Dave earned his Ph.D. in physics from Clark, where he also met his wife, Nancy Fischman ’71. His fond Clark memories inspired his eldest daughter, Alexis “Lexy” Close ’07, M.A. ’09 to attend the University.

Dave spent his 44-year career teaching physics at East Tennessee State University, and he diligently researched the effects of radiation damage on the building blocks of DNA. An author/co-author on 131 papers in scientific journals, and as a longtime member of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, he advanced understanding of both the molecular and real-world impacts of radiation exposure on individuals, communities, and the environment.

PAT BRISSETTE, IN VINTAGE CLARK ATHLETIC GARB, LEADS A SALUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY’S EARLY WOMEN ATHLETES.

Passings

1940–49

Malcolm E. Baird ’48, M.A.Ed. ’49

1950–59

Frederick J. Gay ’50
Marvin A. Jamron ’52
Charles H. Jacobs ’52
Richard B. Erickson ’54, M.A. ’59
Robert E. Lingner ’54
Merritt Agabian ’55
Frederick C. Cohen ’56
Peter B. Chamberlain ’57
Barbara J. (Schultz) Lander ’57
Erna M. (Erikson) McCormick ’57
Ellen A. (Polhemus) Clarkson ’58
Carl J. Lubitski ’58
Philip F. Johnson ’59

1960–69

Louise R. (Leonard) Mitchell ’60
Jean A. (Senger) Lepkowski ’63
Virginia W. Ryan ’63
Roy A. Anduze ’64, P ’91
John P. Doherty ’64
Gerard T. Kelly ’64
Judith A. Garabedian ’65
Marcus J. Deane ’66
Davida (Eisenberg) Fox-Melanson ’67
Andrea J. Grant ’67
Patricia E. (DeGroat) Brissette ’68
Russell W. Muncaster, M.A. ’68, Ph.D. ’72

1970–79

John X. Adiletta ’70
Dennis L. Irish ’70
Martha P. Grace, M.A. ’71
Lawrence S. Hershoff ’71
Arthur L. Lerman ’71
David A. Trespacz ’72
Christopher J. Brennan ’73
E. James Kroesser ’73
David E. St. John, D.Ed. ’73
Anthony J. Cannon ’77

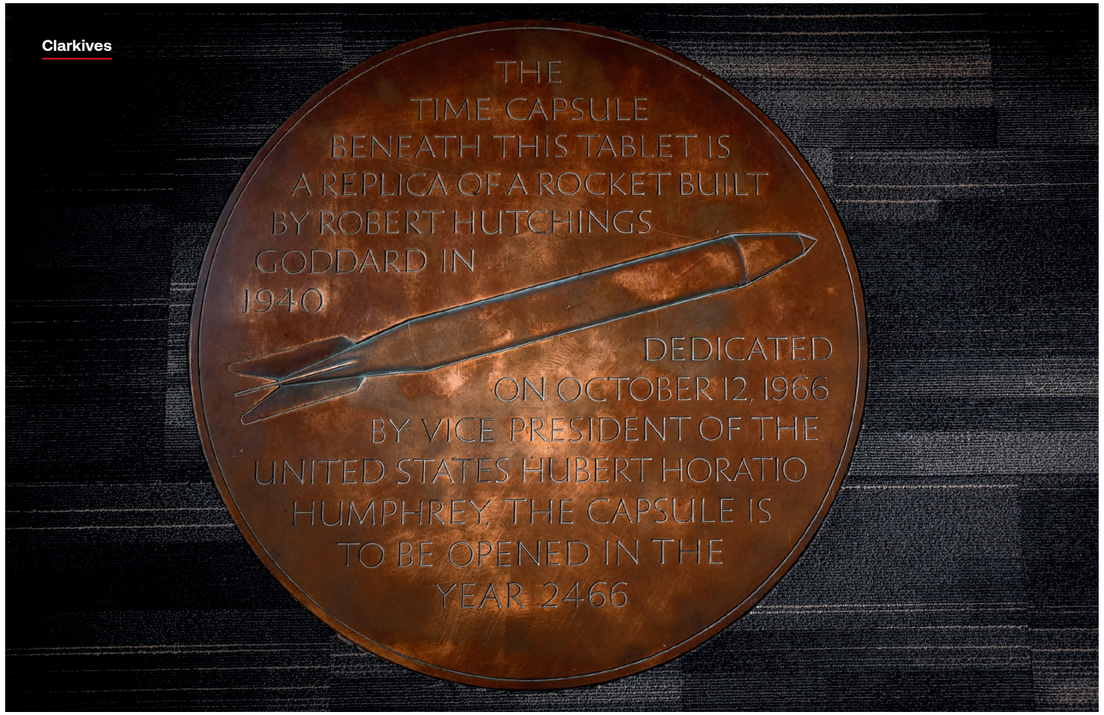
1990–99

John J. Krzysztow ’91
Brian D. Orr ’92
Adam M. Kaplan ’94
Laura A. Valdiviezo, M.A.Ed. ’96

2000–

Patrick C. Davis ’00, P ’25
Clara W. Chu ’02
Noel P. Texeira, MBA ’17

Correction: In the Fall 2025 issue of *Clark Magazine*, we incorrectly reported that Daniel J. Greenwald, Class of 1986, had passed away, when the passing was in fact Daniel J. Greenwald, Class of ’79, on May 19, 2025. Dr. Daniel Jeffrey Greenwald ’86 is alive and well. We regret the error and apologize to Dr. Greenwald and his family.



FROM TIME CAPSULE TO SPACE CAPSULE

Robert Goddard is responsible for sending rockets far away from the Earth. But 60 years ago, to honor him, Clark buried one deep within it.

On October 12, 1966, in a convocation ceremony at the site of the soon-to-be-constructed Robert H. Goddard Library, a 10-foot stainless steel time capsule shaped like a replica of a 1940s-era Goddard rocket was lowered into the ground, not to be opened until 2466.

The placement of artifacts in the capsule "reminds us of how our culture will be seen by civilizations of future centuries," said U.S. Vice President Hubert Humphrey, who delivered the convocation address.

It's difficult to imagine how we'll be viewed 440 years from now based on the nearly 100 items placed in the capsule. What will a future generation make of a road atlas, or a *TV Guide*? Or the famous photo of Sigmund Freud at Clark?

Can we at least hope that somehow, someway, the music of the Beatles will have endured, even if no one can quite figure out how to extract sound from the black vinyl disc carrying the voices of John, Paul, George, and Ringo?

A 55-member committee selected the items that were buried, and took care that they covered four distinct categories: Goddard Memorabilia (eight of the scientist's patents are included), the Space Age (a retro rocket from the first Apollo mission, cloth from a spacesuit), Clark History (Jonas Clark's will, copies of *The Scarlet*), and Contemporary Life (a miniskirt, Batman comics, a box of breakfast cereal).

Among the more meaningful inclusions are a vial of soil from Pakachoag Hill in Auburn, Massachusetts, where Goddard executed the first successful launch of a liquid-fuel rocket, and a vial of sand from Roswell, New Mexico, where he refined his rocketry technologies. Three years later, astronaut Buzz Aldrin would cut the ribbon on the new library and, shortly after that, leave footprints in moon dust.

> "What will a future generation make of a *TV Guide*?"

(Above) The Clark time capsule.

STEVEN KING

Clark students were determined to travel in one direction on Spree Day. Up!

CLARK UNIVERSITY

CHALLENGE CONVENTION. CHANGE OUR WORLD.

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"Every vision is a joke until man accomplishes it. Once realized, it becomes commonplace."

DR. ROBERT H. GODDARD