Dear alumni, family and friends,

**WHAT A BUSY SUMMER!**

With most students away, we used the summer to complete a series of terrific enhancements to the Clark campus. The most significant change is the closing of a section of Downing Street and the conversion of this space to a pedestrian plaza. This new plaza is now abuzz with students and faculty coming in and out of the Academic Commons at Goddard Library and the Kneller Athletic Center, or walking from Wright Hall or Dodd Hall across to the campus green and Jonas Clark Hall. With no cars to contend with, students and all members of the Clark community can now stop and talk, look out across new campus views, and feel the energy of the campus at work.

The creation of this new pedestrian plaza in the heart of our campus would not have been possible without the strong support of the Worcester city manager, the City Council and many leaders within the Main South neighborhood, which testifies to the strength of our shared vision and community partnership. I am also grateful to Bill ’76 and Jane ’75 Mosakowski for the generous gift they made to ensure this project could realize its full transformative potential for the campus. The motivation behind this project started with campus safety. With our University a hub of activity — day and night — we became increasingly concerned about automobile traffic running through a very busy section of the campus. Beyond safety concerns, the pedestrian plaza unites and opens up connections between many of our most heavily used buildings, including Goddard Library as the cornerstone of academic life. It is already hard to imagine Clark’s campus without this tremendous new outdoor space.

The Downing Street project was overseen by Paul Bottis ’84, who retires this December after working at Clark University for 36 years, including 27 years as director of Physical Plant. Paul led an accomplished Physical Plant department that deserves much credit for the terrific progress that has been made in consistently and effectively enhancing our campus over many years.

In addition to the work on Downing Street, we continue to make improvements to student residence halls. This summer we completed a wonderful addition connecting Sanford and Johnson halls that provides much needed study and group meeting spaces for students. As with all of our projects, these improvements increase the accessibility of our campus to residents and visitors with limited mobility, and also allow us to improve energy efficiency and environmental performance. An additional benefit of this project, coordinated with the closing of Downing Street, is the opening up of the Fuller Quad as a flowing and light-filled space. I invite you to visit campus and see what a difference this makes for students living in Dodd and Johnson-Sanford halls.

I am sometimes asked by parents and alumni as to my thinking about investing in facilities and more generally about making campus improvements. We are fortunate at Clark to have a strong governance system in which the Board of Trustees very actively and rigorously examines campus facilities projects with an eye to the “return on education” for our students. It is no coincidence, for example, that the Sanford and Johnson addition includes a significant increase in study and meeting space for students. We target our investments to projects that directly benefit students as well as the faculty and staff who enable their education. Second, all those who work at Clark today recognize that we are stewards of a wonderful campus that has served many generations and will continue to serve many future generations of students, faculty and staff. In facilities projects and campus design, we take the long view to ensure we create a campus that supports our mission now and for many decades to come.

Funding for campus improvements typically comes from a combination of debt financing, operating funds, and very generous philanthropic support from alumni and friends of the University. We would not have the terrific campus we have today without wonderful gifts to Clark from alumni, from foundations, and from other Clark supporters. Next time you are on campus, take a moment to read the plaques on our buildings, study spaces, lounges and rooms that are our way of saying publicly: Thanks to all of you who support Clark facility projects.

I would be remiss in closing my letter to you if I did not also comment on our investment in people. After all, as many of you have told me, it is the talented, caring and committed staff and faculty at Clark who make a transformative difference in the lives of our students. This fall we welcome seven new tenure-line faculty members in chemistry, economics, education, Spanish, geography, international development, and management. These appointments continue Clark’s commitment to ensuring we have a world-class faculty dedicated to cutting-edge scholarship, and to teaching and student learning. One appointment of particular note here is Professor Katerine Bielaczyc, who is the new director of the Jacob Hiatt Center for Urban Education at Clark University. Professor Bielaczyc further strengthens Clark’s nationally recognized leadership in urban education. I welcome all of these new faculty members to Clark University.

Sincerely,

David P. Angel
President