Dear alumni, family and friends,

How will you connect to Clark University in the years ahead? And how, in turn, will Clark support your highest aspirations for career, life and citizenship? The answers to these questions are at the heart of our vision for advancing Clark as one of this country’s most innovative and impactful liberal arts research universities. We are bringing forward a new paradigm of alumni and student engagement that will both ensure exceptional educational opportunities for our students and significantly elevate the collective capability of the Clark community to make a difference on the consequential issues of our times.

We embrace alumni and student interactions that are deeply entwined with Clark’s national leadership in liberal education. Liberal Education and Effective Practice (LEEP) recognizes that in order to achieve our educational goals, the classroom needs to connect profoundly and systematically with the world beyond our campus. In order to cultivate and demonstrate capabilities of effective practice, students need access to authentic world and workplace experiences, whether in our community here in Worcester or globally. There is no better way to support and mobilize these connections than through a vibrant and involved community of alumni, family and friends of the University. Through LEEP, our alumni have the opportunity to interact directly with students: mentoring them, placing them on project teams in their organizations, exposing them to emerging industries, demonstrating how skills learned on the sports field or in the research laboratory at Clark translate into lifelong lessons for success, and helping them understand the skills and capabilities needed to flourish in high-performing organizations. By making these connections we will ensure that Clark graduates are not just exceptionally well-educated, but fully prepared to put their liberal education to work in career, life and citizenship.

But engagement is not a one-way street. Even as the greater Clark community is an unmatched network of support for our current students, affiliation with Clark also offers opportunities for our alumni to enhance their careers, enrich their lives, and come together in common cause to make a difference in the world. Clark University today is a place of fresh ideas, of cutting-edge research, and of communities of practice that are bringing innovative solutions to seemingly intractable problems in society. We envision opening wide the doors of Clark so all members of our alumni community can join faculty, staff and students to participate in, benefit from, and add to this important work.

As we move forward, you will have the opportunity to partner with Clark researchers and to be full stakeholders in University work that has transformative impact on causes that matter, from K-12 education to health care, innovation and the environment. Recent graduates of Clark will be able to connect with alumni who are leaders and practitioners in their fields. All members of the Clark community, not just those on campus, will hear and experience some of the wonderful performers, leaders, and great thinkers who enliven our University every year.

The venue for this unfolding paradigm is the Alumni and Student Engagement Center that we seek to build on Main Street. The building, and associated work on Main Street, is at the core of three transformational goals for Clark. It will be the locus for this dynamic model of how alumni can engage with Clark’s mission and how Clark can stay engaged with you. It will be home to our LEEP Center, the place where the many opportunities at Clark come together for each student. And it will be the next step in Clark’s pioneering work to strengthen our neighborhood further through partnerships with the community. Jointly, these three goals are the most significant strategy development for Clark in many years. You can read more about this exciting building in the feature article on page 22. We hope you will join us in raising the funds needed to bring this vision into place.

It is no surprise that Forbes magazine recently rated Clark as one of the most entrepreneurial universities in the country. We could not be more excited about the opportunities before us as we demonstrate the creativity and bold thinking that advance a new model for alumni and student engagement through national leadership in liberal education. Please join with us as we open our doors wide. Send comments, questions and suggestions to me at dangel@clarku.edu.

Sincerely,

David P. Angel
President