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To: The Clark University Community  
From: John Bassett  
Date: August 28, 2007  
Re: Jan and Larry Landry University Professorship

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Ron Eastman to the Jan and Larry Landry University Professorship for a three-year term commencing September 1 2007. Ron has been at Clark University since 1981 and was promoted to Full Professor in 1994. He chaired the Graduate School of Geography from 1998 to 2002 and has been the Director of Clark Labs since 1991. Ron's field of specialization is Geographic Information Science (GIS) and Remote Sensing. He is a world leader in this field. In 2003 he was recognized by the Association of American Geographers with the Distinguished Service Award and in 2007 received the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science research award given for "outstanding research contributions to geographic information science." Ron is also a highly regarded teacher and mentor for undergraduate and graduate students.

Ron is best known as the developer of the IDRISI GIS software and as the Director of Clark Labs. IDRISI was developed by Ron as a low-cost GIS software for the research and policy community around the world. Ron wrote the original source code in the 1980s and then developed Clark Labs as a unit that has software sales of over \$1 million a year. Over subsequent years Ron developed new generations of IDRISI, releasing in 2006 the Andes Edition (version 15.0). The software has won numerous awards. Clark Labs is now known as much for the research findings originating from the unit as for the software itself. Among the path-breaking contributions that Ron has made are a series of image time series analysis tools for the investigation of environmental trends and climate teleconnections such as El Nino. More recently, Ron and Clark Labs have turned to using GIS and remote sensing to address issues of biodiversity associated with climate change. This work has drawn the attention of and major grant funding from such foundations as Conservation International, the Moore Foundation, and the Google Foundation. Ron's work is truly of international renown and has been transformative not just within the academy but in the international policy community and in communities around the world from Malawi to Nepal.

University Professors are asked as part of their appointment to take on one or more initiatives that further the success of the University as a whole. Professor Eastman has agreed, in this regard, to assume a faculty leadership role in making progress on one of the key priorities of the Academic and Financial Plan, namely that of raising the visibility of the path-breaking scholarship and creative work carried out by faculty across the

whole University. Ron will provide a strong faculty voice as we take steps to raise the visibility of Clark University as a liberal-arts-based research university that makes a difference in the world through the quality and impact of faculty scholarship and creative initiative.

The Landry University Professorship is made possible by a generous gift from Larry Landry '71, M.B.A. '75 and his wife Jan. Larry Landry is a member and past chair of the Clark University Board of Trustees. Please join me in congratulating Ron for his accomplishments and for this appointment to the Jan and Larry Landry University Professorship.