

BENT TREE

CSU Student

September 2006

Newspaper

Volume 40, Issue 1



A Clayton State First: The Launch of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

Megan Lawrimore

This Fall semester, Clayton State welcomes an exciting beginning to the academic year with the launch of its first Masters program, the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies. The MALS degree is one of three Masters programs that have been approved at the school, but it is the first to officially begin. (The other two approved Masters degrees are the Master in Nursing and the Master in Health Administration.) For those who are unfamiliar with the degree, "The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree (MALS) is an interdisciplinary, evening program designed for a wide spectrum of individuals: recent college graduates, professionals in the public and private sectors, current and prospective teachers, lawyers, state workers, non-profit arts administrators and private business owners." Over one hundred universities offer this degree across the country, including such notable names as Johns Hopkins, Dartmouth, Duke, and Emory; however, Clayton State is the only public university in Georgia to boast the MALS. The broad nature of the program allows it to accommodate students with diverse needs and interests, providing "a comprehensive and deep liberal education." However,

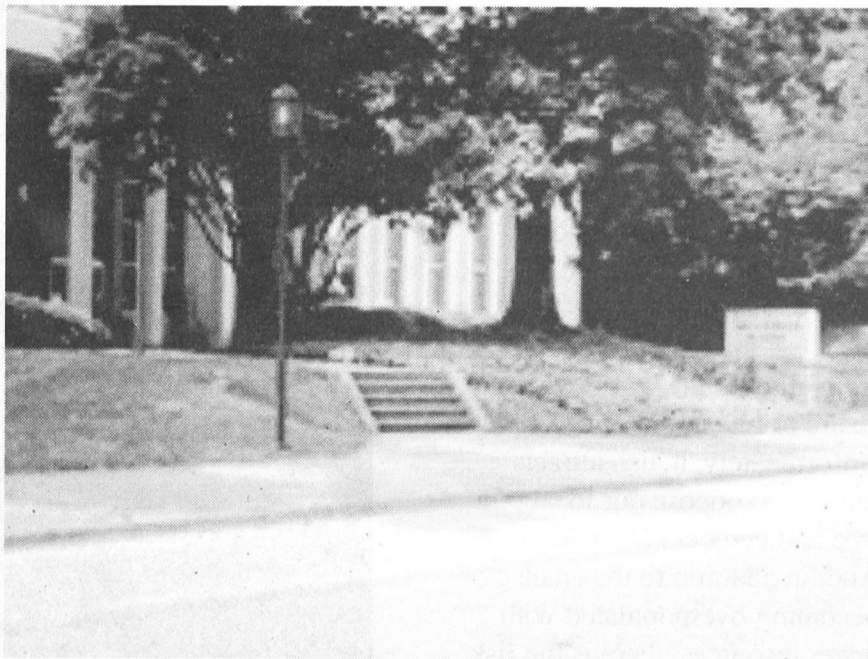


Photo taken from www.clayton.edu

students do select a specific area of concentration in order to narrow their focus. As of now, the MALS offers four tracks: Liberal Arts, English, History, and Music, each of which consists of a total of 36 credit hours. These 36 credits are divided as follows: 3 in an Introduction to Graduate Studies course, 9 in interdisciplinary foundational seminars, 18 in the area of

concentration, and 6 in the final thesis or non-thesis option. This semester, the program is offering seven 5000-level courses in Music, Art, Philosophy, Liberal Arts, Political Science, and English. Dr. Bill Pasch, a professor of English, is enjoying teaching ENGL 5000-Great Books, saying, "It's especially gratifying for me because, having started teaching here 31 years ago in the junior college

days, I have a feeling of "coming full circle," now getting to teach a graduate course in English." There are about a dozen students enrolled in the MALS program's first semester, but this number is likely to grow as more people discover that Clayton now offers Masters degrees. For students interested in continuing their education at Clayton State, the graduate website is an excellent resource - <http://adminservices.clayton.edu/provost/graduate/>. This site provides information about tuition and financial aid, as well as entry requirements, policies, and answers to students' common questions and concerns. Dr. Tom Barnett is the director of the MALS program, and inquiries can be directed to mals@clayton.edu. For more information on the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, or on any of the upcoming Masters degrees, visit their respective websites by following the links on the Clayton State homepage.

*Information gathered from <http://a-s.clayton.edu/mals/>

Clayton State Student On a Film Set?

Ashley Spillers

Clayton State student Todd Denson had the chance to work on the project *We Are Marshall* with actors like Matthew Fox and Matthew McConaughey. He is an Integrative Studies student on campus and also a part of the Clayton State Men's Soccer Team. The Bent Tree asked him a few questions about his experience.

What is your role within the project, *We Are Marshall*?

My role in the movie is Blake Smith, the kicker for the 1971 Marshall football team, however, it wasn't actually me who got to kick; it was Billy Bennett (kicker for UGA), I just delivered the lines.

You have had the opportunity to work with Matthew McConaughey and Matthew Fox ("*Lost*") on the set of *We Are Marshall*. What was it like to work with veteran actors?

The experience was absolutely priceless. It was just incredible watching people who make millions of dollars for their art prepare for scenes. Just studying how both Matts got prepared for their scenes helped me out a great deal and it also gave me an idea of the level of concentration it takes to actually become the character. Also, a little secret for those who care, both Matthew M. and Matthew F. use Stanislowski Method acting techniques to prepare and so do I.

How did you get the chance to work on this project?

It is actually kind of funny. I originally thought I was going out for a role in a football commercial; but then I went to a preliminary audition, [and] then my agent called me and told me that I had a call back and I went and read for the role and got it. It was only then that I knew it was a movie.

How long have you been acting? When did you first realize you had the interest to act?

I have been acting since I was 13 (I am now 21), but I have been acting professionally for almost two years now. I first realized my interest for acting when I was young. I would always try to make people laugh and I loved to get up in front of people and perform. I started when I was in middle school; I got the lead in the first play I went out for and have loved it ever since. It is very therapeutic to get up on stage or get in front of a camera and transform into someone else.

You have participated in a few of the plays on Clayton State's campus. What was one of your most memorable parts/experiences in those plays?

I would have to say that one of most memorable experiences/parts would

have to be "Alfred" in the play 'Coffee Girl in the World of Good and Evil'. It was such a special experience for me because I got to write some of the play and then I got to come up with a character out of nowhere and develop him fully from nothing. It was incredibly rewarding and I had a really good time doing it.

What other activities do you participate in outside of acting?

Well, I am currently enrolled at Clayton State as a student, I play on the college soccer team, I really enjoy playing volleyball, and I also work at O'Charleys. Needless to say my sleep schedule is a bit off.

Once you graduate, what are your plans? Do you plan to continue to pursue acting upon graduation?

My plans after graduation are to continue pursuing acting as a career. I do plan to move out to L.A. soon after that.

Editorials

Freedom vs. Security: How Much Are You Willing to Sacrifice?

Sibongile B.N. Lynch

Recently, a federal judge ruled that a program to permit the government to eavesdrop on the private telephone conversations of Americans without a warrant violates the First and Fourth Amendment protections of free speech and privacy. In a decision that the White House and the Justice Department immediately appealed, District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor wrote, "It was never the intent of the Framers to give the president such unfettered control, particularly where his actions blatantly disregard the parameters clearly enumerated in the Bill of Rights..." She ordered it to be immediately shut down, but the appeal allowed the wiretapping to continue for the time being. The Fourth Amendment declares that, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized." However, following the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11th, 2001, President Bush secretly authorized the National Security Agency to eavesdrop on Americans and others inside the United States to search for evidence of terrorist activity without court-approved warrants usually required for domestic spying. If we the people take the U.S. Constitution as literally as we take the Bible, then unwarranted wiretapping is illegal and unconstitutional. Staunch defenders of the Constitution feel it is an open and shut case. But, the President criticized the ruling saying that opponents of the wiretapping program "do not understand the nature of the world in which we live."

First, the nature of the world in which we live is without a doubt more vulnerable and less secure. The United States of America is an open society where, for the most part, people are free to come and go as they choose, free to worship as they choose, and as a result, the country attracts a multitude of people from all over the world who desire to live in the same way. Unfortunately, it also attracts those who oppose our ideal of a free and democratic society. And, in addition to the chance of becoming overpopulated with fewer resources, there is the risk of attracting elements that find it easier to attack this country from within. After all, the men who flew the airplanes into the World Trade Center, The Pentagon, and almost possibly the Capital, were it not for its courageous passengers, learned to fly those planes in Florida. If Israel or Iraq, and now London or Madrid is to be an example, one could easily walk on a bus, in a mall, a football game, or a McDonalds completely unnoticed with a backpack full of explosives. But, wait. Didn't that already happen here in our own town during the 1996 Olympics when Eric Robert Rudolf left just such a package? It is a realization that we must thoroughly recognize; there are people who live their lives believing that an opportunity to topple America from its superpower status, even at the risk of innocent lives, is a cause worth dying for. But, is that *probable cause*?

As it was probably also not the intent of the Framers of the Constitution to have to consider the uniqueness and ambiguity of a war against an enemy called terrorism, or to have to dig over three thousand innocent, civilian lives from the rubble of two 110-story buildings, in one of the world's largest cities, there just very well may be a case for



Image taken from www.google.com

probable cause here. In an online symposium conducted by the New York University Journal of Law and Liberty, Christopher Slobogin, Professor of Law at the Levin College of Law at the University of Florida says, [... the language of the Fourth Amendment does not require that the item to be seized be in the place indicated at the time of issuance. If it did, electronic surveillance warrants would be unconstitutional, since the designated conversations are presumably not taking place at the moment of issuance.] What Mr. Slobogin is discussing here is Anticipatory Warrants, which are warrants that cannot be executed until some triggering event happens, allowing the warrant to be executed very quickly after probable cause arises.

All legal mumbo jumbo aside, we as a nation have to decide if, at what point, microscopic analysis of the law is more important than the security of the land and its people. Or, are we to be a country who believes unequivocally in the law of our

land, every day, every hour, every time, every circumstance? Are we willing to sacrifice our very lives for that law? Our Framers were an ambitious, committed, idealistic group who forged for us a decree in which they thoroughly believed and for which they gave their lives. It was a set of commandments by which we could build a republic of law abiding, freedom loving citizens unlike the world had ever known. But, our Framers were hard men who had been willing to fight for that freedom. Perhaps it was not their intention for us to be naïve in the face of a national security crisis.



September 11th...5 years later

Students Coping With War

By Sibongile B.N. Lynch

The September 11th attack on the World Trade Center in New York created an intimacy with war that many students of all ages have never known. Not since the Viet Nam War has a generation been so intensely aware of the many conflicts facing our world today. Images of hollowed out buildings, children with shrapnel riddled faces, and the grief of fathers on display for the universe as they cry out in angst over a bloody corpse that was once their child, play out consistently on televisions and the internet like a trailer for life in the 21st century. Everyday, we are bombarded by snapshots of the war torn streets of Baghdad and Lebanon. The tribal and religious conflicts in Sudan, Somalia, and Ethiopia threaten to explode into another disaster that was Rwanda in 1984.

There was a time when we could shield ourselves and our children from the anxiety of simply knowing that the world was not as rosy as Leave It to Beaver would have us believe; that the world extended beyond our tree lined subdivisions, and that there may be more to consider than a calculus final. Almost everyone knows someone who knows someone serving our country in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many students live everyday with the weight of caring for a mother or father in the military. And, although our mellow southern campus, with its scenic crape myrtles, idyllic ponds, winding sidewalks, and unflustered game birds, seems sheltered from all that is bad in the world, it is hard to ignore what technology has dropped at our doorsteps; it is that proverbial hand basket taking a detour to Hell.

We are not the first generation of students having to cope with wars. Students in the sixties lived through the Viet Nam War when protest and rallies were a common reaction to the frustrations of not only loved ones going off to fight, but also in objection to being drafted. Recent studies show that students today have higher levels of anxiety than ever before, according to Shirazz Karaa and Bates Canon of the Clayton State Counseling Center. What's more, students may not always understand all of the emotional changes they may be experiencing, and may be reluctant to seek help. Karaa says that, "trauma is subjective," and one student may handle the consistent news and awareness of an on-going war very differently from another.

So how do we know when we are suffering from "stress overload", due to too much information about the war, overwhelming pressure to produce or other issues? The National Mental Health Association says the warning signs are:



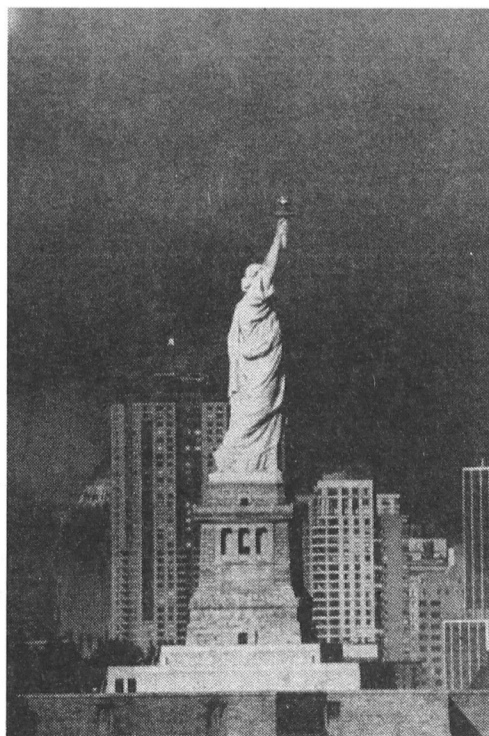
- Persistent fatigue
- Inability to concentrate
- Flashes of anger or lashing out at family and friends
- Changes in eating or sleeping habits
- Increased use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs
- Repeated tension headaches, lower back aches, stomach problems or other physical ailments
- Prolonged feelings of depression, anxiety or helplessness

And, while it's certainly normal that we all experience some of these symptoms sometimes, Karaa recommends that if they persist for "six weeks or longer you may want to get some help."

We wonder how our lives, our futures, will be affected by terrorism and the war abroad. Sometimes, it is difficult to focus on what our personal goals are. We may want to get involved in some charitable way to prove that there is still something good to believe in. During this time of uncertainty we are, in some way,

all influenced emotionally. It is difficult not to be. So how do we keep it all together? How do we continue our lives, conscious of the world around us, and keep our cool? The National Mental Health Association offers some suggestions to help students cope with the stresses of war:

- **Talk about it.** Talking to family, friends and coworkers about your fears will relieve stress and help you realize that others share your feelings.
- **Take care of yourself.** Get physical. Reduce stress by getting plenty of rest, eating well and exercising regularly. Develop a regular exercise routine. Try walking around the block each evening, playing tennis, working in the garden or just doing stretching exercises in your living room.
- **Avoid drugs and alcohol.** Just like stress, they rob you of energy and cloud your perceptions of everyone and everything.



- **Make time for relaxation.** Try to reduce the amount of time you spend worrying about things you can't control. A good way to do this is to cut down or eliminate activities that cause you stress. For example, spend less time watching the news and more time relaxing. Catch a movie, join a club, call a friend, go fishing, go to a concert or play with the dog. Schedule time for doing things you find relaxing.
- **Take reasonable precautions.** Make an emergency communications plan with family and friends. Re-introduce yourself to neighbors and exchange phone/cell phone numbers. Stay informed about current events, but don't become obsessed by the news coverage of impending war.
- **Do something positive.** Take part in activities like making care packages or taking a First Aid class to make you feel more in control. Whether you support or oppose the war, you can write to elected officials or take part in campus activities, such as discussion groups or candlelight vigils.
- **Be optimistic about the challenges ahead.** Try to maintain a positive outlook. Remember that our nation has survived other difficult times. Stay in touch with your spirituality, if you find it comforting.
- **Ask for help.** Feeling overwhelmed is not a sign of weakness. Talk with someone you can trust. Make use of campus or community resources, such as the counseling center or local Mental Health Association.

Bates Canon wants students to "see the campus counseling services as part of the support system. Again, stay connected and know that you're not alone in this, don't withdraw. Talk to family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers about your stress and fears. They may be experiencing some of the same feelings as you."

Features

2006-2007 Visiting Writers Reading Series

Dana Staves

The 2006-2007 Visiting Writers Reading Series went underway September 5 with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Robert Olen Butler, who read from his new collection of stories called *Severance*. Students can look forward to a line of literary gentlemen for the fall semester as the authors visit to read from their works and answer questions.

On September 25 at 12:30 PM in UC 265 (note: this is a time change from the usual readings and from the rest of the times in the series) Ken Foster will read from his creative nonfiction work *The Dogs Who Found Me: What I've Learned from Pets Who Were Left Behind*, a work about his experience with his own adopted dogs and dogs that he seemed to have a heightened awareness of after adopting his. He is also the author of *The Kind I Am Likely to Get: A Collection* and the editor of *Dog Culture: Writers on the Characters of Canines*. He lives in New Orleans and some of the material for his latest book came from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the dogs that were abandoned in New Orleans. For more information, visit www.ken-foster.com.

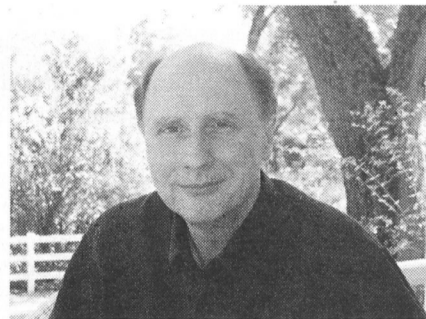
On Tuesday, October 17 at 7:30 PM in UC 265, poet Tony Morris will read from his book *Back to Cain*. Morris is a

former teacher, journalist, and musician and currently teaches at Armstrong-Atlantic State University in Savannah where he is the managing editor of *Southern Poetry Review*. He has previously published a collection of poetry called *Fugue's End*, and he is the recipient of the *Louisiana Literature Poetry Prize* and *Tennessee Writers Alliance Poetry Award*. For more information on Tony Morris, visit www.tonymorris.org.

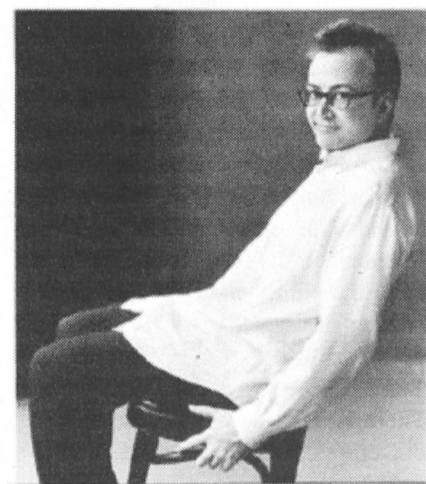
On Thursday, November 9 at 7:30 PM in UC 267 (note: this is a room change from the other events), fiction writer Ralph Berry (aka R.M. Berry) will be reading from his book *Frank*, an "unwriting" of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* in which Frank Stein, a distant cousin of poet Gertrude Stein, creates a life out of language and gives birth to monstography. Berry is a professor at Florida State University and has been the publisher of *Fiction Collective Two* since 2000. He is also the author of the novel *Leonardo's Horse*, which was a *New York Times*' notable book in 1998. Finally, on November 28 at 7:30 PM in UC 265, Paul Shepherd will read from his novel *More Like Not Running Away*, a book about a boy

whose family is falling apart, a problem that escalates as he begins to hear voices in his head. Shepherd is a professor at Florida State University, and the novel was a finalist for the Associated Writing Programs Award in the Novel, the Bakeless Prize, and twice for the James Jones Prize. Shepherd also works with family ministries at St. Stephens Lutheran Church and with Rainbow Rehab, a non-profit construction company that renovates homes for low-income homeowners. For more information on Shepherd and his novel, visit <http://morelikenotrunningaway.com>.

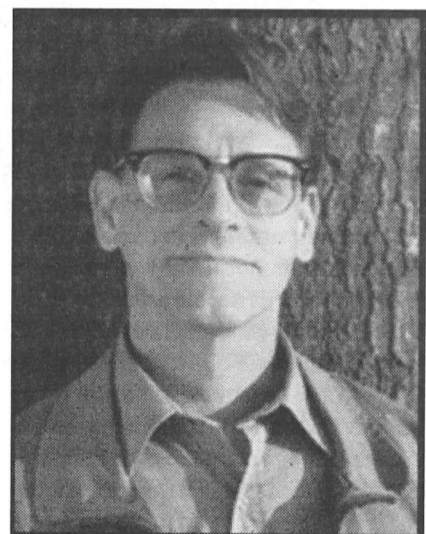
Copies of the books being read for each reading will be available at the event and should come into the Clayton State bookstore a day or so before each reading. If for some reason you miss a reading, there will be extra signed copies available for purchase in the bookstore. Be sure to attend each reading as the authors may read from new manuscripts as well as books that have already been released. The readings are free to the public and are always followed by a question and answer session, a very beneficial thing for students who are able to talk with published (and award-winning) authors about writing, publishing, and literature.



Robert Olen Butler
Photo taken from www.google.com



Ken Foster
Photo taken from google.com



Tony Morris
Photo taken from tonymorris.org

**For more information, please refer to the website:
<http://la-s.clayton.edullanglit/writers.htm>**

Sweet Orchid: Good Food in an Unlikely Place

Dana Staves

We have all driven past the Wal-Mart that sits across Highway 54 from school, and have no doubt noticed the small strip mall adjacent to it that houses among other things a Laundromat. One would not have guessed, however, that within the non-descript exterior there lies a quaint Thai restaurant that is well worth the short trip across the road. Sweet Orchid is a small, quiet place with great food and a wonderful staff. Both times that I have been (already once since the semester has started), there have been few patrons—this last time, in fact, my party was the only one there. With high-backed booths and mellow décor, the restaurant is a great place to sit back and unwind after classes while enjoying wonderful Thai food (I

highly recommend the sesame chicken with vegetables and rice). They serve the dishes you see most places—sesame, pad Thai, etc.—and of course, the sweet and very flavorful Thai iced tea and coffee. Service is always prompt and friendly and free of the bustling briskness that fills chain restaurants during the dinner and lunch hours. Other dishes available include curry dishes, salads, and pasta. With an affordable menu (dinners generally cost around \$6.95 for a meat with vegetables and rice—sizable helpings, too) and a great atmosphere, Sweet Orchid, located off Reynolds Road adjacent to Wal-Mart, is definitely worth checking out.

Do you have a favorite restaurant that you would like to review? Send it to Btree@mail.clayton.edu!

Ready, Aim, Fire!

Laura Hurd

After 142 years, shots again rang in the air near Lovejoy as Yankee and Confederate forces squared off in a representation of Kilpatrick's Charge at Nash Farm. The dedication of the new Henry County battlefield site drew hundreds to view one of the last battles prior to Sherman's capture of Atlanta in the Civil War.

Between August 18th and September 17th of 1864, the area around Nash Farm was occupied on four separate occasions by Confederate troops and played a role in at least three Union movements before November 17th when the last Union skirmish occurred against Georgia militia. Union General William T. Sherman had the task of defeating General Hood's army and splitting the Confederacy in half. This required the capture of Atlanta which continued to hold after a four-month siege. Sherman correctly recognized the railroads leading into Atlanta, bolstered her strength against the Union army and decided to cut the railroad ties to force Atlanta's surrender. After a failed attempt in July to cut the lines leading from Macon to Atlanta, he sent US Major General Judson Kilpatrick and his cavalry to destroy the tracks.

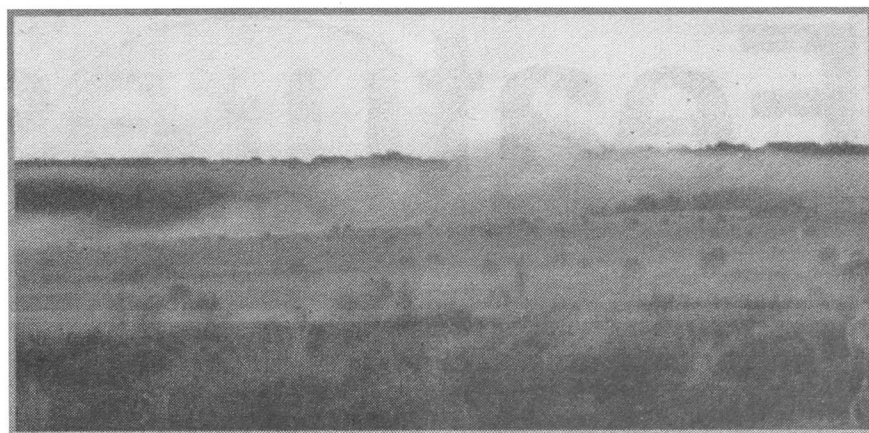
On August 18, Kilpatrick's cavalry destroyed part of the Atlanta-West Point tracks and the next day reached Jonesboro. There he cut through the railroad tracks connecting Atlanta and Macon and moved on toward Lovejoy. August 19th saw Kilpatrick and his forces in Lovejoy at Nash Farm and pinned between Confederate cavalry and Confederate Infantry. Facing Confederate forces under Brigadier General William Hicks Jackson, Kilpatrick feared his men would become encircled and captured. He ordered the largest cavalry saber charge in Georgia and his men finally broke through and fled into the night.

Without the benefits of time travel, battle reenactments are as close as

modern Civil War history buffs will get to watching the battles unfold before their eyes. Men and women participate in the reenactments in camping, dancing, and battles. Reenactments are taken seriously, with attention paid to everything from correct marching and battle formations, to ensuring the correct historical cloth is created into appropriate garments. Most—if not all—re-enactors participate fully in the activities, including camping in recreated camps with tents ranging from simple covered pallet rolls to large, well-ordered tents. Because of their dedication and enthusiasm for the reenactments, they are willing to share everything from their knowledge to their food with visitors.

The reenactment groups at this dedication included the (Confederate) 30th Georgia regiment based in Clayton County and (Union) 125th Ohio based in Atlanta. After the field skirmish reenactment, I took the opportunity to meet some of the re-enactors and find out why they had chosen to participate.

Confederate chaplain, Donald Johns, of the 2nd Regiment Confederate Engineer Corps, has been reenacting for ten years. "I've been a history buff all my life and the very first thing [that got me interested in history was] was I found a mini-ball over at Grant Park." Johns recalled. Later he found a "leather bag buried underneath the house...and in it was some Civil War-era silver dollars." This led his interest in the Civil War which grew over the years, fed by many books, and ended in fulltime reenactment after he retired. How does he view the Civil War? "Real men, real people like you and I, fighting for our homes and our countries—not for politics, not for gold—for a right to be free from a government that has usurped the Constitution for the economic powers of capitalism."



Nash Farm
Photo taken from google.com

First Sergeant Howard Morgan of the Union 125th Ohio "Opycke's Tigers" has been participating in reenactments since 1998. At the Nash Farm Battlefield, he took the place as company commander as the Captain could not attend. With about 50 members and based in Atlanta, they "portray a unit that fought with General Sherman in the campaign all the way through Georgia." This particular unit only represented a few of their members with people from "other units falling in" according to Morgan, who added that at "major battle reenactments, you have 20, 30, 40 people in individual units and then you have people that come to the event in ones and twos that fall in with an organized unit."

In many ways, reenactment groups are organized the same way as Civil War era units with mostly privates, with one or two corporals, a sergeant, first sergeant, and maybe a Captain. Their ranking, as is typical of military everywhere, is displayed on their sleeves with corporals having two stripes, a sergeant three, first sergeant with three stripes and a diamond, and then the captain or leader of the group.

Both men encouraged interested persons to consider reenactment. Sergeant Morgan emphasized its diversity. "You can go out and be a little kid again—dress up in uniform and play soldier. It's got that part for you. If you are a student of the Civil War...if you like to camp, we have the camping element." Moreover,

reenacting is not just limited to men. Both camps have women who dress in period clothing, cook, and enjoy the activity with their husbands and children. For instance, the 125th Ohio features a 'fife and drum corps' made up of younger members. Donald Johns, of the Confederate camp was participating with three generations of his family.

Most importantly, reenactments are a living history that affects both re-enactors and guests who come and watch the demonstrations. "It's all a learning process." Johns emphasized, "You begin to learn who you were, who you are, and where you came from. It takes on a whole new meaning." Morgan welcomed all interested participants. "Coming out here, talking to people, being with other re-enactors, you are learning something new everyday. There's so much to learn about the Civil War that you are never going to learn it all."

The dedication continued all weekend with a skirmish and military ball on Saturday night, performances by period band "Un-Reconstructed", and a special guest, Civil War author David Evens, who spoke on Sunday afternoon. Nash Farm Battlefield Park is not currently open to the public, but should be opening soon (more information is available at www.henrycountrybattlefield.com). I strongly encourage you to visit when it opens, as it is only about 20 minutes south of Clayton State on Jonesboro Rd. It is a treat to have a new battlefield so close.

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Features

How Important is Foreign Language in the 21st Century

Julia Jones

We are often ourselves the source of intimidation and anxiety associated with "foreign language classes." The College Board of 1983 recommended expanding basic skills to include foreign language for all American students. In addition, in 1996, the American Association of School Administration identified knowledge of a foreign language as one of the most important skills that students would need to develop and prosper in the 21st Century.

In fact, the Defense and State Department is currently seeking qualified speakers fluent in foreign languages of Middle Eastern and Central Asian languages, and qualified candidates are nearly impossible to find. The American Council of Education is now calling on higher education leaders "to make foreign language competence an integral part of a college education." Learning a foreign language exposes an individual to new cultures and new horizons. Consequently, a February 1997 Time Magazine article suggested that foreign language should be taught to children as early as possible. Yet arguments persist among college students against studying foreign languages—they serve no immediate purpose, they divert attention from more practical courses, and they are too difficult and time consuming for young adults who want to pursue careers only within the United States.

In September of 1999, then Secretary of Education Richard R. Riley delivered his Annual Back-to-School Address, entitled "Changing the American High School to Fit Modern Times." His belief is to raise standards in spite of proven cognitive benefits, and that studies of bilingual students have proven to show these students consistently grasp linguistic concepts such as words having several meaning faster than their monolingual counter-parts. Our nation is significantly behind other developed countries, and according to the National Foreign Language Center, only 8 percent of students attending colleges in the United States study a foreign language.

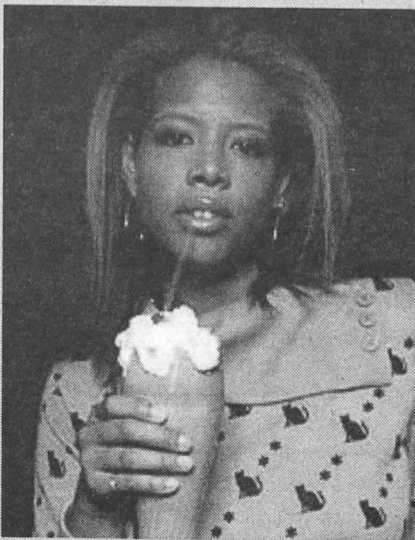
Since September 11, because of our growing security needs and increasing international business world, there is a critical demand for speakers fluent in foreign languages. Although there are many negative views and myths regarding foreign languages, there are also many advantages and a critical need as well. The national education goals for 2000 stated, "all, American students leaving grades 4, 8, and 12 would demonstrate competency, or would be close to fluent in a foreign language."

However, Americans are relatively unresponsive to their own need to put foreign language at the core of their learning experience.

Kelis Was Here Review

Iries McCrae

In 1999, a young girl with wild hair screamed the lines "I hate you so much right now!" and made her first top 40 hit. After releasing three critically acclaimed albums (with the sophomore LP released only in Europe), the queen of Sci-fi R&B, Kelis, is back with her fourth album *Kelis Was Here*. The album is one of the year's most eclectic releases thus far. From the thumping beat of the hit first single "Bossy," featuring California native Too Short, to the 80's influenced kick drum pattern of "Till the Wheels fall off," produced by Will I. AM of the Grammy winning Blackeyed Peas, Kelis delivers a sound like no other. Without the Neptunes production, many people were worried about Kelis not being able to hold out on her own, but it looks like she is here to stay.



Kelis
Photo taken from google.com

Songs to check for:
"Bossy"
"Blindfold me"
"Li' Star" featuring Cee-lo

Rating: 4.5 / 5

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Looking For Literature on Vacation

Sibongile B.N. Lynch

On a recent impromptu holiday, I wondered how I could turn this quickie, two-day vacation to Savannah, Georgia into something literary. I mostly wanted to take photographs of cemeteries, majestic colonial mansions and moss-covered trees, but surely there was something that I could relate to literature and writing during my stay, save for the renovated riverfront, its cobblestones, and the city market on the banks of the river where at one time, more than just vegetables were sold.

I've seen quaint little bed and breakfasts on travel shows and have always imagined that it would be a dreamlike experience. I chose Savannah's Bed and Breakfast Inn, a colonial townhouse, which is located at the northern edge of the historic downtown district. It is surrounded by the otherworldly landscape that only a swamp could produce. A few blocks in every direction reveal yet another neighborhood square: Lafayette, Chatham, Monterrey, Pulaski, Oglethorpe, and so on. There was no elevator, so we climbed a narrow, wooden staircase to our third floor room. Walls lined with Victorian portraiture and clipper ships felt authentic, and I and my beloved tried to guess what they would be worth on the Antique Road Show. Our four-poster bed needed a ladder, and we were high enough from the street that we heard relatively little noise.



Staying in a bed and breakfast is an intimate and unruffled encounter. It feels like you're staying with relatives minus, well, relatives. Breakfast is served in a dining room that feels like your grandmother's dining room, and there was a veranda with a sleepy, tiger-striped cat, whose name I neglected to inquire about. There is a pleasant absence of the concrete, geometric uniformity of a hotel chain. No unruly children wandering, unattended through the corridors. Oh, and in case you forgot you were in Georgia, everyday at four p.m., glasses of iced, sweet tea were served with lemon poppy seed pound cake, or

zucchini bread, or sugar cookies.

There is a saying, or a Bible verse, or maybe my Aunt Fannie said it once. It is something like, 'that which you seek is causing you to seek.' Well, being the only tenants with dreadlocks, I decided to break the awkward, racial ice and ask where our other guests were from. There were two, stylish gentlemen from France, although they didn't say what part. A couple who had been there a week and were about to leave were from Italy. There was an older couple, from Buford, Georgia, who didn't engage

us until after we'd run into them twice at African-American historical tours. And then a young, Australian lady, who was traveling alone, came to the table. She was an English teacher of high school students in London. Her worn copy of *Teaching Stone to Talk* by Annie Dillard was a give away. We briefly discussed our English studies lineage, talked about what we were reading, and exchanged book lists. I gave her *The Known World*, Belloc's *Ophelia*, *The Farming of Bones*, and *The Bondwoman's Narrative*. She gave me *The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston, a poet named Ruby Ginibi, *My Place* by Sally Morgan, and the plays of Thomson Highway. In a place I chose randomly, I met a fellow traveler who shared a love of reading and discussing literature. Well, now I felt like I belonged. Later, we toured the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum. Gilbert served as pastor of the historic First African Baptist Church of Savannah, reorganized the Savannah Branch of the NAACP in 1942, and served as its president for eight years. He was a nationally known orator and playwright, producing passion plays throughout the country.

Having had my literary itch scratched, we retired to another vacation favorite: the beach.

A Life Less Ordinary

Sibongile B.N. Lynch

Around campus, I am often captivated by the youthful exuberance, the fearlessness, and assertiveness of my traditional, collegiate peers. By traditional, I mean those students between the ages of 18 and 21, who are expected to go to college, who may still be finding their way, but who are finally adult, hip and invincible. By traditional, I also mean those students who probably are not married, may not have children, or a job, or a mortgage, or ten years in the military, or a to-do list which includes laundry, cooking dinner, paying a gas bill, and oh yes, a weight watchers meeting. The other group of students is decidedly non-traditional, of which I am a part, but I'll get to us later. But, for my junior colleagues, and at the risk of sounding like your parents (who are probably about the same age as me): Do not take for granted the opportunity you have now to do whatever you must to fulfill your dreams, no matter how fantastic they are. Thirty years from now, your self-esteem may have dwindled, your memory may be fading, your 401K (that is, if you have one) won't be

enough to walk away from a job that makes you miserable and physically ill, and there won't be a cheering section to encourage you to go for those dreams that, although they seemed impossible, everyone believed you could do it, back then. And, everyone will think you're crazy for even considering leaving a job you've been at for ten, maybe fifteen years. Four years may seem like a long time, and two more years in graduate school may seem like forever, but my dears, it is only a fleeting fraction of the time you will spend on this earth. At this time in your life, you can still do whatever you want to do, so long as you put in the work now. A life less ordinary begins with the audacity, the will and determination to win, and never be defeated.

Now if for you, it is already twenty or thirty years later, you've already blown that 401K (which was miniscule to begin with after taxes), but you're determined to get that degree even though your student loan money has run out, and you may have to pick up a seasonal, part-time job to

pay the gas bill, here is another piece of advice: Do not take for granted the opportunity you have now to do whatever you must to fulfill your dreams; no matter how fantastic they are. Okay, so it's the same advice, but it'll work for you too. Look, you've already learned enough life lessons to earn that non-traditional status, and for us late bloomers, risking it all may be a prerequisite for taking the leap, which we no doubt already have. Never mind the faint laughter of co-workers on the other side of the cafeteria when you pull out your math book to study for lunch. And, if you need to sneak in the restroom to catch a power nap in a stall, go for it. It's never too late to realize your greatest potential, even if it took you a little time to get around to it. Do what you have to because whether you're 21 or 41 a life less ordinary begins with the audacity, the will and determination to win, and never be defeated...But, I've said that already.

**Do you
have an
opinion?
Do you
like to
write?
Then
write
for the
Bent
Tree!**

Around Campus

Honors – Revisited

Laura Hurd

Clayton State University's Honors Program is now entering its twelfth year on campus. This year will be the second for the program under the leadership of Dr. Kevin Demmitt, a Professor of Sociology. Dr. Demmitt worked with past advisor, Dr. Hatfield (who founded the program in 1994 and acted as Honors director for ten years, and who is now Department Head of Social Sciences) and has worked with the new student officers to revise the program so that it is now open on two levels.

There are two parts to the Honors Program—University Honors and College Honors. University Honors is open to first year students only and provides an 'enriched' experience from core classes to graduation. College Honors accepts students in their junior year and supplements upper-division classes necessary for graduation in their major. Benefits to joining the program include special "Honors classes, early registration, an Honors diploma seal, and recognition at commencement" as per the updated program.

Honors classes will be designated on the official student transcript and include specific core Honors courses, Honors sections of regular upper-division courses, contract courses (designating a regular course for Honors credit under set circumstances), independent study courses where the student works one-on-one with a faculty member, and study abroad courses. The course-load is not designed to be 'harder' work but rather to be more creative or interactive. The ultimate goal is for the work to prepare the student for greater success following graduation.

In addition to taking Honors courses, students must exhibit service commitment. The Honors Student Association covers this part of the program (or HAS). This student-

governed organization conducts various campus events from hosting blood drives to sponsoring the Angel Tree and International Thanksgiving Dinner.

By becoming a member of the Honors Program, students are able to participate in various conferences at the state, regional, and national level where they meet with other Honors students for workshops and paper presentations. Several students have participated in these activities in the past and have traveled to Orlando and New Orleans to present. These presentations count towards the required service and community participation.

This coming May, Honors will be conducting its second study abroad program. The students, under the direction of Dr. Demmitt, will be traveling to England to study the culture of England, both past and present. Operating as a May-mester program, the trip will count as one three-hour course to be used toward graduation.

Requirements to join the Honors program are as follows:

If you are a new student or have less than 30 hours credit or are an Honors transfer student, then you are eligible to join the University Honors Program. You must have a 3.5 High School GPA and at least a 1100 SAT or 24 ACT.

If you are an upper-level student, you are eligible for College Honors starting your Junior Year. You must have a 3.5 College GPA and show commitment to service and campus activities.

For more information concerning the Clayton State Honors Program, visit the campus website at <http://honorsprogram.clayton.edu/> or contact Dr. Demmitt at KevinDemmitt@clayton.edu.

**Write for the
Bent Tree!
E-mail us at
Btree@mail.
clayton.edu**

Where do I go...?

To request a transcript to send to another school?

The Registrar's office, located in the Student Center, room 239.

To pay my tuition/fees in person?

The Bursar's office, located in the Student Center, room 278.

To get my new parking decal or replacement parking decal?

Public Safety, located in the Student Center, room 207.

To request information for a prospective student?

The Office of Admissions, located in the Student Center, room 150.

To turn in an immunization form?

The Office of Admissions, located in the Student Center, room 150.

To ask questions or pick up information about Financial Aid?

The Office of Financial Aid, located in the Student Center, room 106.

To find out about all of the clubs/organizations on campus?

The Office of Campus Life, located in the University Center, room 204.

To put money on my Laker ID card or to replace a lost card?

The Laker Card Office, located on the first floor of the University Center.

To figure out any problems that have occurred with laptops?

The HUB, located on the first floor of the University Center.

To inquire about any software that could be updated to my laptop?

Software Support Services, located on the first floor of the library.

Clayton State to Celebrate Constitution Day

Release from University Relations

Clayton State University's Second Annual Constitution Day Celebration will run from Monday, Sept. 18 to Thursday, Sept. 21 and will feature open-to-the-public speeches by two Clayton County judges and a reading of the entire U.S. Constitution.

In addition to the public events, a student debate on "Democracy's Challenge," a voter registration drive, and visits to the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) Southeast Regional Archives will highlight the week for Clayton State's 6000 students.

"Constitution Week" will begin on Monday, Sept. 18, when Judge Steve Boswell, chief judge of the Clayton County Superior Court and chairman of the Clayton State University Foundation, will be the keynote speaker for Constitution Week at a 12:30 p.m. address in room 272 of the James M. Baker University Center. Boswell will be introduced by Dr. Gene Hatfield, chair of the Clayton State Department of Social Sciences and Professor of History.

The Clayton State Women's Forum's first meeting of the 2006/2007 academic year, on Wednesday, Sept. 20, will be a part of Constitution Day as Judge Daphne Walker, chief judge of Clayton County Magistrate Court, will be the speaker for the 12:30 p.m. luncheon and meeting in room 101 of the Harry S. Downs Center for Continuing Education. Reservations for the Women's Forum luncheon and meeting should be made with Vickie Fennell at vickiefennell@clayton.edu.

Thursday's Reading of the Constitution will be held in the Commons area of the Baker Center, with a welcome, introductions and preamble by Clayton State President Dr. Thomas K. Harden. A wide variety of students, faculty, staff and community representatives will take part in the reading. In addition, copies of the Constitution will be distributed.

The student events include the Tuesday, Sept. 19 student debate, the Voter Registration Drive in the Baker Center from Monday through Friday, and class visits to NARA from Monday to Thursday.