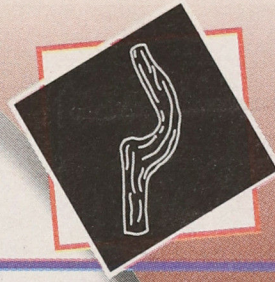


# THE BENT TREE



Volume 42 Issue 4

Clayton State University

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Apr 2009

## DR. THOMAS HARDEN TO LEAVE CLAYTON STATE AFTER 9 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dr. Thomas Harden has served as the President of Clayton State University for nine years. He helped the school grow and expand from Clayton College and State University to Clayton State University. "It's been a series of almost concurrent adventures," he says of his time here. In a little over a month, Dr. Harden will move on to his next adventure, serving as Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Green Bay.

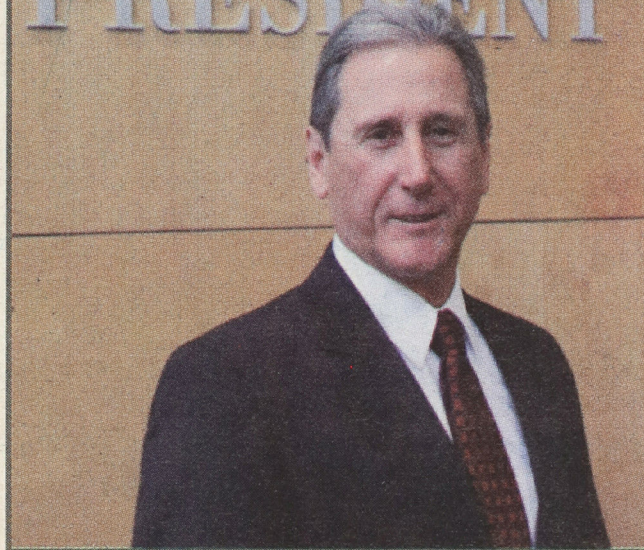
Before moving to Clayton State, Dr. Harden worked as a Dean at East Michigan University. After doing some Internet research on the University System of Georgia, Dr. Harden became interested in Clayton College and State University. He decided that if the office of president came available, he would apply for it. The position posted two months later. He applied for the position, was hired, and began serving as President of Clayton College and State University on June 1, 2000.

Dr. Harden credits past presidents and faculty for giving him a lot to build on. When he came, there was a lot of expectation for Clayton State to provide more to the community and the region in terms of educational opportunities. In 2000 and 2001, he helped the university develop a vision and a strategic plan of exactly where to take the university.

Under his leadership, the university has been able to nearly triple the number of bachelor's degrees, begin to offer a fairly large number of master's degrees, and open on-campus housing. He says that the credit doesn't belong to one person, but to the cooperation of many people working together. Dr. Harden said, "It takes all of us. We all have a job to do ... every group of people have played their part."

Another thing that Dr. Harden is proud of is the physical development of the school. He and the faculty have worked hard to not only maintain but enhance the physical beauty of the campus, and to fit the buildings into what was already a part of the campus. In doing this, he continued the legacy set by previous Clayton State Presidents Harry Downs and Rick Skinner. He

PRESIDENT



DR. THOMAS HARDEN,  
PRESIDENT OF CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

quoted former Clayton State President Harry Downs as saying that Clayton State is "the community's college." Both worked to make ties with the community and to build things to enhance the community such as the Clayton Place Apartments and Gateway Village.

When asked about his regrets, Dr. Harden replied, "I don't think there are ever only good things or successful things that happen." He agrees that though Clayton State has had many successes under his leadership, they have had some failures. He adds, "In a sense they're not failures. They helped us refine our vision and refocus. Once something doesn't work, we figure out what was wrong with that idea ... and then we can regroup and be more successful the next time we foray out into another adventure."

According to President Harden, the best part of his job was the people. He says that he has hundreds of memories that he will take with him from his administration. President Harden and his wife Cathy have attended many events during their time here including student activities, plays, lectures, concerts, recitals, and many other things. He reminisced, "We've gotten to know a lot of the students and the students recognize and know us and feel comfortable with us and we're just really pleased with that. That's been one of the most enjoyable things that we've been able to do."

When asked about his legacy, he says that he has never really thought about the legacy he will leave Clayton State. He thinks about the work that he feels is important and the work that he is about to do. "Legacy will take care of itself ... it's not for me to determine whether I'm remembered at all," he said. "I really feel fortunate to be able to do the kinds of work that I do." He remarked that his time at Clayton State has been a tremendous experience and it's one of the best atmospheres that he's ever experienced. Allow me to leave you with a quote from Dr. Harden that really stood out to me, "Clayton State is its people. It's not the buildings. It's not the parking lots, and the lights, and the furniture, and that sort of thing. That's not what the university is. Clayton State is its people. And that's why it's such a good institution. It's because we have such good people."

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**SPECIAL THANKS  
TO FACULTY ADVISOR  
DR. RANDY CLARK**

**ON THE COVER**

**DR. THOMAS HARDEN TO LEAVE CLAYTON STATE:  
AFTER 9 YEARS OF SERVICE [PHOTO BY BENT TREE STAFF]**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

As a student run publication, our goal is to entertain, educate and inform the campus, while also providing an opportunity for students to develop and enhance their journalistic skills, both in print and on-line. We strive to promote balanced reporting, while offering a platform for students to share their opinions and concerns with the entire student body. Establishing and maintaining positive relationships with the entire campus community is vital to this process, therefore we have also made it our practice to network not only with the students, but with everyone contributing to the campus, to ensure responsible representation. We offer this to the University and its students in an effort to promote involvement with and awareness of the campus media as a whole.

# Get Bent The Bent Tree Vent

We want to know what get's YOU bent! Send your comments and vents to: [Vent@thebenttree.org](mailto:Vent@thebenttree.org)

*The views expressed below are not necessarily those of The Bent Tree and we accept no responsibility for the views or opinions expressed below, either directly or indirectly.*

## COURSES

It annoys me when you have your entire schedule planned out and they cancel your class without letting you know why. It happened again this semester. I showed up to the first day of class only to be told it had been cancelled. At this rate I'm never going to graduate on time!

- No Class?

What is up with the boring professors? Isn't there some sort of instruction for instructors (maybe "How to Teach Effectively 101")? My professor came, read (from the textbook) and left. I could have bought the audio book if I wanted to learn that way.

- Bored ... Again

## JAZZMAN'S

Someone should explain to the management that having two people working when the café is empty versus one person when twelve people are waiting in line is bad business. The baristas are awesome but they are not superwomen (though my strawberry slushy was definitely out of this world) I've seen many people turn around and walk back out when they see only one person working and a line out the door.

- Still Standing in Line

I LOVE the coffee at Jazzman's and the muffins aren't too shabby either, but the seating availability stinks. I suppose you are supposed to just take your coffee and run because there isn't much seating to choose from and what is available sure isn't comfortable. We sit at hard desks all day long. Is it too much to ask for a seat cushion or two while we enjoy a cup of java between classes?

- Coffee on the Run

## PEDESTRIANS

If one more person just steps off the curb in front of the UC without looking where they are going, while people are trying to get to the parking lot, there is going to be a major accident. Pay attention! Didn't your mother teach you to look both ways before crossing?

- Frustrated Driver

## DEAR BENT TREE VENT:

In a previous issue of The Bent Tree Vent, a reader signed, "Better Safe than Sorry," vented that University Health Services (UHS), "should give out Trojan condoms: Durex and Lifestyle are unreliable. If our safety is such a priority then we should be able to get the safest product out there, not the cheapest." I'm quite interested where "Better Safe than Sorry," received this information. First of all UHS has a variety of high quality condoms, including Trojan, Durex, and Lifestyles, at no cost to students. Coincidentally, Consumer Reports just published a report on the effectiveness, strength, and reliability of different brands of condoms. Out of 23 brands of condoms, guess which brands were the first and second best rated, "Better Safe than Sorry?" Durex and Lifestyles, respectively! Trojans were a close 5th place. So, "Better Safe than Sorry," now you know that UHS strives to exceed the very best in health care options for the safe well being of the entire university community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Spinolo

Dear TMA

I met this girl at a club and we talked for a bit, it was very chill no pressure stuff. She gives me her number and a few days later I invite her to dinner and she accepts. First off, she was late so when we got to the restaurant it was closed. I found this other place and we're at our table and she keeps texting and answering her phone. Her excuse was that her dad was in town and her sister was picking him up. I offered to reschedule if she wanted to go be with her dad but she said, "No" and kept on texting. It was hard to have a decent conversation with her. She texted me today asking if I wanted to hang out but I'm not sure what to do. She really didn't seem to want to get to know me

- Texted Out

Dear Texted Out,

Rude, yes. Inexcusable, I'm not so sure. Obviously your date was preoccupied on the night of your first outing. She might have had a valid excuse (her father being in town) to text during your date. The only way to find out for sure is to go on a second date. Go and hang out. Maybe even make it a casual lunch. If her texting is habitual and occurs on your second date, kindly cut it short. If she is not able to give you her undivided attention now, this behavior will surely only increase in time. Her texting you is a good sign that she is interested, but you deserve someone who is interested and willing to focus on YOU during your dates (without checking her phone every few minutes).

Dear TMA

I have this friend "Kat" who I hang out with all the time, we've known each other for a year now and I'm really into her. She has always refused to introduce me to her friends and I thought it was kind of odd but I was cool with it. I recently found out that she was Bi-sexual and I was a little hurt that she didn't tell me. I'm not sure if that's why she didn't want me to meet her friends or if it was just something about me

- Disgruntled Dude

Dear Disgruntled Dude,

There are many people out there who are still "searching" for who they really are and what they truly want out of life. Sometimes when they find it, they are hesitant to share certain aspects of their lives with others. Your best bet is to speak openly to Kat about your discovery. Let her know that you would like to maintain a friendship with her and that you like her for who she is, not who she dates. If she is a true friend, she will appreciate your openness and feel more at ease in discussing other details in her life. This may help to build a bond for a strong, lasting relationship/friendship for you both.

Dear TMA,

If one more person asks me when I'm graduating, I'm going to scream! Ok why does everyone keep asking; is it because I look older than they are? Because I've been here awhile, can't I be left in peace until the graduation application comes up in conversation with my advisor?

- Graduating Grandma

Dear Graduating Grandma,

Do not let other's deter you from reaching your goals. You ARE older and wiser than that. Graduation is a popular topic (especially this time of year) and lots of people

are being asked... in the same direction, just at different...

# TAKE MY ADVICE

by Sade' Price and Bree Valentine

speeds. It is admirable that you have returned to school later in life. It is often difficult to balance work, family and school successfully. Pace yourself. You will get there soon. Work hard and know that you are going to get there.

Dear TMA,

What do you do when it feels like your life is falling apart, job, family, school. I feel like I'm constantly trying to catch up. I'm late with everything, I don't get enough sleep and I'm always getting sick which just makes everything worse. What do I do?

- Sick -n- Tired

Dear Sick -n- Tired,

Slow down. Yep, that's it. Slow down and prioritize your life. Make a list of what you "have" to do and what you "want" to do. Do you volunteer for things that you are not able/don't have time to do? Learn how to say, "No." It is hard to do anything well, if you don't know where to start. Normally, this just leads to procrastination and ends up hurting you more in the end. Focus on your own health first and be sure to consult a physician for your illnesses and explain your situation to her/him. It is not surprising that you have health problems. Stress is a contributing factor to many illnesses. - So take a minute ... breathe ... and relax. You have to take care of YOU first. Everything else can wait.

Dear TMA

This will sound like a bad soap opera but I recently saw my boyfriend kissing this girl at a party I went to when he was supposed to be at home sick. When I went to confront them they had already left. He swears it wasn't him and I have my doubts because it gets better- he has an identical twin, the problem is his twin is dating my best friend and he swears it wasn't him either and since this is not a Shaggy song. I know one of them is lying but I have no idea what to do.

- Doubtful Dater

Dear Doubtful Dater,

It sounds like the fella's have some explaining to do. You and your friend could get the twins together for a group questioning, but the chances are that neither of them will admit to being at the party. "Birds of a feather..." and twins? There is no chance that one is going to tell on the other. Your best bet (for you and your friend) is to keep your eyes open. I am not telling you to snoop or become a stalker, but pay attention. Have your man's habits changed lately? Have you caught him in any (other) lies? Where there is smoke, there is always fire and the truth will come out eventually. All you have to do is wait.

CAMPUS

by Carolyn Boone

The Many Faces of Clayton State



CLAYTON TO CHANGE BUILDING NAMES

Clayton Junior College opened to 942 students on September 30, 1929 with Dr. Harry

Downs as the founding President. In

1981, Clayton State, through cooperation with the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education, began offering Applied Associate Degrees and Certificates. Five years later, the Board elevated the institution to Baccalaureate status as Clayton State College, with four-year programs in Nursing and Business.

President Downs retired in January 1994 and was succeeded by Dr. Richard A. Skinner. Under Skinner's leadership, Clayton State was elevated to University status as Clayton College & State University in 1996 and became the first public University in the southeast, and one of the first in the nation, to issue notebook computers to all students.

The Clayton State campus entered into a phase of rapid infrastructure growth in 2004 with the completion of the James M. Baker

University Center, officially named in honor of alumnus James M. Baker in a naming ceremony the following year. A true "Center" for student life, the building contains the Lakeside Café and student dining area, state-of-the-art visual technology classrooms, offices, and enhanced learning facilities including wireless capabilities.

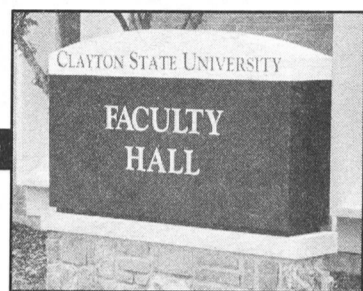
On May 18, 2005 Clayton State's name was officially change to Clayton State University. Later that same year, the Board approved Clayton State's first graduate degree program, the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS). Infrastructure growth reached its highest point since the initial construction of the campus when, in 2008, the University opened three new buildings: the Student Activities Center, the School of Business Building and Laker Hall, Clayton State's first on-campus housing facility. The open-air Judge Eugene Lawson Amphitheatre and the L. Jerry Eskew Stage were also dedicated in 2008.

As part of an on-going effort to better and more clearly identify the buildings on the Clayton State University campus, several buildings will soon have their names changed. Current and New Names are detailed at the right.

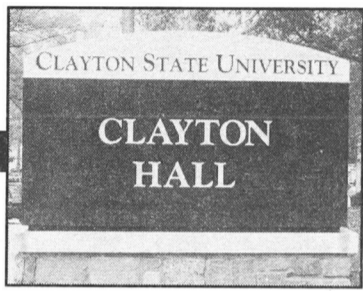
CURRENT NAMES

NEW NAMES

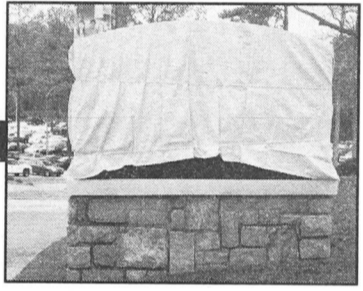
Administrative/  
Business  
Building



Technology  
Building



Aviation Building  
soon to be unveiled as  
Lucy C. Huie Hall



\* Image courtesy of Northern Life Local News Information Letter [http://www.northernlife.ca/News/LocalNews/2007/06-12-07-arts.asp?NLStory=06-12-07-arts]; Altered by Chelaina Davidson

GET FIT IN THE S.A.C.

by Edith Patta

Remember the Student Activity Center (S.A.C)? Well, since it's been built there have been some new equipment and classes that you should know about. For those who have been left in the dark, the S.A.C building was created last year as a place for students to go to unwind with games and activities or to shed a few pounds in the fitness center.

The S.A.C fitness center currently has a state of the art gym that is available to students for free. Whether you're looking to bulk up or slim down, the fitness center is a great place to get fit and stay fit. Ms. Cindy Lauer Director of the S.A.C Fitness Center states, "When we were building the Student Activities Center we were given [a certain amount of money] to allocate to the equipment in the gym. I chose to use the best technological equipment for the gym."

The equipment center definitely is high-tech. It has 12 treadmills, 8 elliptical machines, 6 arc trainers, 5 upright bikes, 5 recumbent bikes, 2 "gaming" bikes, 5 stair climbers, and 2 rowers (and that is just the in the cardio section). The weight training system includes 25 Cybex strength machines and a full array of free weights. Don't know how to use the machines? Don't worry. The S.A.C has programs and services, such as the equipment orientation that informs students on how to effectively and safely use the new equipment.

The S.A.C also has group exercise classes and sessions for those who don't

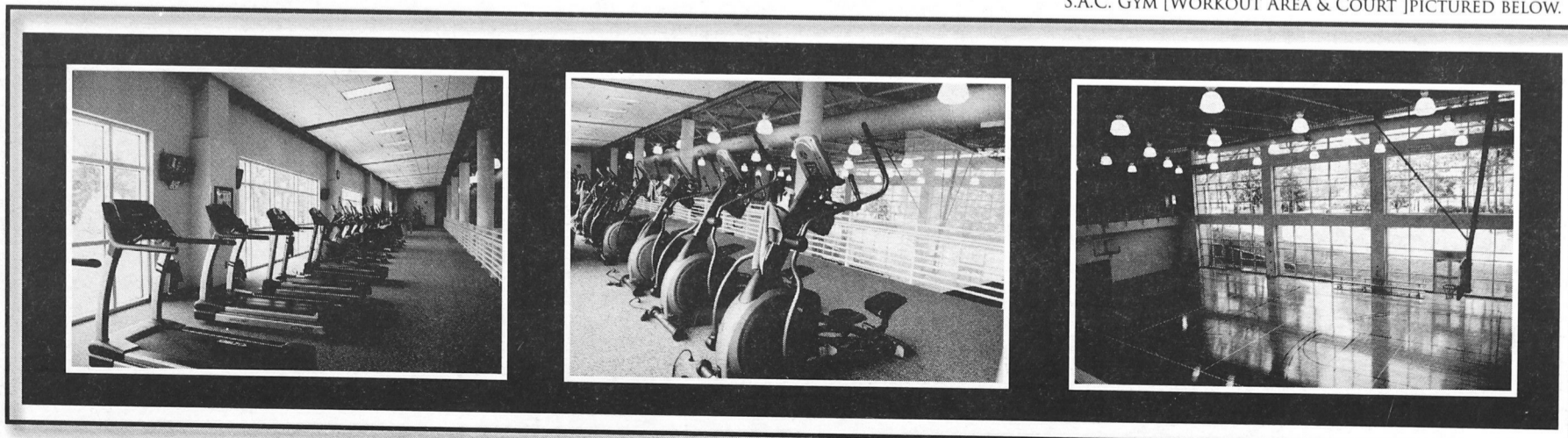
want to do it alone or need a little help. Classes such as Kickboxing, Power Yoga, and the new Body Pump are just a few of the exercise classes offered in the S.A.C. A Few restrictions apply, such as schedule availability; cost and the semester availability. "Some of the classes offered are only offered at [certain times of the semester and based on demand]." states Ms. Lauer.

If you are more athletic and crave the outdoors, then the Department of Recreation and Wellness Outdoor Adventure Program is perfect for you. This is program is also offered by the S.A.C. Activities such as paintball, white water rafting and horseback riding are still available for 2009. Spring 2010 will offer new activities such as a ski trip to West Virginia, indoor rock climbing, hiking in Amicalola Falls, and fly fishing. If it's tournaments you want, the S.A.C. also has that. They offer tournaments in spades, tennis, badminton and volleyball.

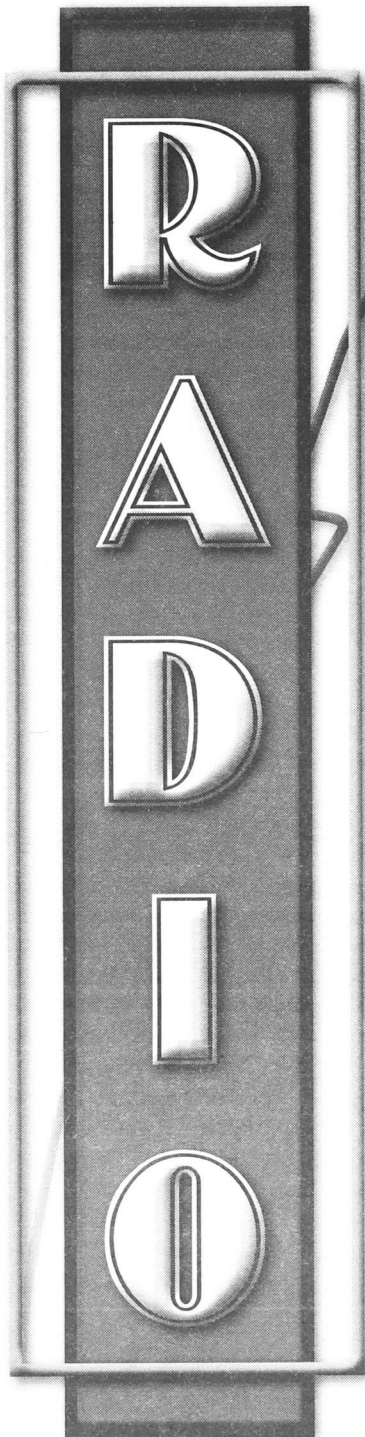
Finally, if exercising and outdoor adventure is not your thing, then check out the S.A.C. game room. It has everything from video games to foosball. They have gaming consoles such as Nintendo Wii and Microsoft's Xbox. Since it has been created, they have added many new games. Don't want to play alone? The gaming room allows you to bring one guest so you'll never have to worry about finding a game partner.

Check it out. The S.A.C. surely has something to take your mind off your studies and maybe even improve your physical outlook while you are at it.

S.A.C. GYM [WORKOUT AREA & COURT ]PICTURED BELOW.



Clayton State  
INTERNET



## CELEBRATES ITS 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR!

by James Baxley

What do Georgia State, Georgia Tech, Clark Atlanta, and Clayton State have in common? They all have radio stations. Clayton State Internet Radio has been on the air for one year as of April 10, 2009. CSIR has been in the works since 2005 and with the help of students and staff, the station has had a successful first year.

The station is not restricted to any particular genre or format; old school, jazz, hip-hop, underground, alternative and contemporary music are all represented on the air. There is also talk, gossip, and a show about Health and Fitness from the Nursing Dept. A person interested in being part of CSIR does not have to be from a certain major. All majors are accepted. An interest in radio and broadcasting is all that you need. You do not need to be a student to participate with the station either, it is also open to faculty and staff.

Even though the radio station is an internet station, it is operated in the same fashion as a commercial station. There is a station manager, a music director, a promotions department, and of course DJs. They have the same equipment, the same rules, and the same problems as any other station. Like many other radio stations, CSIR's biggest hurdles are gaining listeners, gathering support, and getting the word out that Clayton

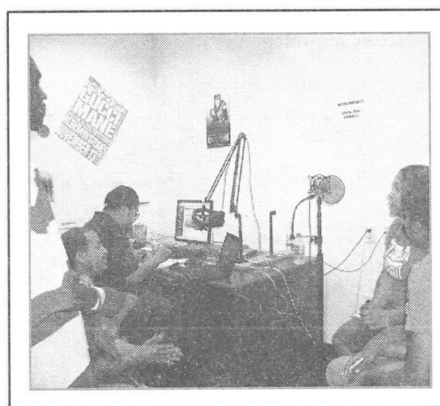
State has a radio station of their very own.

Stephanie Cooper (DJ Steph as she is known on the air waves) is the station manager and says "CSIR welcomes all newcomers that are interested in broadcasting and the field of radio."

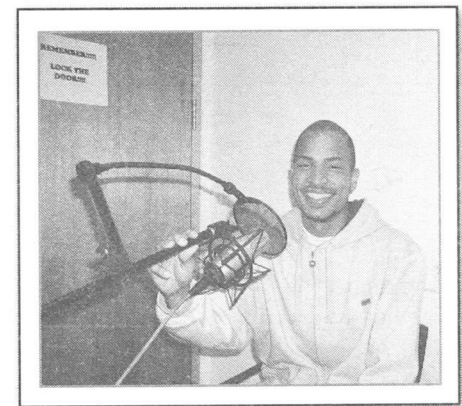
For more information on the station, check out their website at: [HTTP://STUDENTORG.CLAYTON.EDU/CSIR](http://STUDENTORG.CLAYTON.EDU/CSIR) or if you would like to send an email to the station, there is a link provided on the CSIR homepage.



Julie Jones, CSIR



Students of CSIR



Will Moralez Prince, CSIR



Image courtesy of Textually.org

## MY HUB IS YOUR HUB

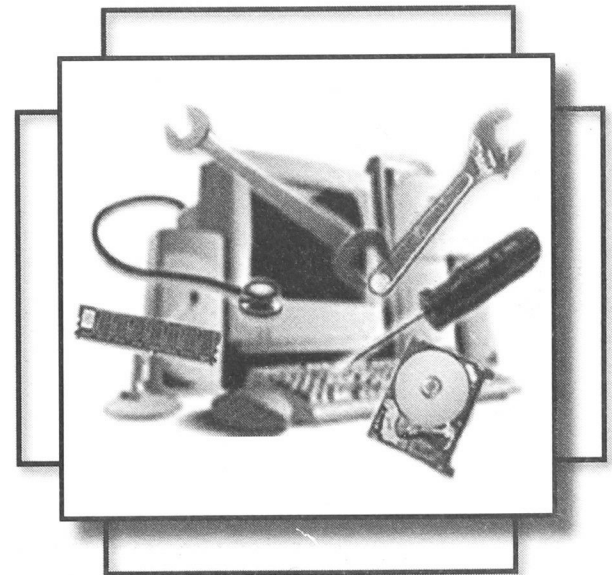
by B. Carzo

Any time technology gets out of hand at Clayton State University, there is only one place with enough electronic savvy to keep the situation under control. For more than ten years, the Hub has been the first line of defense against Clayton State's technological problems. While traversing through Clayton State, different students will give completely different opinions of the Hub. Some like the fact that there is a place on campus to get assistance with technical issues, while others dislike the wait times. After nearly a year of being a member of the Hub, I can easily come up with a few reasons why you should love the Hub, no matter what:

- Low Technology Fees – After working with The Geek Squad at Best Buy and at Circuit City's Firedog, it is easy to see that Clayton State's technology fee is a blessing in disguise. Something as small as adding more memory to your system at any retail computer repair center is nearly the price of a semester's amount of work at the Hub.

- Knowledgeable Staff – The team known as the Hub is one of the most cohesive, professional teams on the campus. The staff keeps open lines of communication at all times and asks for help from more experienced team members and supervisors when needed.
- Reasonable Wait Time – Fixing a computer can be almost as difficult as fixing a car, or trying to diagnose someone in a clinic. At other computer repair centers, repairs never happen instantly. Depending on the system, some repairs can take weeks or even months to complete. Repairs on student machines are usually completed within the same day at the Hub.

These are just a few reasons why no Clayton State University student should take the Hub for granted. The wait times can be long, and there may not always be a solution to every problem, but it never hurts to know that the Hub is always there (between 8a.m.-7pm.) to help you with most of your technological needs.



# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

## THEO CELESTE

If you don't know Theo's face, you are sure to know his voice. Serving as a disc jockey for Clayton State's radio station, Theo says being a part of the radio station is one of his proudest moments. He is graduating with a degree in Communications and Media Studies and hopes to one day rule the world. His hobbies include serving as a DJ and producing/remixing songs. Theo says he hopes "to get paid over and over for the same thing and not have to do anything, like the guy who invented Legos." Now that his days as a student end,

Theo says he will miss the people most of all.

"I really enjoyed the people, that includes students, staff and professors," he says. One professor stands out among Theo's list and that is Dr. Steve Spence. He even goes as far as saying Spence's CMS 4500 Global Context course was the toughest thing he had to endure.

"When I first took a Spence class I really couldn't stand the guy and I was just a loud mouth Asian kid who makes smart ass comments," Theo says. "Now

I'm a well informed, globally aware, loud mouth Asian kid who makes smart ass comments. Dr. Spence's classes are tough, no doubt about it, they are challenging to where you are pouring out your blood, sweat and tears to get projects done. Then when you get your grade back you get a C and realized you are just average or below. This is a reality check, in the real world you get what you put in, and that's what Dr. Spence is...a reality check. I wouldn't have it any other way."



## JASON JOINER

After realizing music performance wasn't the major for him, Jason Joiner switched to English with literary emphasis. Now Jason approaches graduation with a GPA of 3.34. He is the winner of the 2008 Poetry Palooza first place award and the 2009 Stanley Cyrus Award for Creative Writing in

Poetry. He is also a member and office of the Alpha Nu Xi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta.

Jason says he chose CSU out of love. "Well it was a short love story that brought me to Clayton State," he says. "The love story ended, but I stayed because I found an English department full of such talented and friendly professors that I just couldn't leave.

"Dr. McNamara and Dr. Pratt Russell have helped me in terms of understanding literature academically and Dr. Byrd has helped me become a more confident writer. Dr. Rashid Horn is just incredibly awesome as well."

Despite the love story ending, Jason says he wouldn't do anything differently. His one complaint about CSU is not the ducks or the teachers, but the printers. "Honestly, I believe the entire campus would benefit

by having a SmartPrint unit in every building, or at the very least, one that could be installed in the building housing the College of Arts & Sciences."

Once he returns home from his post-graduation cruise to the Caribbean, Jason plans to find a job teaching and prepare himself for graduate school. He hopes to one day be a professor at a local university or college.

Jason finds time for fun while reading, writing, drumming, and spending time with friends and family, which entails being the world's most incredible uncle.

His advice for both future and current students is to "be your own agent in education."

"Ask questions of your professors, no matter how insignificant you may believe your question is," he says. "No one is going to make you a better student or earn better grades but you."

## RYAN SUA

Ryan is graduating from CSU with a bachelor's of Science in Nursing. With a grade point average of 3.56, he is a proud member of the Golden Key International Honor Society. He is also seeking a membership to the Sigma Theta Tau International, Inc., Honors Society in Nursing.

Ryan came to CSU after moving from the Philippines in 2006 and said the assimilation was not an easy task, but the people made it better.

"Clayton State University is such a

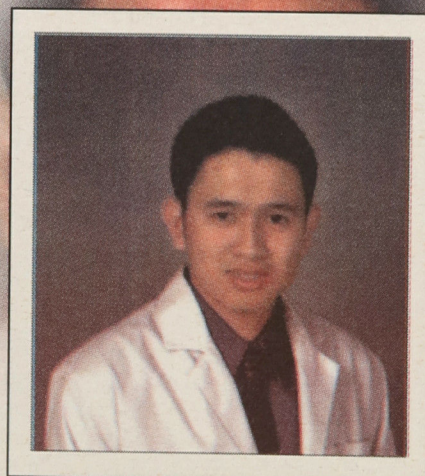
beautiful campus," he says. "It has the friendliest, welcoming, and kind faculty and staff. They have helped me all throughout my college years. I will miss the campus in its entirety. Also, I will miss the people that I've met, the people that taught me to be a better person, to be strong, to be versatile."

His career goals are to live a simply, happy life with his family and work a steady job he loves. He is working in two hospitals as a nursing assistant and plans to continue to work in

one of the two after graduation and passing the board exam.

When he is not in the classroom or at work, Ryan is most likely on the basketball court. He has enjoyed using the Student Activity Center to play basketball to help him relieve stress.

Ryan says he is proudest accomplishment is graduating. He offers the following advice to incoming freshman, and other students.



## RAJIV MANBORDE

Rajiv will sport a GPA of 3.92 when he accepts his degree in Technology Management with a Concentration in Project Supervision. During his time at CSU, Rajiv has been recognized for his academic work receiving the 2009 Scholastic Award and being named a 2008-2009 Technology Management Outstanding Graduate Nominee. He is involved with the leadership of several student organizations namely the Caribbean Student Association, Student Government Association and Orientation and New Student programs.

Rajiv says he chose CSU for economic reasons and that it paid off in the long run.

Clayton is a close knit family of

students, faculty and staff from varied backgrounds and cultures, from Angola to Zimbabwe," he says. "I had the opportunity to see a snapshot of the world that I am entering, right here at Clayton."

The toughest time for Rajiv was the rigorous curriculum. "Time management has to be almost impeccable to achieve an A in the course," he said. "I had to study between 80 and 90 hours per week to achieve a 4.0 GPA for that semester."

Rajiv says his favorite professor is Dr. Benita Moore. "She was understanding, pleasant and eager to assist with any problem that I may have faced."

After graduation, he plans to continue his internship with the Fulton County Government as an IT associate and will begin his Executive Masters in Technology Management at the Georgia Institute of Technology (GA. Tech) in August.

"My career goal is to effectively gain professional experience, qualifications, skills and principles through training so that I may strategically gain a competitive advantage within any market."

While working towards that goal, Rajiv still knows how to have fun playing billiards, soccer, going dancing and socializing.



## NYISHA NELSON



Nyisha is graduating with a degree in English with a GPA of 3.0. She switched from criminal justice to English to prepare her for law school. Her original major was criminal justice. "Being an English major forces you to analyze information in different ways, which is a plus in the law/intelligence field."

She is a member of the Caribbean Student Association and Clayton State Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field. She received the Academic Award for women's Track and Field in May 2008.

"Being a part of the track team and the relationship I created throughout the campus with faculty and friend will be what I miss most," she says. "I wouldn't have done anything differently because every experience is a learning lesson."

Nyisha says the small campus of CSU appealed to her as a student, but the ducks did not. Besides adjusting to the wandering geese and ducks, she says learning the writing styles of each professor was one of the toughest tasks as a student.

After graduation, she plans on attending graduate school and majoring in International Affairs/International Policy. Her goal is to work with a federal agency doing international analyst work and make an impact on lives across the world. She cites her mother as a major influence on her time at CSU and hopes other students can share her positive experience.

"Don't get distracted by the party scene or your peers," she says. "Stay focused on your goals and why you are in college and stay true to yourself."

## TAKEEIA WILLIAMS

Graduating with a degree in Political Science, Takeeia Williams says she has been blessed during her time at CSU. Among her accomplishments, she lists winning Homecoming Queen 2007-2008 "Miss CSU," being selected as a senate intern during the Georgia Assembly, and her Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta winning undergraduate chapter of the year.

Williams first learned about CSU during a visit to Georgia, but upon further reading on the school's web site, she knew it was the college for her. "I love the ducks," she says. "I love the beauty of the nature that the school holds." She has been involved in several student organizations including her sorority, BCAA, FSC and being a Path Peer mentor.

"I will miss my mentees and the connection with

my professors the most," she says. "One thing I loved the most about Clayton was the one-on-one relationship with the professors. I have too many favorites to call them all out. Dr. Bridges, Dr. Norman, Dr. Trachtenberg and Mr. Vincent all have a permanent impact in my life and I will be forever grateful to them all."

After graduation, Williams is considering attending graduate school, perhaps at her soon to be alma mater, CSU. Her dream job is being the Director of Education for the President of the United States. Currently she is a substitute teacher at Clayton County. She hopes to one-day serve on the Clayton County Public School Board. Williams says that the younger members of her family served as an influence to her during her school years and she wants to give something back.

"Live is not easy," he says. "Don't be afraid to take risks, learn from your mistakes. Never look back, just move forward. And always know that God is always there with you and for you."



# STUDENT & FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## MICHAEL RATTI: PROFESSIONAL WATERCROSS FREESTYLE CHAMPION

by Donna Lund



Michael Ratti, 2008 Professional Watercross Freestyle Champion, is also a student of Integrative Studies at Clayton State. His career began in 2002, and he has acquired a long list of achievements that confirm his success in the sport. He states, "My greatest accomplishment to date is the 2007 American National Title because prior to that I was considered an amateur in the sport." He also made history in that event with the Flat Water Back Flip.

Competition in Professional Watercross is in the Olympic style and consists of two, one minute long original routines in front of several judges. Performing in shows to benefit charities is also a big part of this profession. Michael believes that giving back to the community and to the sport is essential.

Each season lasts almost the entire year with few breaks for competitors. Ratti has overcome many obstacles this past year, including an eardrum injury. He

was able to compete and win the National Title in spite of the injury.

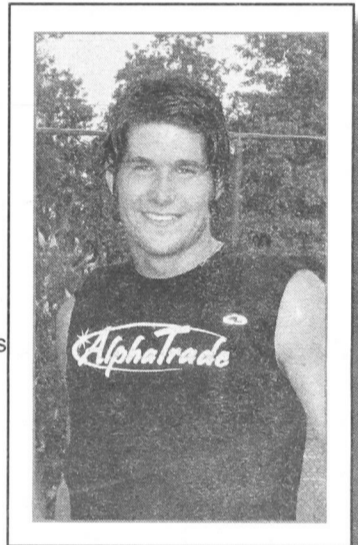
Due to the nature of watercraft sports, they are often criticized by the sports world, making it difficult for Michael to practice in public without complications. Friend and supporter, Jack Golardi of Southern Enterprises has provided a private area for Michael to practice. Jack would like to see watercraft sports viewed as safe and fun.

When asked how fans can support him and get involved, Michael replied, "By building community within the sport through communication with the athletes and attending events."

Although there are currently no competitive tournaments in Georgia, performances and promotional activities take place at events such as the Southern Fried Free Ride, Lanier Free Ride and Altoona Free Ride. Michael enjoys these events because he is able to do what he enjoys and mingle with other riders and fans without the pressure of competition.

He recently co-announced a promotional event for Surf & Turf Promotions and found it beneficial in developing skills that he is learning at Clayton State. He credits Clayton State professor Dr. Randy Clark for helping to support his growth in this area. He also credits his parents for encouraging his participation and success in this competitive sport.

Michael welcomes questions, creative ideas and suggestions. Visit his website at: <http://michaelratti.weebly.com/index.html>.



## DR. DAVID LUDLEY: PUBLISHED IN *CONFLUENCE*

by Christie Jarrett

Dr. David Ludley is known to most on Clayton State's campus as a professor of Art History and English, but many people do not know about his passion for poetry. His poem "Sundowners" was selected and published in the spring edition of *Confluence*, a literary publication of the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Program. His poem is much more than an ode to his late mother as she journeyed through the difficult stages of Alzheimer's. It is also a story of trust.

Ludley explains how his relationship with his mother influenced "Sundowners": "Her Alzheimer's was a journey in itself. It was worse after she forgot who I was. When your mother forgets you, doesn't know you anymore, it's a little death, as I say in my poem. My mother made possible whatever success I have now in life. Her love was unequivocal, and I loved her back. The worst part was a symptom of Alzheimer's called Sundowners Syndrome; that's why the poem is entitled "Sundowners."

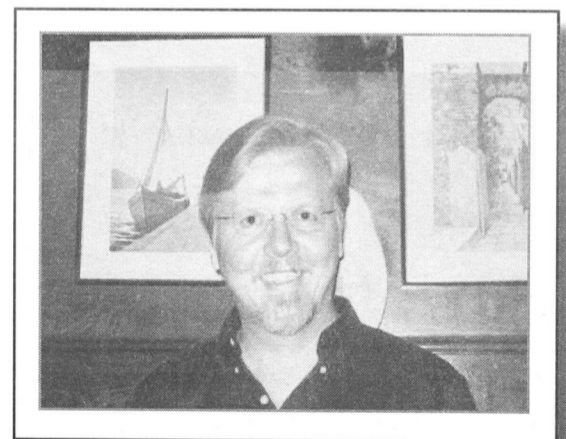
Ludley continues, "This syndrome comes out at night, like a ghost in the mind. With it, one hallucinates and becomes paranoid. My poem deals extensively with that. But it goes beyond a mere look at the illness she suffered and involves issues of trust and our different conceptions of reality. It begins with an experience I had with

my first son, when he was little, involving trust, and moves into my mother's journey, her many questions, and, finally, the end, beyond the Alzheimer's."

Ludley advises students to pursue their dreams as he did, as he claims that, "It's never too late."

"It's an old line, but, truly, do what you love. If you dream of being an artist, of writing, of whatever, make time to do it. We do not know if our lives will be long or short, or if we'll even live to retirement. Do not base it on salary or what your uncle did. Base it on what really would have meaning for you in this lifetime, so that when you're old, you could look back and ask, 'What have I done that made a difference in this life, that did some good, and that meant more than a paycheck or a prestigious car' which is all 'dust in the wind' in the end and says nothing of your worth. There's nothing wrong with finally achieving your dreams when you're old, but never postpone your dreams while you're young."

Although Dr. Ludley enjoys creative writing, that isn't his only hobby. He also enjoys collecting political campaign buttons and other paraphernalia. He's even collected something with President Obama's actual signature.



With the recent success of his latest work, Ludley still has others in progress. One of his works

in progress is entitled *Buffalo Fandango*. It is tied to his own experiences while traveling in the west. This novel also references Native-American mythology. Ludley recognizes that the editing process is extremely time consuming, but hopes to finish the process within the next year. He is also currently taking steps to ensure the success and publication of this work as he did with "Sundowners." Ludley has now joined the ranks of many other published Clayton State professors, and the future appears to have more to offer this talented writer.





# "DAY OF SILENCE"

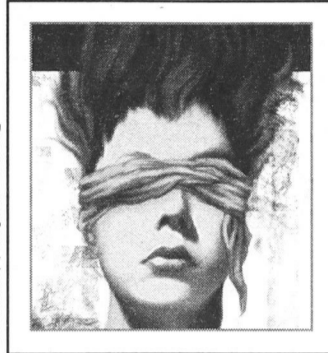


PHOTO BY LIS MITCHELL

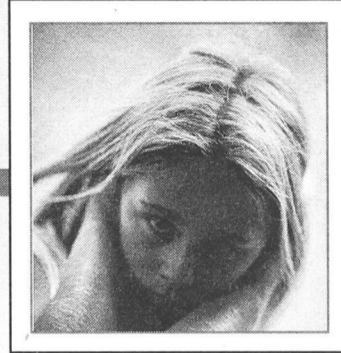
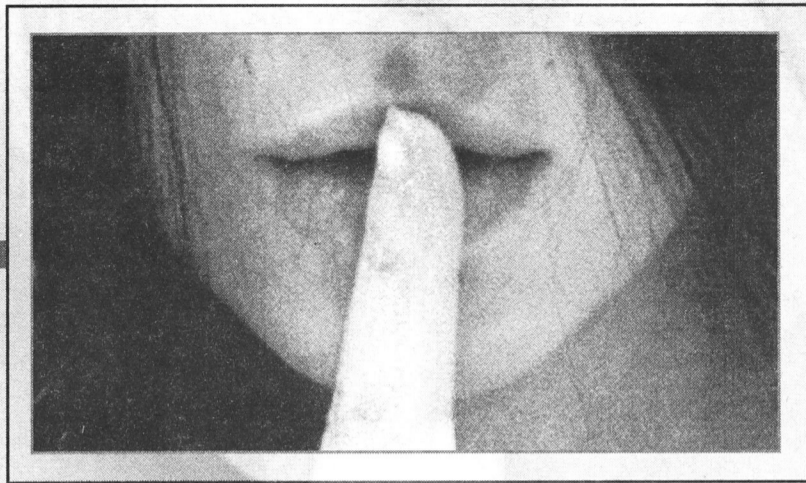


PHOTO BY TRACIE TAYLOR

## GSA EVENT A SUCCESS!

by Lance Mealer

The Clayton State Gay-Straight Alliance would like to formally thank all the participants and the supporters of The First Annual Day of Silence. We would like to especially recognize the History Society and their members for the outstanding and generous support they provided to help us make this event such a huge success. We would also like to thank the many other organizations that helped make this event a success.

A Day of Silence was observed at Clayton State University on Thursday, April 16th from 6a.m. to 6p.m.; with over 25 participants and 50 supporters the GSA feels the First Day of Silence was a tremendous success. Participants in The Day of Silence agreed not to speak for the entire day between the hours of 6a.m. and 6p.m. This silence included a halt to not only speaking, it also prohibited cell phone usage, texting, e-mailing and other social

networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc...). In essence all communication was halted for the twelve hours during the event.

Safe Zones were set up throughout campus to provide a safe haven for those participants who wanted a respite and to reassure them that they were not alone in their participation. Safe Zones were sponsored by various organizations and departments of the University. Some supporters of The Day of Silence were not able to make a commitment for the full day (due to class assignments or work related issues). However, many agreed to volunteer their time in a Safe Zone and help with the logistics of the event.

During the time that supporters volunteered, they agreed to remain silent while in the Safe Zone to show their support of the cause. At 5:30p.m., all participants and supporters gathered in

the University Quad and stood in silence until 6p.m. At this time they officially broke the silence by shouting "CSU broke the Silence!" representing Clayton State's support of diversity and the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Community on campus.

The purpose of The Day of Silence was to bring attention to the bullying, harassing, and name-calling the LGBT Community faces that ultimately silence their voices. By remaining silent for one day the participants reflected on how they have been silenced and it creates a desire to no longer be silent about LGBT harassment. It also shows those that did not participate how the silencing affects them. The absence of hearing your friend's voice or classmate's thoughts in a discussion proves that all people should have a voice and be able to be themselves, at all times.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATHEMATICS FACULTY FORM WISTEM

by Ciji Fox

Mary Hudachek-Buswell, Kim Gardner, Yvette Gardner, Cherie Long and Catherine Matos are all women faculty members at Clayton State University in the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), who recently decided to start an organization for female students called WiSTEM.

"We saw the need to mentor and encourage women in these fields," says Hudachek-Buswell. "We have gathered women faculty from each of these areas to mentor Clayton State University women who have a need to connect with other women in these disciplines.

As the new group emerges, their intent is to motivate, inspire, network and connect

women who are interested in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics.

There are several benefits to students who participate. "We are making study resources available, creating a network of study groups, creating opportunities for women at the junior/senior rank to lead women, and having a support system in place that the women can fall back on when they encounter difficulties in their pursuit of academic studies," Hudachek-Buswell explains. "We make university resources more approachable and attempt to answer questions they may have."

WiSTEM looks forward to the future of their organization. Their next campus meeting

will take place on April 23, 2009 in the CSU dining services Faculty Dining Room from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. They will discuss future plans for the growth of WiSTEM and also finalize an event to be held at the Atlanta Botanical Garden at the end of the semester.

For more information about WiSTEM contact Mary Hudachek-Buswell at [MaryHudachekBuswell@clayton.edu](mailto:MaryHudachekBuswell@clayton.edu)

REVIEW OF THE GRAPHIC NOVEL: **WATCHMEN**

by Christopher L. Wilkerson

President Richard Nixon is elected for a fifth term, vigilantism is outlawed, and tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union are at an all time high as a nuclear holocaust seems imminent. These events set the tone for Alan Moore's *Watchmen*. Originally released as a twelve-issue limited series comic book published by DC comics between 1986 and 1987, and later released as a graphic novel, *Watchmen* presents an alternate history in which the emergence of costumed vigilantes in the late 1930s and early 1940s have altered or impacted many historical events.

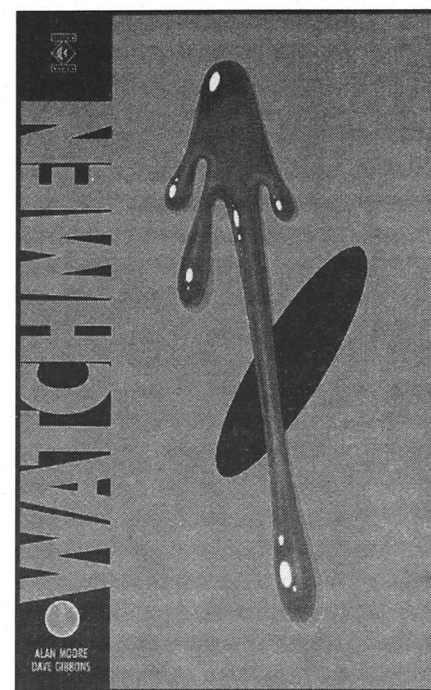
Set in 1985, the murder of government agent, Edward Blake (a.k.a The Comedian) sets the plot in motion. Working against the doomsday clock, a half-insane vigilante, Rorschach, works to uncover a plot to assassinate superheroes. However, in the midst of his investigation, he unearths a plan that may threaten millions of civilian lives.

Moore's *Watchmen* gives readers a chance to take a semi-realistic look at the world of superheroes in relation to our own world. Akin to Frank Miller's *The Dark Knight*, *Watchmen* addresses issues such as power, control, and identity crisis during a time in which people struggled to reaffirm their identity after three

decades of immense change. Eliminating the campy elements of comics in the past, *Watchmen* borrows elements of a great mystery/suspense novel and mixes it with the ingredients of a summer action blockbuster.

For those readers who haven't seen the film adaptation of *Watchmen* yet, this writer highly recommends that you read the graphic novel first. If you've seen the movie, I still recommend that you read the graphic novel. While the recent film adaptation brings *Watchmen* to life with a great cast and a soundtrack featuring artists such as Bob Dylan, Simon and Garfunkel, and Jimi Hendrix, it leaves out a good portion of the history that plays a pivotal role in the graphic novel.

With mature and exotic artwork by renowned comic book artist, Dave Gibbons, one may find that *Watchmen* isn't their parent's typical villain of the week comic book. In the end, not only are readers left to determine the fate of the world presented at the beginning of the novel, they are also left to think about how the choices one makes can affect the world around him or her. On a scale of four happy faces, I give *Watchmen* all four. Visit your local bookstore and pick up a copy today!



*WATCHMEN*, written by Alan Moore, Illustrated by Dave Gibbons.

Photo Courtesy of the Associated Press

THE IMPORTANCE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION

by Santibra McDowell

While national reports indicate the need for Americans to be knowledgeable about languages other than English, only a few states actually require a foreign language to be taught in elementary schools.

Local districts are one reason foreign language is included for most elementary school programs, such as the Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES) in Pennsylvania. This program offers courses starting in primary school and continuing through high school. However, due to a lack of support from the state and federal government, districts continue to face challenges in employing programs like FLES.

The primary obstacle is the failure to recognize the benefits of early foreign language studies. It is incumbent upon school officials to stress to the state and federal government the need for graduates to be prepared to live and work in a global environment. Many language programs not only instruct students in how to speak another



Photo Courtesy of NanoComputer Dream Team [www.nanocomputer.com]

language, they also enable students to be more aware and knowledgeable of other cultures they might encounter. It is also important to understand that if a child develops foreign language skills at a very early age, then they will be more adept at that language as an adult.

Clayton State University currently offers two foreign language minor programs in Spanish and French. The first classes taken for Spanish and French begin at the 2000 level, and each minor requires an additional four 3000-4000 upper level classes. Though most natives are not bilingual, obtaining a foreign language degree improves your ability to set yourself apart from others in the work place and in life. Dr. Joe Johnson, Associate Professor of Foreign Languages states, "No one has ever lost a job opportunity because they spoke a second language." Students should be enthusiastic about learning a second language since it offers better job opportunities and, perhaps, an increase in salary.

THE SOCIETY FOR ADVANCEMENT OF MANAGEMENT

by Christie Jarrett



TAKES 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE IN ANNUAL COMPETITION



The Society for Advancement of Management (SAM) team recently won the third place award in the SAM annual case competition undergraduate division, hosted in Las Vegas, NV. The Conference

consisted of several hundred students, practicing managers, and faculty from across the U.S. along with representation from various foreign countries.

Clayton State team members Jennifer Bowden (Green Bay, WI), Kristy Clabaugh (Griffin), Carly Hutchison (Peachtree City), Michael Ivie (Stockbridge) and Adetola Ogun (Marietta) attended and gained national recognition for the team. Dr. Jacob Chacko Dean of the Clayton State School of Business explains, "During the competition the teams present their case before a group of judges. This year there were 40-50 schools in the undergraduate division."

The competition combines management, marketing,

accounting, economics, finance, and logistics. As an organization, SAM focuses on skills such as: goal setting, planning, organizing, project management, budgeting, leadership, marketing, and public relations. The mission of SAM is to provide an opportunity for the members to improve the professional quality of their knowledge.

"Clayton State University has the largest chapter in the country with 180 members," says Chacko. "For the last seven years we have won the most active chapter award!"

A big congratulation goes out the Clayton State chapter of SAM and the School of Business for a fantastic performance.

po-ə-tre  
Poetry



[2] writing that formulates a concentrated imaginative awareness of experience in language chosen and arranged to create a specific emotional response through meaning, sound, and rhythm.

[3] b. Beauty of expression

### Pages ...

By James Waldon

As I turn the pages of my mind I see a picture of an image so divine  
No high lighter to underline; it just stood out so my thoughts traced it...  
I'm talking to the sky asking "what do you see?"  
So focused and concentrated that I almost forgot to blink  
I just I'm at the brink of revelation; a vast imagination stood out  
If the pages weren't so tangible, I'm almost sure I'd doubt  
But surely everyone wakes up and expects the wind to breathe  
So as these pages begin to add up the story seems more complete  
And for some strange reason it's like a walking genre;  
Never knowing the stages of the plot until you fall into tomorrow  
So much sorrow, the table of contents foresaw so much grief  
So the pen and notebook is set aside just to interpret what one sees  
But these pages are all numbered, set on the Wheel of Seasons;  
each with a specific place for a specific reasons  
I imagine the author scheming at the edge of His own suspense  
Knowing a perfect ending to a blurry beginning to come to ones defense  
Bent, by trials and terror a bookmark is only temporary  
Ignited with the fuels of faith, the power makes all warfare cease  
Sighs of relief...a sign of release  
Just to know each page holds a piece if the story, each wave a piece of the glory  
Do share...  
And if the critics show any interest mankind must care  
But if the pages are talking to the womb of purpose,  
then there must be a time when destiny starts birthing  
Caught in a whiff of critical analysis and opinionated interest  
Seems like these pages can hold many alternate endings,  
just a result of costly decisions that left the straight bended  
and the narrow is now insignificant  
To place so much importance on mental metaphors  
these pages are full of emotional similes  
And only the most creative author knows  
these pages have potential to float throughout history  
So each structure of a sentence is simply, meant to be  
Thinking the pages' words paint the most powerful picture  
Not one that's concrete, not one that's given  
but this picture on a page one must go inside to reveal it  
And work their faith to fulfill it...  
Write the vision and chase it  
Turn each page 'til you make it  
Until...the end.

### Desert

By Zaab Para

The barrenness of the Desert is a place where the unimportant distractions of life are absent

In the Desert a person is stripped down to the barest layer of their

Intention, Character and Behavior

This Nexus is the only place that

one can truly search, find

examine and fulfill

one's Purpose in life

A place free from the petty, miniscule

unimportant, craven, vulgar, despicable

demeaning, absurdities of life

A place filled with the weighty, necessary

good, honorable, dignified

wondrous reality and

purpose of Existence

The Desert

Do not be afraid to Go Into the Desert!!!

### The Promise

By Virginia Bevill

The sound of the clock awakens me.

The warmth of the sun on my skin

Energizes me.

Preparing me,

for the sweet accolades of success:

The crowd stands,

The audience cheers,

As tears of joy flow freely

down my face.

I am finally whole,

Finally full,

Finally free ...until...

The silence falls,

dreams turn to black,

as I awaken to find

the void of a new day

filled with promises for tomorrow.

### What I Am

By Jennifer Sawyer

I am a revolving door watching people come and go.

They just stop by to say "hello".

They say that they'll be around,

But the next day they cannot be found.

They tell you they'll come back some day,

But that is only something they say.

The truth is, they're only passers though.

They don't know that they've changed you.

Their memories with you will be like a gem.

And you'll never be able to thank them.

CARTOONS



APRIL 2009

HOROSCOPES

**AQUARIUS** Jan 20 - Feb 18

Ask and it shall be yours this month, Aquarius. Choose your words wisely and be careful not to ask for something that you may not really want or need. Now is the time to make the connections that will help further your goals for your future and pave your way to success. Be resourceful and don't be afraid to simply ask for what you truly deserve.

**PISCES** Feb 19 - Mar 20

Take the time to enjoy life. While the past few months may have been tough, there is a season for everything. You must endure both the good and the bad to fully live life to the fullest. Don't dwell on the past and become stagnant. Learn from it and be confident that your time to shine is drawing closer.

**ARIES** Mar 21 - Apr 19

You have the power to make a change. Things may have been a bit hectic lately and you may feel that you have been in a spiritual limbo; now is the time to take charge. Don't let fear stop you from moving forward with your life. Do what makes YOU happy and stop letting others dissuade you from reaching your own goals. Set them and strive towards them, now.

**TAURUS** Apr 20 - May 20

Think outside of the box this month. Those unresolved issues that have been haunting you are not going to go away all by themselves. It is time to find a resolution. Step back and look at your problems from a different angle. Don't over think things. The solution is there waiting for you to find it. Stays focused and move ahead.

**GEMINI** May 21 - Jun 21

There is a master plan for all things and now is the time they start to come to fruition for you. Prepare yourself for change this month. You will make great strides towards achieving the goals you have set for yourself. Take the time to enjoy them and do NOT be overly critical of yourself and what you have left to achieve. You will succeed, with time. Be patient and enjoy the present.

**CANCER** Jun 22 - Jul 22

New opportunities are headed your way. Be careful not to overlook them. You will have to make some tough choices this month. Stand firm and do not sacrifice yourself or your morals for ill gotten gains. It is not worth it. Keep your eyes open and take advantage of those opportunities that actually mean something. These may not be the easiest or obvious choices, but they will benefit you the

most, in the long run.

**LEO** Jul 23 - Aug 22

The past month has been an emotional one for you, but your worries will soon be over. Listen to the advice that others give you and consider following through with the plans that you have laid out for yourself. Nothing in life (that is worth having) is easy. Earn what you are due and you will enjoy it that much more in the end.

**VIRGO** Aug 23 - Sep 22

This is a time of transformation for you. Don't be afraid to take on new tasks or learn a new skill. Step outside of your comfort zone and try something new. You may discover a hidden talent that will help you open new doors to success. Go ahead and jump. If you don't you may be left with regret, later.

**LIBRA** Sep 23 - Oct 22

The seasons are changing and so is your life. Both your personal and work lives are in a period of metamorphosis. Keep your eyes forward and reach for the stars. You have the power to blossom and grow. Don't let anyone hold you back. Go forth and embrace this time of transformation. The reward is yours for the taking.

**SCORPIO** Oct 23 - Nov 21

Be careful not to rely too much on others. Take responsibility for your own actions and don't be afraid of failure. Taking risks will take you one step closer to achieving your goals. Depending on others will inevitably only slow you down in the end. Take the reigns and YOU lead the way, for a change.

**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22 - Dec 21

Choose your words carefully. Do not leave anything open for misinterpretation. You may encounter someone trying to take advantage of you this month, so keep your eyes and ears open. Don't be afraid to do a little research and find out "the truth" behind the scenes. If you wait for the answers (instead of seeking them out yourself) you will be met with failure.

**CAPRICORN** Dec 22 - Jan 19

Be sure to act, not react. You may be faced with new challenges this month that may test your patience. Be aware of your weaknesses before someone else discovers them and takes advantage of the situation. Know yourself and also be aware of how others perceive you. First impressions may not be everything, but perceptions are lasting.

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----- HURRY! IT'S NOT TOO LATE -----

If you have ever wanted to write, photograph or work with a newspaper in some capacity, please act NOW.

The Bent Tree is a student run newspaper and is currently offering 2 courses that will allow you to work for the paper and receive college credit. JOUR 3011 allows students to develop interviewing, reporting, writing and editing techniques that are essential to producing an informative newspaper.

JOUR 3012 allows students to develop skills related to photography, video, layout, and web design as well as becoming familiar with the day to day workings of the newspaper.

Classes will require weekly sessions with a member of the executive staff and monthly general meetings.

For more information please contact Dr. Randy Clark at [RandyClark@Clayton.edu](mailto:RandyClark@Clayton.edu).

If you are interested in contributing but are not currently able to commit to a Journalism Class at this time we are accepting freelance work.

For more information on freelance work please email [Freelance@thebenttree.org](mailto:Freelance@thebenttree.org)