

KEVIN LILES/THE BENT TREE

BACK TO THE GRIND: Chris Polk, 19, a CSU pre-engineering major, studies in the University Center cafeteria Monday afternoon.

Campus Upgrades at CSU

By Jennifer Sawyer
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Things are a bit safer around CSU.

Many students may remember the parking hassles last semester when several lots were closed off. Newer, brighter light fixtures were installed in lots C and D, which are adjacent to Technology building and the Arts and Sciences building.

"You almost have to wear sunglasses," said Bobby Hamil, director of CSU Public Safety, of the new fixtures. He explained that those lots have the largest concentration of students, which is why they were completed first.

When money becomes available, most, if not all, of the parking lot lights around campus will be replaced, Hamil said. In the meantime, all the bulbs in the older fixtures have been replaced to ensure that they are as bright as possible.

"All of these improvements had to do with safety," Hamil said. He added that there were no criminal incidents that led to the installation of the new fixtures.

Improvements were also made to all of the handicap parking spaces on campus. Hamil said this was done to ensure that the spaces were in compliance with Federal law. In addition to making sure there were enough handicap spaces, many of them were also

modified to meet Federal criteria. Crews were busy for a few weeks repaving the lot, re-stripping the spaces, and lowering the curbing for wheelchairs.

The handicap space improvements had to do not only with compliance of federal law, but also with the safety of the students, Hamil said. Lowering the ramp makes it easier for students using wheelchairs to get back and forth from the buildings to the parking lot.

Despite recent budget shortfalls, which included several furlough days for faculty last semester, the improvements were made in the name of safety.

Upgrades continued on page 5

Mystery Shopping Can Mean Extra Cash

Attention to detail required; Beware of scams when searching for companies to work for.

By Janine Herrera
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With the current economic conditions, extra money can always be useful for college students. Becoming a mystery shopper may be a good alternative to supplement students' incomes during school breaks, or between classes.

A mystery shopper's purpose is to evaluate a service or product. For example, a mystery shopper's assignment might be to visit a local restaurant and rate the food and service. Considering the recent economic downfall, many more people, including students, are taking advantage of this type of work.

"It's a misnomer that this work is only for stay-at-home moms," said Kelly Hancock, a spokesperson for the Mystery Shoppers Providers Association. "Without a doubt though, a significant number of people who wouldn't normally do this are doing it."

The MSPA works with more than 260 companies around the world, working with them in setting standards for mystery shopping.

Mystery continued on page 5

New Masters Research Program Offers Hands-On Experience

By Jennifer Sawyer
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New this semester, CSU will begin offering a Master of Archival Studies (MAS) degree.

This program will prepare archivists in the 21st Century, emphasizing technological influence on creation, preservation, and access to the growing world of information. This program will blend traditional knowledge, technology, and experiential learning will make Clayton State's MAS program distinctive from other programs

offered in the state.

CSU's proximity to the Georgia and National Archives, which is located just outside the school's main entrance, is one reason the program was developed here.

The program's curriculum aligns with guidelines set forth by the Society of American Archivists. Students enrolled in this program will complete 18 hours of core archival knowledge. They will spend another 18 hours of interdisciplinary coursework in information technology, conservation, research, historical methods, and other disciplines. A final 9 hours

will be reserved for research methods and internships, or thesis.

This will make the seventh master's degree program offered at CSU. The application and documentation deadline to begin in summer 2010 is March 1. Application and documentation deadline to begin in fall 2010 is July 1.

For more information about the Master of Archival Studies program, contact Dr. Jeff Chastine, associate dean of College of Information and Mathematical Sciences: jeffchastine@clayton.edu or call 678-466-4409.



KEVIN LILES/THE BENT TREE

The proximity of the Georgia and National Archives make the new MAS degree made CSU an ideal school for the degree

Swine Flu Vaccines Still Available

By Jamie Appling
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Though 2009 is over, the strand of the H1N1 virus from last year is still here. To help students, faculty and the community fight the virus, the University Health Services will be offering vaccines for the virus until supplies run out. Appointments are preferred, but anyone can stop by the UHS office to receive a vaccine. Nasal, as well as injection, vaccines are available.

"I'm glad the school provided the vaccines for students," said Dana

Hudson, a CSU nursing student who helped administer the vaccines last semester during a two hour shift.

"The school did a good job announcing the vaccines because it was very busy. I probably gave 20 vaccines in two hours."

The flu season typically lasts from November to April each year.

As an update to the national H1N1 "Swine Flu" pandemic, the CDC says on its Web site: "Overall flu activity decreased slightly in the United States during the week of December 20-26, 2009. The number of states reporting widespread flu activity decreased from 7 to 4."

According to the CDC, there have been 37,778 hospitalizations of the H1N1 virus and 1,735 deaths from August 30, 2009 to January 2, 2010.

Though H1N1 activity appears to be decreasing, the CDC says that the vaccine is the best way to protect against the virus. Other helpful hints for preventing the swine flu include avoiding people who are sick and washing your hands frequently with soap and water, as the virus is thought to mainly spread from person to-person contact.

Symptoms of the H1N1 flu includes fatigue, fever, sore throat, muscle aches, chills and sometimes coughing

and sneezing.

If you're sick, it is recommended that you stay home from school or work to reduce the risk of infecting others. If these symptoms persist, you should see a health care provider.

Swine flu vaccines are available for free in the University Health Services for any currently enrolled Clayton State student, and cost \$5 to those in the community.

Following is the business hours for University Health Services: Monday 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Friday 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



KEVIN LILES/THE BENT TREE

WALKING ON WATER: A couple of swans try to navigate the small pond just outside the University Center Tuesday afternoon.

Resolving the Issue of Resolutions

By Jamie Appling
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It's that time of year again, the first of January; the time of the year when people resolve to be better than the year before. 2010 is the beginning of a new year and a chance to start over fresh. The beginning of a new semester gives you the opportunity to bring up your GPA to make up for the grades you made last semester. When asked to give the most common New Year's resolution for college students, several students at Clayton state felt that making good grades was an important goal to set for

the New Year. Other common new year's resolutions include eating right and staying healthy. Maybe, using the exercise equipment in the Student Activities Center for the first time?

Is it better to make a resolution and break it or to not set one at all? Many Clayton State students claimed that they didn't make any resolutions for 2010; either they never made resolutions in the past or go by the philosophy that resolutions were meant to be broken. Some students have a hard time keeping their own resolutions once they set them for the year, so for them it is better not to set them at all. Danielle

C, a senior accounting major offered some words for wisdom on how to keep a New Year's resolution "I think if you set realistic goals, especially ones that you can measure, then they

should be easy to keep. I think perhaps people might come up with a resolution and then forget all about it. If you're serious about wanting to keep them, you should write them down and

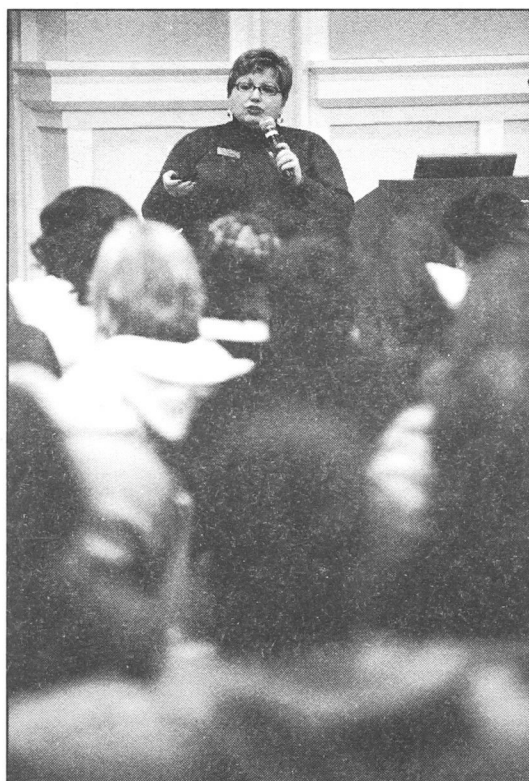
check up on how you're accomplishing that goal every month or so. The best way to motivate yourself towards a goal is to allow yourself small rewards when you reach checkpoints."

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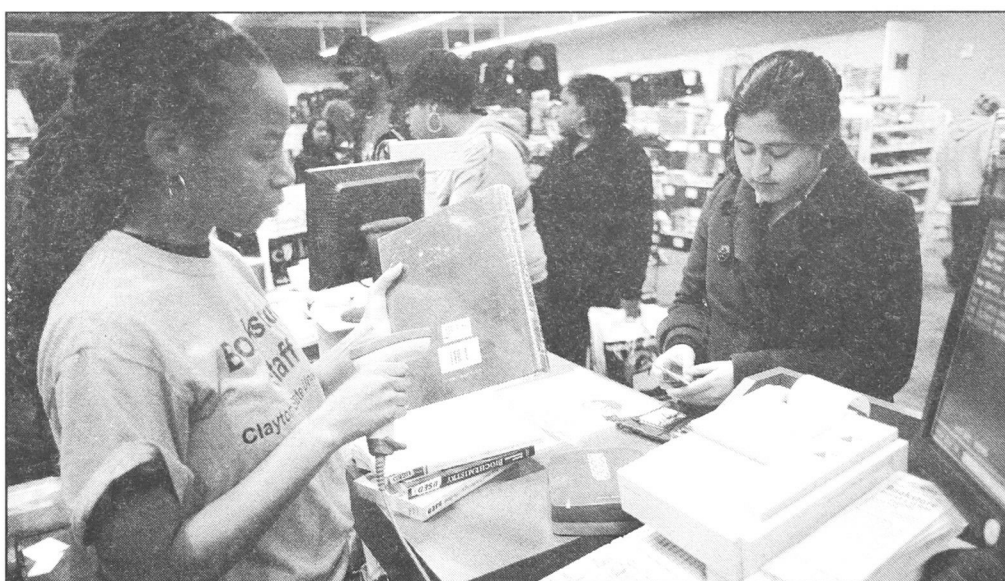
GETTING READY



PHOTOS BY KEVIN LILES/THE BENT TREE



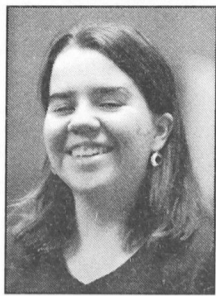
Clockwise from top: Nearly 300 CSU students attend New Student Orientation on January 6 at the Student Activities Center; CSU bookstore cashier Shauniece Cornelius checks out biology major Rocio Salomon; Lakeisha Jones (center) waits in line last week at the CSU Bookstore; Pat Barton, director of the CSU Financial Aid office, speaks to students during New Student Orientation.



When Social Connections Become Addictions

By Jennifer Sawyer

OK. So I will admit it: I may be addicted to Facebook applications. Maybe just a



tiny bit. Is there a 12-step program out there? Facebookers Anonymous?

It is hard not to spend too much time tending your farms, feeding your fish, cooking in your cafes, looking at bumper stickers, or running your amusement park. I do not care so much about seeing what everyone is up to or all of the useless other things that Facebook notifies me of, like who is friends with whom now. However, I hate seeing my fish floating upside down in their fish tank because I forgot feed them.

I know that I personally occasionally spend more time than I would like to on Facebook. What about other college students? How does a college student balance all of their activities enough to

even be on a social networking site like Facebook? I know that we have enough on our schedules between jobs, family, class meetings, and coursework to barely have enough time to squeeze sleeping in somewhere. I became

curious just how much time the average student spent on the site. Although I personally have never let it get this

far, I wondered if being on Facebook ever cut into other student's study time or caused them to become delinquent on their homework.

I polled several Clayton State students to see how much time they spend on Facebook. I also asked them how many "apps" or programs they regularly use on the Web site.

The amount of time each student spends on Facebook varies, of course, depending on who you ask. Nursing student Jamie Appling says she spends very little time on the Web site each week. She says

the things she uses most are the chat feature and the applications Bumper Stickers and Pieces of Flair. Jamie gave me some good advice as well, "Facebook apps are extremely addictive. You have to be selective in which ones you do

or you will waste your entire life on Facebook."

Jamie spends the least time of any of the students that I polled.

English student, Andrew Cribb is at the lower end of the average that most students spend. He says he spends about two hours a week on Facebook, primarily on the applications Last.FM, LibraryThing, and Posterous. Another English student, Fern Matheson, is at the higher end of the average. She uses seven Facebook apps regularly, and spends between five to six hours each week on Facebook.

Most of the students that I interviewed seem to manage their time on Facebook well. Though some students, like Shannon Polson, said that they

probably spend too much time on the site, none indicated that it interfered with their lives or their schoolwork.

I currently use seven Facebook applications (please feel free to chuckle at the randomness). I use Café World, Roller Coaster Kingdom, Fishville, Mafia Wars, Fish World, Restaurant City, and occasionally (fluff) Friends. My seven apps puts me on the high side of the average with Fern.

So maybe I do spend a little too much time on Facebook. But at least I know that I'm only on the high side of average. Since spring semester is about to crank up, it might be a good idea to cut down on the time I spend on "apps" or take a break from them altogether. It might also be a good time to make Clayton State the founding branch of a Facebook 12-step program. "Hi, my name is Jennifer, and I'm a Facebook apps addict."

Jennifer Sawyer is co-editor of The Bent Tree. She can be contacted at jsawyer1@student.clayton.edu. To submit your own column to The Bent Tree, submit it to jsawyer1@student.clayton.edu or kliles@student.clayton.edu.

“ So maybe I do spend a little too much time on Facebook. But at least I know that I'm only on the high side of average. ”

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SPECIAL THANKS TO FACULTY
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THE BENT TREE

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 online. 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.



KEVIN LILES/THE BENT TREE

New light fixtures in parking lots C and D are some of the improvements that have taken place on campus.

Parts of campus get improvements: more to come

continued from page 1

Upgrades

"Even with the budget constraints, safety is our first concern," said Darren Thomas, assistant director of Building Operations, Maintenance & Utilities.

In addition to the lights and the handicapped parking spaces, there have also been improvements inside the buildings at Clayton State.

Many of the bathrooms have undergone major renovation in the last year.

Some Clayton State students may remember when upside-down toilets lined the halls of the Arts and Sciences building. These were part of an effort to clean up the bathrooms in several buildings around campus. The restrooms in the Arts

and Sciences building, Clayton Hall (former the Technology building), and the CE have all undergone renovations. All three of these buildings have received new toilets, new tile, and new sink fixtures. Also, all of the bathrooms around the campus have gotten new paper towel dispensers with push bars.

Mystery Shopping offers flexible hours and pay

continued from page 1

Mystery

Registering with a company that specializes in this type of work is the first step to becoming a mystery shopper. Doing an online search will yield thousands of results, but many of these are scams, Hancock said.

"Some websites require that you pay for a list of opportunities, and some of these are legitimate," she said. "But in reality, you shouldn't have to pay."

Her best advice is to work for a company that is an MSPA member.

There are a few things you will need to understand and do, before you are off and shopping while making some extra money during these tough economic times.

Mystery shopping is not always shopping. It sometimes consists of interviewing people, taking paid surveys, doing demonstrations at retail outlets, merchandising and taking pictures of foreclosure homes. Some assignments require you to make a minimal purchase, which

is refunded when the assignment is completed.

Hancock said attention to detail is essential when mystery shopping. "You may be asked to ask certain questions of sales associates to make sure they're knowledgeable about the product," she said. Also, mystery shoppers may be given a list of criteria to evaluate.

Because mystery shoppers are independent, they are responsible for paying the IRS self-employment tax for earnings totaling \$400 or more. Take time to go online to the Internal Revenue's website for guidelines regarding your particular situation. Their official website is: www.irs.gov. There are also valuable links available on the site to assist in tax calculations and a printable version of the form W-9 used to report independent contracting earnings to the government.

The compensation for a single mystery shopping can will vary greatly, depending on the type of work and the length of the assign-

ment. Working as a mystery shopper will offer a flexible schedule; Some assignments are a one-time basis, daily, weekend only assignment, or it could go on indefinitely.

The great thing about mystery shopping is that it is up to you to choose the assignment best suited for your needs. For a list of companies that hire mystery shoppers, visit this website and complete a search: <http://www.mysteryshop.org/shoppers/>.

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for The Bent
Tree?**

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Home-coming week full of events

Staff reports

Homecoming this year is going all the way back to 1969. The theme is "From Hippie to Hip Hop & Beyond," in honor of the school's 40th anniversary. The centerpiece of this year's homecoming will be on Saturday, Jan. 30th, which will be the Peach Belt Conference basketball games between Clayton State and Flagler College. Here's a breakdown of Homecoming Week events:

Monday—Homecoming week will begin with a door decorating contest for the offices and departments of Clayton State;

Tuesday—The Homecoming King and Queen candidates will have a meet and greet and the host the annual penny drive;

Wednesday—Both the men's and women's basketball teams will host Armstrong Atlantic for a doubleheader. The women's game starts at 5:30 p.m. and the men's game begins at 7:30 p.m.;

Thursday—There will be a university pep rally during activities hour;

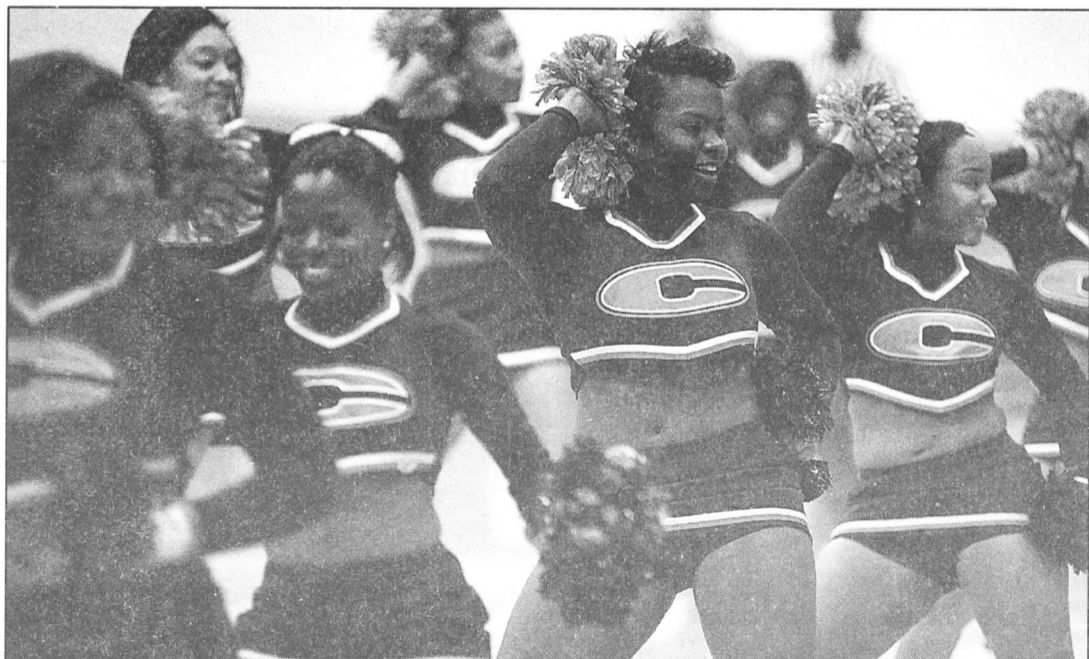
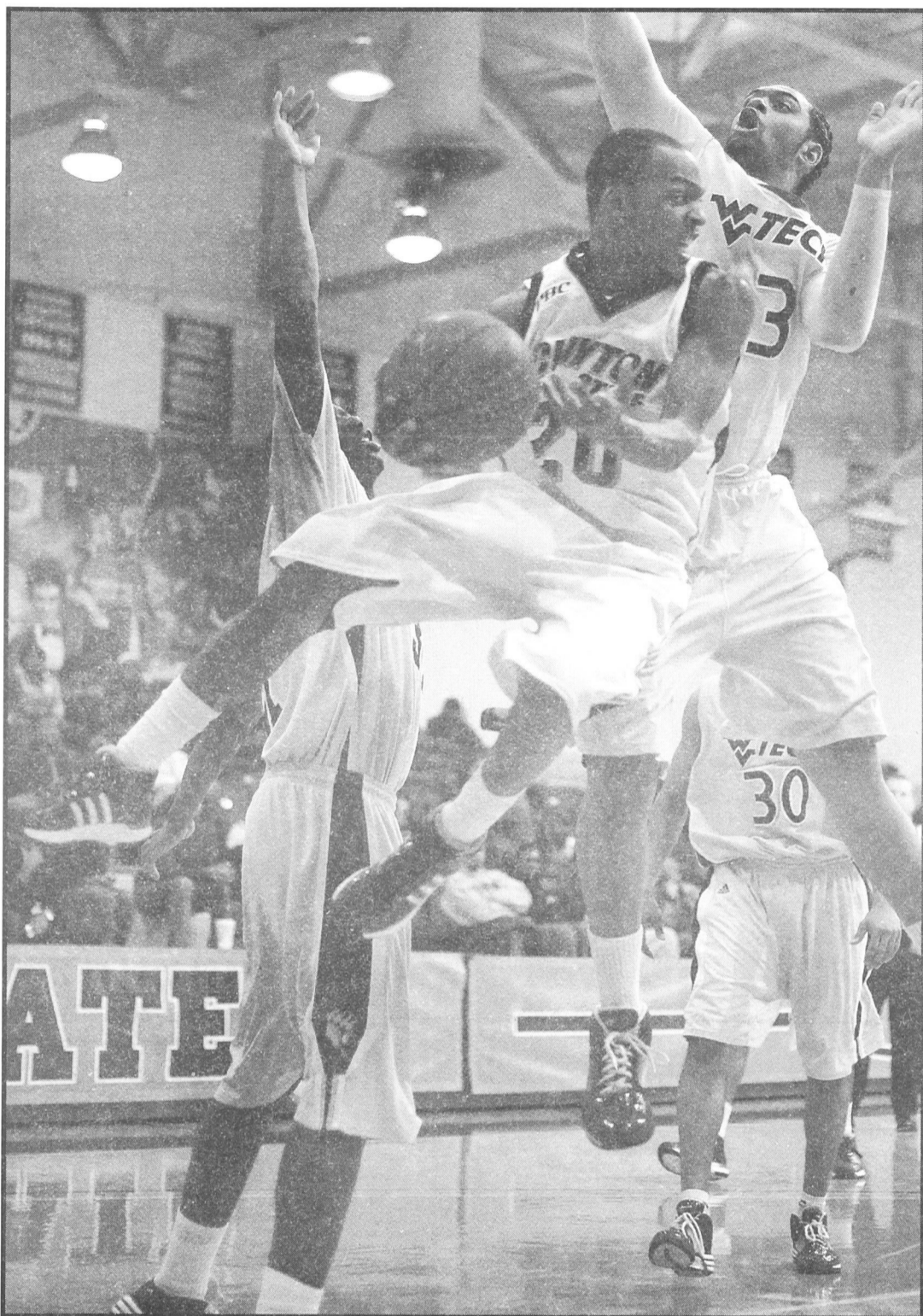
Friday—The Clayton State Alumni Association will sponsor its annual breakfast. That evening, the Campus Events Council will sponsor "Lakers After Dark";

Saturday—To start the day off, the colleges and schools of the university will have an open house. The Alumni Association will host a lunch at noon before the basketball games. The women's starts at 1:30 p.m. and the men's game tips off at 3:30 p.m. After the games, the Alumni Association will host an informal social at Boston's Restaurant and Sports Bar. The evening will end with a Homecoming Ball, including a formal coronation ceremony for the homecoming king and queen.

For more information about Homecoming activities or events, contact the director of Alumni Relations at gidrowell@clayton.edu or call 678-466-4477.

January 2010 Campus Events	11	12	13	14	15	16
	First Day of Weekday Classes	Las Vegas Name Tags on UC Main Street 11AM-2PM	Las Vegas night in the SAC ballroom 7PM-9PM	Student Involment Fair SAC ballroom 11AM-1:30PM LEAD the Way Seminar SAC ball- room 6PM	Deadline to sign up for Literary London study abroad	Saturday classes meet "Day On, and Not a Day Off" volunteering with Trees Atlanta
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
MLK holiday (no classes) 5K/10K road race at the Athletics & Firness Center Registration begins at 7AM and the race is at 8:30AM	MLK videos on UC Main Street 11:30AM- 2:30PM MLK legacy discus- sion 6PM in Laker Hall	From the Roots of a Tree: The Genealogy of Dr. Martin Luther King and An Introduc- tion to "Documeted Rights" presentations Room 327 Baker Center at the National Archives 11:30AM	MLK march in the UC quad 5:30PM MLK showcase at Spivey Hall 7PM	MLK videos on UC Main Street 11:30AM- 2:30PM		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Homecoming week kicks off	Homecoming King and Queen candidate meet and greet	CSU vs Arm- strong Atlantic basketball Women's game 5:30PM Men's game 7:30PM	Pep Rally	Alumni Association Annual Breakfast Lakers after Dark Last day to apply for summer 2010 graduation	Peach Belt Conference basketball CSU vs Flagler Women's game 1:30PM Men's game 3:30PM	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Workforce Recruitment Program for students with disabilities		Midterm for students enrolled in half semester session I.	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Valentine's Week begins!	Heart Snow Globes on UC Main Street 11AM-2PM	Last day to register to go indoor rock climbing at Georgia Rocks! Love Connection: Speed Dating Edition SAC Ballroom B 7PM-9PM	Loch Love Date Night in SAC ballrooms A and B 7PM-9PM			Remember! Tomorrow is Valentine's Day!

SPORTS



KEVIN LILES/THE BENT TREE

HOME GAME: The CSU Lakers men's basketball team beat West Virginia Tech 80-67 at home on Jan. 5. In the top photo, CSU guard Jonathan Austin (20) goes in for a basket against a WVT defender in the first half. Below, Laker cheerleaders entertain the crowd during a timeout. CSU guard Robert Murry (21) was the top scorer, making 19 points for the Lakers. The next game for both the women's and the men's squads is on Jan. 16 at home against USC Aiken.

Calendar of sporting events for January and February

***Home games in bold

Men's basketball

- Jan. 13 @ Columbus State 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 16 vs. USC Aiken 7:30 p.m.**
- Jan. 20 vs. Montevallo 7:30 p.m.**
- Jan. 23 vs. North Georgia 7:30 p.m.**
- Jan. 27 vs. Armstrong Atlantic 7:30 p.m.**
- Jan. 30 vs. Flagler College 1:30 p.m.**
- Feb. 3 @ Georgia Southwestern 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 6 @ Georgia College 3:30 p.m.
- Feb. 11 @ Lander 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 13 @ Francis Marion 3:30 p.m.
- Feb. 17 vs. Columbus State 7:30 p.m.**
- Feb. 20 @ Montevallo 3:30 p.m. (CST)
- Feb. 24 @ North Georgia 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 27 vs. Georgia Southwestern 7:30 p.m.**
- Mar. 4-7 Peach Belt Conference Tournament Aiken, S.C. TBA

Women's basketball

- Jan. 13 @ Columbus State 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 16 vs. USC Aiken 5:30 p.m.**
- Jan. 20 vs. Montevallo 5:30 p.m.**
- Jan. 23 vs. North Georgia 5:30 p.m.**
- Jan. 27 vs. Armstrong Atlantic 5:30 p.m.**
- Jan. 30 vs. Flagler College 3:30 p.m.**
- Feb. 3 @ Georgia Southwestern 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 6 @ Georgia College 1:30 p.m.
- Feb. 11 @ Lander 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 13 @ Francis Marion 1:30 p.m.
- Feb. 17 vs. Columbus State 5:30 p.m.**
- Feb. 20 @ Montevallo 1:30 p.m. (CST)
- Feb. 24 @ North Georgia 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 27 vs. Georgia Southwestern 5:30 p.m.**
- Mar. 4-7 Peach Belt Conference Tournament Aiken, SC TBA

Men's Golf

- Feb. 7-9 GolfWeek Invitational Orlando, FL
- Feb. 15-16 Matlock Invitational Lakeland, FL

Women's Tennis

- Feb. 13 @ Armstrong Atlantic 1:00 p.m.
- Feb. 14 vs. Emory 11:00 a.m.**
- Feb. 20 @ Columbus State 12:00 p.m.
- Feb. 21 @ Georgia Southwestern 12:00 p.m.
- Feb. 26 vs. North Georgia 1:00 p.m.**
- Feb. 27 vs. Lander 12:00 p.m.**

Track and Field

Indoor

- Jan. 31 Tiger Invite (Tennessee State) 9 a.m.
- Feb. 13 Hoosier Hills Invite (Indiana) 12 p.m.
- Feb. 14 DePauw Indoor Invite (DePauw) 11 a.m.
- Feb. 21 Clemson Tiger Invite (Clemson) 9 a.m.

***Outdoor competition begins March 7

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Want to write for the Bent Tree?

Contact us at:
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kliles@student.clayton.edu

What are you doing for Spring Break? How does volunteering in a rainforest sound? What about helping to renovate an apartment for a homeless family?

Contact The Department Of Campus Life for more Information on the Alternative Spring Break Programs
Student Activities Center
Suite 223
(678) 466- LIFE

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We have moved!! Come visit our new office in SAC 205.

We're located right next door to Clayton State Internet Radio

Got something to say? Submit it to Get Bent at getbentcsu@gmail.com