

SPRING 2006  
VOLUME I, NO. I

# THE LAKER CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY



BUILDING NAMED IN HONOR OF ALUMNUS:  
THE JAMES M. BAKER  
UNIVERSITY CENTER

KATRINA AID

GOING GLOBAL

SINGING ABROAD

STUDY AND SOCCER



## President's Message

**G**reetings from Clayton State University! We are very proud of the latest milestone in our growth. This past May, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia ratified the proposal to change our name to Clayton State University.

Why is our name change so significant? It signals that Clayton State has come of age. It signifies the beginning of a new era in the life of the University, almost a rite of passage from the old to the new... from a south metro Atlanta college to a comprehensive university. Most significantly, we will offer our first graduate program, the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, in the fall of 2006.

Other developments on campus include a new University logo, mailing address and telephone numbers as part of our Voice over Internet Protocol phone system. A brief contact list appears on the back cover of this publication, so that you can communicate easily with the University's departments.

There are many people to thank for their contributions to our continued growth, and this publication contains but a few of their stories. We are fortunate at Clayton State to have faculty and staff who are dedicated to their profession and to the success of our students. Most deserving of recognition are the students themselves who continue to seek higher education at Clayton State University and contribute to the economic growth and stability of our region. We have over 10,000 alumni represented in a multitude of professions.

It gives us great pleasure to present this new publication, which provides the opportunity to share with you news and information from across campus. Thank you for your interest in Clayton State University – please stay in touch with us.

Thomas K. Harden, President

The Laker Connection  
Volume I, No. 1

Dr. Thomas K. Harden, President

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### Letter from the Editor

**W**elcome to Clayton State University's magazine, "The Laker Connection." Whether you're an alumnus of Clayton Junior College, Clayton State College, Clayton College & State University or Clayton State University, this magazine is for you. "The Laker Connection" is also dedicated to all of the University's current students, faculty, staff and friends.

Leading off "The Laker Connection" is just about the biggest thing to happen on campus - the James M. Baker University Center. In point of fact, the Baker Center is the biggest single object on campus; 131,000 square feet worth of student center, classrooms, data drops, administrative, faculty and student offices, and technical and software support services. The University's "signature" building since it opened in August 2004, this unique structure is now named after one of the University's most distinguished alumni, James M. "Jim" Baker, III ('76).

Going further afield, we are focusing on several international aspects of Clayton State's programs and our people, with stories about the Spivey Hall Children's Choir in Central Europe, the expansion of our international programs for students and faculty, and the success of Clayton State's Nigerian soccer star Olaitan Yusuf.

You will also meet a couple of Clayton State nursing students who were part of a group of 20 Clayton State faculty and students who spent 10 days in Mississippi helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Finally, there's exciting news on the academic front - on November 16, 2005, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved Clayton State's first graduate-level program, the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies.

John Shiffert, Director  
Office of University Relations



### In the News...

The James M. Baker University Center is the hub of campus life. Named for distinguished alumnus James M. Baker, III ('76), the building is equipped with state of the art technology, ample classroom space and plenty of areas for students to come together and study.

**NAMING CEREMONY:** Above, VIPs attend the naming of the James M. Baker University Center.



JAMES M. BAKER  
UNIVERSITY CENTER

*Leaving a legacy...*

## THE JAMES M. BAKER UNIVERSITY CENTER

**C**LAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN evolving since its inception in 1968 when ground was first broken for Clayton Junior College. Part of that evolution has been to create and sustain partnerships which further the growth and mission of the institution. It is generally accepted that taxpayer dollars alone cannot sustain or develop any university to its fullest potential – it takes so much more to bring the superior facilities and programs to a campus and its community that will attract high-caliber faculty and exceptional students. As the economic tide ebbs and flows, it is supporters and alumni like Jim Baker who make the distinction between having a good university and having a great one.

James M. (Jim) Baker, III was born in Atlanta January 12, 1952 to Martha Ivey Baker and James M. Baker, Jr. He was the youngest of four siblings, Rebecca Baker Wimberly, Frank M. Baker, and Diane Baker Denney. Jim grew up in Hapeville, Ga., where he attended North Avenue Elementary school and graduated from Hapeville High School in June 1970. Shortly after his graduation, Jim's father passed away.

Like many high school graduates, Jim wasn't sure what he wanted to do or what direction he should go. A family friend and Jim's dentist, Dr. Claude Duncan, served in the Navy with Dr. Harry S. Downs, then president of the new Clayton Junior College (CJC) in Morrow, Ga., and suggested Jim consider going to the college.



**IN APPRECIATION:** Above, Jim Baker and Clayton State President Thomas K. Harden hold the artist's rendering of the James M. Baker University Center presented to Baker at the naming ceremony.

Jim's first impression of CJC was its remarkable physical characteristics. According to Jim, the secluded campus, its new buildings and forest-like environment was a beautiful place to go to school. "Pictures don't do it justice; you have to visit the campus to get the true impact of its beauty."

In 1971 Jim left Clayton State to pursue his already blossoming career in real estate. He moved to Detroit with the Regatta Development Corporation where he was responsible for the acquisition of airport related properties in New Orleans, Atlanta, Ft. Lauderdale, Memphis, Chicago and Detroit. During a recession in the real estate market in 1974, he moved back to Atlanta and Clayton State and, at age 23, started his own real estate brokerage firm, First Atlanta Realty. In 1975 Jim began building homes and later formed the Chaseland Companies; and, in 1976, Jim received his Associate of Arts in Business from Clayton Junior College.

By 1979 Chaseland was one of the larger home builders on the south side of Atlanta, and Jim was very busy with his companies and several business-related boards. From 1978-79 he served as vice president of the local Tri-County Chapter of the Homebuilders Association and as president from 1980-81. At the same time, he co-chaired the Ethics Committee for the Atlanta association and served on the State Board of Directors for the State association. From 1980-83 he was a director on the National Association Home Builders Board in Washington, D.C., and from 1983-85 he was economic vice president for the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce chairing the committee to oversee the writing of a 10-year, county-wide land use and transportation study for Clayton County by the Board of Commissioners.

In 1980 Jim began to focus on the development of commercial and industrial buildings and has been responsible for much of the positive development of the Southern Crescent, including Eagle's Landing, now a signature development for the region. But Jim's economic development impact is not limited to property development alone. He is also a founder of Community Capital Bank in Clayton County and American Trust Bank in Roswell and is currently involved in the development of the new South Point Mall in Henry County.



In 1994 he was appointed by Governor Zell Miller to the Children and Youth Coordinating Council and was re-appointed twice to the same council, once again by Miller and then by Governor Roy Barnes, serving a total of 10 years. He has served as a member of Clayton State University's School of Technology Advisory Committee and in 2004 was named Outstanding Alumni for Clayton State by his fellow alumni. Jim continues to serve as a director on Community Capital and American Trust Bank boards and serves as an independent trustee for the PMFM (Personal Mutual Fund Management) Mutual Fund.

Jim is the father of two grown children, Jay Baker (James M., IV) of Atlanta and Ashley Baker Brannen of Atlanta, wife of Joseph Chad Brannen. Jay is a homebuilder, and Ashley and her husband are attorneys. Jim is proud to leave this legacy to his children and the children of his partner and friend, the late Henry Lassiter. His hope for all of them is that they will carry forward the legacy by becoming leaders in their communities and perpetuating the dream their fathers began 25 years ago. Jim is also the very proud grandfather of Candler Barnes Brannen, named after Jim's good friend and one of Ashley's mentors, the late Judge Rowland Barnes.

"I am honored to have the University Center named after me," says Jim. "Thirty-five years have passed since I first attended Clayton Junior College. There are many more buildings now, and even though

“Clayton State University has become a regional university, and students have come from all over and even outside the United States. They have chosen Clayton State for its academic accomplishments.”



the student enrollment and growth has been quite significant, the beauty of the University still remains the same.

"Clayton State changed my life," he insists. "The people there and the professors - like Gene Hatfield and Doris Cash - gave me a deeper understanding that I was part of a bigger world. They helped me broaden my horizons and move forward in my career. The influence of my professors and my fellow students has been just as important to me and my career as the education I received."

by Leigh Duncan





## Nursing students assist Hurricane Katrina victims

The entire campus community salutes these outstanding students for their courage, compassion and professionalism.



**TWO TEAMS OF NURSING** students left the Clayton State University campus on Tuesday, September 6, 2005 and were actively involved in caring for the victims of Hurricane Katrina under the authority of the Mississippi Board of Nursing (MBON).

One group, under the direction of Assistant Professor of Nursing Dora Weir and Associate Professor of Nursing Dr. Karen Weaver ran a makeshift hospital at the First Baptist Church in Jackson, Ms., caring for about 40 patients.

A second group from Clayton State, which had originally planned to go to Hattiesburg, Ms., was actually sent to Biloxi, Ms., where they cared for sick patients in a shelter that had been set up at Biloxi High School. This group was under the direction of Instructor of Nursing Carrie Dodson, after Acting Department Chair of Nursing Dr. Sue Odom had to leave the group because of a family emergency.

Clayton State University senior nursing student Stacey Clements, who was with the Biloxi group, says she lived the ultimate clinical trial.

Clements reported that her group was traveling to Hattiesburg when they received a phone call that the shelter they were to stay in had become unstable and was being evacuated, because it was on the verge of

collapsing. As a result, Dodson's group stayed in Meridian, Ms., overnight and then headed to Jackson. Upon arriving in Jackson, the MBON decided they should go to the very badly damaged Biloxi area to serve in the makeshift shelter and hospital set up in Biloxi High School. They also drove down to the coast to see that area first hand.

"They went out with the Navy and National Guard troops, triaging people and giving emergency care," notes Dean of the School of Health Sciences Dr. Lisa Eichelberger, who spoke with the Biloxi group while they were in Mississippi. "They saw dysentery and other parasitic illnesses caused from [drinking] anything but bottled water."

"There is nothing like seeing the devastation in person; it's like nothing I had ever seen before," says Clements.

by Erin Fender

**DISASTER RELIEF TEAM:** Above Left, Clayton State nursing student and faculty volunteers gather before splitting into two groups and traveling to disaster stricken Mississippi. Above Collage, Pictures courtesy of nursing student Jocelyn Okoro.





## Going global: Clayton State expands its international presence

**T**hrough the efforts of Clayton State's growing Office of International Education (OIE), the University is going global with an increasing number of Clayton State students packing their bags – and books – to study abroad.

### "Growing" Global

**IN 2005, CLAYTON STATE SAW** a 45 percent increase in student study abroad participation, but this increase doesn't come as a surprise for Dr. Robert Welborn. As director of OIE, Welborn has focused his efforts towards adding more study abroad destinations both through the University System of Georgia's European Council and through self-developed programs.

And it's not just the students who are studying abroad – Clayton State professors teach abroad in places such as India, Paris, Greece, Italy and Chile and continue their own education in an international environment by attending faculty development seminars in Mexico and curriculum development seminars in Thailand.

### The World in Our Backyard

While Clayton State students stuff their suitcases, international students and professors unpack their bags here at the University.

In spring 2004, Clayton State hosted its first foreign exchange student who visited from England's University of Northumbria and then welcomed two more in fall 2005. What's more, OIE brings international professors and Fulbright Scholars to the campus, giving students the opportunity to benefit from the cul-

tural infusion that comes from studying under professors from places like Peru, India and Ghana.

In 2005, Clayton State received its second Fulbright-Hays grant from the US Department of Education. This \$62,000 grant sent five Clayton State University faculty members and 10 other area educators to Thailand for four weeks.

In addition to professors studying in Thailand, OIE's Welborn participated in the University's first faculty exchange program with Smt. Chandibai Himathmal Mansukhani College (CHMC) outside of Mumbai, India. Since his trip to CHMC, Clayton State has hosted CHMC physics professor Dr. Milind Vaidya and sent Clayton State University's second exchange participant, Psychology Professor Dr. Kitty Deering, to the Indian college.

### Get Packing

Come May 2006, a new wave of Clayton State students will make their way to countries all around the world. But no matter where they choose to earn their college credit abroad, Clayton State hopes each study abroad experience presents the opportunity for education, enrichment, growth and memories that will last a lifetime.

by Lauren Graves



**THE WORLD BEYOND:** Above, 2005 Fulbright Group at the Royal Grand Palace in Bangkok. Above Collage, Left to Right, Ruins in Cuzco, Peru photographed by Clayton State Assistant Professor of Mathematics Dr. Aprilya Lanz; Assistant Professor of Film and Media Studies Dr. Virginia Bonner and study abroad students pose in front of Rome's ruins; A ruin in Veracruz, Mexico, site of one of Clayton State's Maymester study abroad destinations; Clayton State President Thomas K. Harden and Director of International Education Dr. Robert Welborn with visiting physics professor Dr. Milind Vaidya from Smt. Chandibai Himathmal Mansukhani College near Mumbai, India.

# news at clayton state

*athletics, stu*

## Clayton State to offer first graduate level program



“This program will be appealing to lots of people from education to industry. Our proximity to Fayette and Henry counties will also attract a great many very well-prepared prospective graduate students.”

- Dean Ray Wallace

**T**HE BOARD OF REGENTS of the University System of Georgia recently approved Clayton State University's proposal to offer its first graduate level program, the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies. While the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies is a first for Clayton State, it is also a first for the state of Georgia.

According to Dr. Ray Wallace, dean of the School of Arts & Sciences, Clayton State's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies is the only degree of its kind in the state to be offered by a public university and is designed to give students with highly focused undergraduate degrees the opportunity to explore a more multi-disciplinary approach.

"I've been here 35 years, and, in my estimation, this is the most important moment in the history of Clayton State University," says senior faculty member and Head of the Department of Communicative Arts & Integrative Studies Dr. Tom Barnett. "It opens the door to a whole new world of meeting the educational needs of students and citizens in the Southern Crescent."

In addition to providing graduate level education to the south metro Atlanta area, Barnett believes graduate students will find the interdisciplinary structure appealing. Clayton State's undergraduate integrative studies program is presently the University's largest undergraduate degree program - a testimony to the popularity of integrative coursework. But if the interdisciplinary approach doesn't appeal to all, Clayton State's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies also offers three concentrated tracks in English, history and music.

"This is a major accomplishment for this University. We are moving on to another chapter," says Wallace, proud to be dean of the school that houses Clayton State's first graduate program. "This opens the door for many more graduate programs, and I am proud to be colleagues with each and every one of these fine professionals who worked to bring this program to Clayton State."

Clayton State President Thomas K. Harden and Provost Sharon Hoffman share Wallace's sentiments. "This is clearly an important occasion in the history of our institution," says Harden. Hoffman adds, "Our master's degree program is a milestone for Clayton State and the southern Atlanta region."

For more information on Clayton State's first graduate degree program, visit the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies website at <http://a-s.clayton.edu/mals/>.

### Heritage Bank endows \$50,000 scholarship

Leonard Moreland, president of Heritage Bank, and David Turner, CEO of Heritage Bank, officially presented a \$50,000 endowment check to Clayton State President Thomas Harden and Dean of the School of Business Ernest M. "Bud" Miller.



"Scholarships such as those endowed by Heritage Bank are a major factor in the University's ability to recruit and retain first-rate students," says Harden. "On behalf of the University and the

Foundation, I would like to thank Heritage Bank for their commitment to education."

Heritage Bank President Moreland believes the endowment also helps strengthen community bonds. "Heritage Bank is an active supporter of our community," explains Moreland. "The University is an important asset to our community, and we want to help the school and their students flourish."

### Spivey Hall's Sherryl Nelson knighted

Sherryl Nelson, executive and artistic director of Clayton State University's Spivey Hall, received the title Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) from the French Republic represented by Consul General Philippe



Ardanaz of the Consulate of France in Atlanta at a medal ceremony on January 28 at Spivey Hall. The distinction recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to furthering the arts in France and throughout the world.

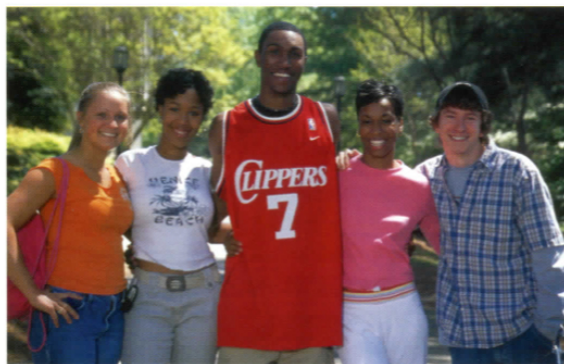
With this bestowment, Nelson joins some of the most important artists and writers in America including: Beverly Sills, Marilyn Horne, Robert Shaw, Philip Glass, Charles Wadsworth, William Faulkner, Ted Koppel, Ornette Coleman, Richard Meier, Meryl Streep and Robert Redford.

### Clayton State named number one in diversity

For the fourth time in six years, "U.S. News & World Report" has recognized the diversity of Clayton State University's student body.

In the 2006 edition of the magazine's much-discussed and read "America's Best Colleges," Clayton State's fast-growing student body was named the most diverse in the "Comprehensive Colleges - Baccalaureate" category in the South.

The "Campus Diversity" rankings in "America's Best Colleges" are designed to help prospective students and parents identify colleges where students are most likely to encounter undergraduates from racial or ethnic groups different from their own. Starting with the 2000 rankings, Clayton State has been at the top of those rankings four times.



### Welcome to our newest vice presidents...

David Heflin joined the administration of Clayton State University as vice president of Business & Operations, coming from the University of Sioux Falls. Heflin is no stranger to the Atlanta area. From 1988 to 1997 he served first as manager and then director of Financial Planning and Analysis for BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., in Atlanta.

Dr. Brian L. Haynes accepted the position of vice president of Campus Life, beginning in January 2006. The offices of Career Services, Counseling Services, Disability Programs, Diversity Programs and Student Life and Orientation will report to Haynes, who has extensive experience in student activities, intercultural advancement and career opportunity programs.

### Music Accreditation



It's official – the Department of Music at Clayton State University is a newly accredited institution of the National Association of Schools of Music. Dr. Doug Wheeler, head of the Music Department, shows off the certificate with (left to right) Provost Sharon Hoffman, Arts & Sciences Dean Ray Wallace and President Thomas K. Harden.

### School of Business Fellows Award

The Clayton State University School of Business inaugurated its first Distinguished Faculty Fellow award in 2005 to recognize outstanding faculty members for their accomplishments in teaching, scholarly activity and service. Dr. Adel Novin, associate professor of accounting, Dr. George Nakos, associate professor of marketing, and Dr. Michael Deis, associate professor of management, will enjoy a one-year appointment, which includes a cash stipend. The award was developed by the school's faculty and Dr. Jacob Chacko, associate dean, to reflect the school's commitment to excellence. These faculty are setting the standard for the School of Business as they work towards becoming one of only 15 percent of business schools worldwide to hold the acclaimed AACSB (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accreditation.

### CIMS – New Programs on the Horizon

The College of Information and Mathematical Sciences (CIMS) is keeping pace restructuring its programs and staying abreast of not only what's new, but what's hot. A new BS in Computer Science focusing on computer game development is in the proposal stage. As the IT Certificate Program comes to an end, doors will open for students and faculty to concentrate on the AASIT and the BIT degrees. This year marks the first math degree to be awarded from the College as Ashley Askew, last year's Chancellor's Academic Recognition Award recipient, walks the aisle to receive the degree. Keep your eyes focused on the horizon as CIMS moves forward with enhancements for excellence.

### Faculty/Staff "Bright Past...Brilliant Future" Campaign a success

The Clayton State faculty and staff have done it again... met and surpassed both goals for the Faculty/Staff Foundation Fund Drive.

The participation goal of 95 percent was blitzed... 99.4 percent of Clayton State's 500+ employees participated, the second-highest participation rate in the University's history. The monetary goal of \$85,000 was also surpassed, as \$86,656.71 was raised.

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### Dr. Michael Deis wins Regents' Teaching Excellence Award for Regional and State Universities



Dr. Michael H. Deis, associate professor of management at Clayton State University, was awarded the University System of Georgia Board of Regents' Teaching Excellence Award for Regional and State Universities. The system-wide award recognizes faculty and departments for a strong commitment to teaching and service to students.

"My philosophy of teaching is really quite simple," says Deis. "I love teaching! I want the students to be motivated to learn, make friends and be as active as possible." Deis says the best part of his job is being able to always keep his office door open. "There is nothing more refreshing than having a student stop by the office just to say 'Hi' or ask for assistance in some area."

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### Dean of Retention and Student Success hired

Clayton State welcomes Dr. Mark May, the University's first dean of Retention and Student Success.

May comes to Clayton State from Western Kentucky University, where he was director of Freshman Experience for the past two years. Prior to his service at Western Kentucky, he spent five years as the assistant director of the Learning Assistance Center at Eastern Illinois University and two years as assistant director of Academic Advancement at Ohio University-Zanesville.

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### Teacher Education Passes Accreditation reviews with flying colors

The School of Arts & Sciences' teacher preparation programs, the Middle Grades Education program and the newly developed Music Education program, passed all areas of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) accreditation reviews. Institutions of higher education are required to submit to a rigorous review of their teacher preparation programs every five to seven years. A developmental review is conducted to assess an institution's capacity for initiating a new professional education unit or program, and a continuing approval review is conducted every five to seven years to ensure institutional compliance with NCATE/PSC. The next accreditation review will occur in 2012.

### Allison Kreutzer earns All-America again, Men finish 23rd in NCAA Cross Country Championships

For the second straight year, Clayton State sophomore Allison Kreutzer was named an All-America at the NCAA Division II National Cross Country Championships. The Laker men's team also competed in the event, placing 23rd overall.



Allison Kreutzer

Kreutzer, who finished second in the nation as a freshman last year, placed 11th in this year's 6K race with a time of 21:48.2 in a field of more than 180 runners.

Senior Manuel Aguilar led a short-handed Clayton State men's team that was without its fifth runner. Aguilar finished 87th in the 10K race

of more than 180 runners with a time of 34:20.6.

The national meet appearance for the Clayton State men's team was the first in school history. Clayton State also captured its first Peach Belt Conference Championship earlier in the season.

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### Degree Completion program

Clayton State University now offers a Degree Completion program to students and professionals wanting to earn their bachelor's degree in integrative studies. To qualify for the program, candidates must have earned an associate degree or completed at least 45 semester hours. Transfer credit is normally accepted for all college work earned at regionally accredited colleges or universities, provided the courses are comparable to Clayton State University's curriculum. Prospective students who transfer into Clayton State University may complete a degree through eight week blended courses, on-line instruction, off-site and on-campus classes or a combination of all four. The program provides the flexibility and convenience adult students need in order to meet day-to-day responsibilities while achieving educational goals. Small classes, convenient learning sites and access to the library are advantages of the Degree Completion program, while student services and clubs and organizations complement the other benefits of attending Clayton State. Financial aid and academic advisement services are also available. Visit the Continuing Education website <http://conted.clayton.edu/degreecomplete.html> for details.

### Martha Wood Scholarship

The family of Dr. Martha Maxwell Wood, founder and director of the Southeastern Center for the Enhancement of Learning endowed a \$50,000 scholarship at Clayton State University to support professional development for the University's faculty. As Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, Wood has long been committed to education. The endowed fund will enable Clayton State faculty to broaden their knowledge of learning theory. Awards will be used for developmental activities focused on new or innovative teaching methods or programs and for expanding the applicant's professional network and access to teaching resources. Two \$1,000 scholarships and one \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to any faculty, full or part-time, with at least one year of teaching at Clayton State and who meet other qualifying criteria.

### Stay up-to-date with Clayton State

Read "Campus Review," the University's biweekly newsletter.

Available online at <http://about.clayton.edu>



### Clayton State Theater director

#### Phillip DePoy releases third novel in Fever Devilin series



He found a body on his porch in "The Devil's Hearth" (2003), saved a witch's life in "The Witch's Grave" (2004), and now Phillip DePoy's protagonist Fever Devilin is on the trail of another mystery, this time involving a none too friendly spirit in "A Minister's Ghost" (2005).

"A Minister's Ghost," available at Barnes & Noble, is the third novel in the Clayton State Theater Artistic Director's Fever Devilin series. Published by St. Martin's Press in December of last year, the popularity of the series continues to grow – St. Martin's Press has offered DePoy an advance for two more Fever Devilin novels.

In addition to continuing his Fever Devilin series, DePoy is working on a novel about the translation of the bible into the King James Version. He is also pleased to unveil a reading of his latest play, "Turned Funny," based on the Celestine Sibley autobiography by the same name, in Marietta's Theatre in the Square this spring.

DePoy, a resident of Atlanta, directs Clayton State Theater productions and teaches theatre courses at the University. His Flap Tucker series of mystery novels, a series written prior to the Fever Devilin series, has been slated to become an HBO television production and has been nominated for the prestigious Shamus Award. His play "Easy" won the Edgar Award, the equivalent to an Oscar in playwriting.

### Clayton State sweeps Peach Belt soccer crowns

The ninth-ranked Clayton State University men's soccer team completed a Peach Belt Conference Championship sweep for the Lakers on November 6 at Laker Field, defeating 18th-ranked USC Upstate 2-1 in the Peach Belt Conference Tournament Championship... the second time in school history the Lakers captured the PBC Tournament.

The day before, Clayton State's Nkese Udoh ran down a loose ball off a pass from Jennifer Powell and beat Columbus State's Monica Sanchez in the first overtime period to lift the Lakers to a 2-1 win and the women's championship of the Conference Tournament... the first tournament crown for the program after playing in the championship game three out of the last four seasons.

In the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional Soccer Championships, both Clayton State teams lost their initial games, the men 1-0 to Lander and the women 2-0 to Carson-Newman. The men finished the year 13-4-4 and the women 15-3-2.

## Clayton State University offers Music Education Degree for PK-12

The Department of Music has initiated a new major – the Bachelor of Music in Music Education. The Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade Music Ed. degree program is a first for Clayton State, which has traditionally offered the Bachelor of Arts in Middle Level Education designed to lead to licensure/certification in Middle Childhood Education.

Two tracks will be offered: General Music, which includes vocal, choral and general music and enables graduates to pursue a career as a choral director or general music instructor on the elementary, middle or high school level, and Instrumental Music, which prepares graduates to become a middle or high school band director. Graduates will be certified by Georgia's Professional Standards Commission and are well prepared for graduate studies.

## Clayton State Sports Information Director Gid Rowell named Director of Alumni Relations

President Thomas K. Harden announced that Gid Rowell, the University's sports information director since 2000, accepted the position of director of Alumni Relations for the University. Rowell's appointment represents the first time that Clayton State has had an individual serving solely as a full-time alumni director. The function of alumni director had, since 1995, been part of a joint development/alumni director position.

A 1994 graduate of the University of West Georgia with a BA in Communications, Rowell came to Clayton State from Gordon College, where he served as public relations director from 1998 to 2000. Prior to that, he was a sports editor for MainStreet Newspapers in Jefferson, Ga., from 1994 to 1998. He recently completed his course work for a master's degree in Public Administration at West Georgia.

A native of Bremen, Ga., and a graduate of Bremen High School, Rowell was a finalist for Clayton State's annual Alice Smith Award in 2004 and 2005. He has won three awards from the College Sports Information Directors of America for his publications. As a journalist, he has also won awards from the National Newspaper Association and the Georgia Press Association.

## Spivey Hall Schedule Spring '06



### April 1 at 2 p.m.

Bradley Hunter Welch, organ. \$25. Winner of First Place and Prize of the Audience Winner at the Dallas International Organ Competition.

### April 7 at 8:15 p.m.

Eliot Fisk, guitar and Paco Peña, guitar. \$45. Classical and Flamenco solos and duets.

### April 8 at 8:15 p.m.

Hiroimi, jazz piano. \$30. At 25, one of the most unique jazz artists working today.

### April 22 at 8:15 p.m.

Marc-André Hamelin, piano. \$35. Music by Albeniz, Beethoven and more.

### April 23 at 3 p.m.

Clayton State University Chorale with Shaun Amos, conductor. Free. Music by Mendelssohn and Mathias.

### April 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Degas Quartet. Free. Performing with tenor Kurt-Alexander Zeller and pianist Michiko Otaki.

### April 29 at 2 p.m.

Hector Olivera, organ. \$30. His extraordinary interpretations of both classical and popular music have amazed and delighted audiences around the world.

### April 30 at 4 p.m.

Atlanta Sacred Chorale with Eric Nelson, conductor. \$15. Well-known for its exquisite artistry and pure vocal sound.

### May 6 at 8:15 p.m.

Alberto de la Rosa, folk harp with Tlen-Huicani. \$25. Alberto de la Rosa is respected throughout Mexico for his keen musicianship and is considered among the most outstanding folk harpists in the world.

### May 7 at 3 p.m.

Georgian Chamber Players with Fine Arts Quartet. \$30. The Georgian Chamber Players claim a unique position as one of the Southeast's premiere chamber ensembles.

### May 13 at 8:15 p.m.

Atlanta Balalaika Society with David C. Cooper, conductor. \$20. One of few authentic Russian folk instrument orchestras outside of Russia.

### May 19 at 7 p.m.

Spivey Hall Young Artists with the Spivey Hall Children's Choir. \$10. Spivey Hall's choirs draw the finest young singers from throughout metro Atlanta.

### May 20-21 at 3 p.m.

Spivey Hall Children's Choir. \$10.

by Erin Fender

## Clayton State student discovers Forgotten African American historical figure

**G**race Hardwick, a Clayton State University senior history major, recently uncovered new and forgotten information on Georgia's first African-American Congressman in her research for her senior seminar paper.



"IN SEARCHING FOR A specific topic for my paper, I began wondering what had happened to all of the former slaves that rose to political power during reconstruction," says Hardwick. In Assistant Professor of History Dr. Kathryn Kemp's seminar class, Hardwick discovered Jefferson Long through the seminar's topic, "the New South."

Hardwick explained that when she began her research, she knew of no such person; but while researching, she found Long in the Congressional Register. Long began his term January 16, 1871, becoming the second African-American elected to Congress and the first elected from Georgia.

Hardwick's paper points out, "Jefferson Franklin Long is Georgia's first African-American Congressman and the first African-American to speak on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, and he remains shrouded in obscurity." Hardwick was able to uncover many details about Long and discusses them at length in her research paper.

"There was a riot in Macon that prevented most blacks from voting in the 1870 election. It was led against Long, and he was saved by a white man who hid him from the mob," says Hardwick. She explains that the riot left seven African-Americans dead and several wounded.

"However," Hardwick says, "the most significant aspect is the genealogy, the details about his personal life and his political philosophy of

making the black votes an independent force." Through much research, Hardwick was able to trace Long's ancestry back to two possible families.

Along with submitting a new sketch of Long to the "New Georgia Encyclopedia," Hardwick submitted her paper to the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board (GHRAB) Outstanding Archives Awards Program, winning the statewide award for Undergraduate Student Research Using Historical Records.

Clayton State professors Kemp and Dr. Adam Tate, along with Arden Williams, a Clayton State adjunct instructor who works at the National Archives and Records Administration's Southeastern Archives, were invaluable assets in their encouragement and advice when it came to editing the paper, says Hardwick.

Originally from Tucson, Az., Hardwick came to Clayton State from the University of Arizona when her husband was reassigned to Fort McPherson. Since transferring to the University in spring 2004, Hardwick has been on the dean's list every semester.

**FUTURE PLANS:** Hardwick, who enjoyed working at the National Archives while a student at Clayton State, plans to pursue her love for history by attending graduate school and has considered becoming a teacher.



by John Shiffert

## Dr. Adam Tate discusses: Understanding the Old South

**H**ow did the traditional "Southern conservative view" of the United States develop? Clayton State University Assistant Professor of History Dr. Adam Tate knows. In fact, he's written the book on the subject.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI** Press published "Conservatism and Southern Intellectuals, 1789-1861: Liberty, Tradition, and the Good Society," Tate's first book, in mid-March of 2005.

"Conservatism and Southern Intellectuals" discusses the ways in which Southern intellectuals developed what became called the Southern conservative view of the United States," explains Tate. "I argue in the book that Southern conservatives adopted many of their political views from the ideas of the English philosopher John Locke, who was a major influence on the American Revolution. Southerners then used these principles to preserve and defend their understanding of the Constitution."

Tate points out that even though Southern intellectuals tended to agree on political principles, they differed on the specific traits that a good Southern society should adopt.

"In short, they struggled to balance Southern society, liberty and tradition," he says.

"Conservatism and Southern Intellectuals" looks at both the political and social views of six Southern intellectuals – John Randolph, John Taylor, Nathaniel Beverley Tucker, William Gilmore Simms, Joseph Baldwin and Johnson Hooper – to reveal the complex nature of Southern intellectual life before the Civil War and discusses such topics as slavery, sectionalism, religion and western migration.

A native of New Orleans, Tate received his BA in history and theology from the Franciscan

University of Steubenville. He received a MA and PhD in American history from the University of Alabama. Tate taught at several colleges and universities in Alabama before coming to Clayton State.

Tate's book began as his dissertation at the University of Alabama. The research alone took three years, followed later by an additional two years revising the manuscript before sending it to the publisher.

"I became interested in Southern intellectual history as an undergraduate and pursued the subject in graduate school," he says. "In my reading, I saw that a book could be written on the development of the Southern conservative thought in the 1790s and its continuation in the first half of the nineteenth century."

Tate's "biographical" approach to the book allows him to go deeply into the ideas of a few individuals and look at the ways in which the individuals struggled with major political and social questions of the age.

Since historians also naturally grapple with major political and social questions, Tate is currently in the beginning stages of researching his next book on a similar subject.



“ People sometimes ask me how I became interested in history. My parents, particularly my father, encouraged me as a child to read history and think about the ways in which past events influenced the present. Our family often visited historical sites on vacations as well.”

- Dr. Adam Tate



**Strengthening international ties – Spivey Hall Children's Choir visits Central Europe**

The Spivey Hall Tour Choir, the select 50-voice ensemble formed from members of the Spivey Hall Children's Choir program, recently completed a two-week tour of Central Europe, where choir members balanced several performances with sightseeing and international diplomacy.

**UNDER THE DIRECTION OF** Dr. Martha Shaw, the Spivey Hall Children's Choir has toured extensively during its 10 year history.

Shaw comments that "the singers of the choir are always magnificent travel companions. They do a wonderful job of representing their families, Spivey Hall and Clayton State University in a way that would make everyone proud of them. For me, the most exciting moments were watching their faces as they entered (Austria's) Melk Abbey and having the opportunity to perform in the Czech Republic for people who had never heard an American choir. I am grateful to Spivey Hall and Clayton State University for giving us this magnificent opportunity."

The tour group was comprised of 82 people, which included singers, parents and staff. The trip had a total expense of

\$220,000, most of which was raised by choir members. Additional support came from Clayton State University and other sponsors.

**International Significance**

"I learned that there is more to the world than our immediate community; that there are real people just like us in other amazing cities that have so much to offer. My horizons were expanded."

– Katie Weaver  
Spivey Hall Children's Choir Member

the school's rector as a follow-up to 2003's Hungarian trade mission by local and Clayton State University leadership.

Nelson's international efforts did not stop in Hungary. Following her visit to Budapest, she was able to join the Tour Choir for performances in many of Europe's

**DURING THE WEEKS** preceding the Tour Choir's visit, Spivey Hall Executive and Artistic Director Sherryl Nelson was in Europe strengthening Clayton State University's ties to Budapest's Liszt Academy, one of the world's premier music schools. Nelson met with

great cities including Salzburg, Vienna and Prague. The choir also performed in Hradec Kralove, hometown of Jitro, a girls' choir Nelson presented during Spivey Hall's 2004-2005 season. During the Czech group's stay in the Atlanta area, members of the Spivey Hall Children's Choir provided housing for the girls' choir, a favor which was repaid in-kind during the American group's visit to Hradec Kralove.

Said Nelson, "Our choir members are not only supremely talented, but they are also keenly aware of their role as ambassadors. The group not only met the awesome responsibility of representing the United States in each city and town, but also gave the most moving concerts in recent memory. I look forward to strengthening our relationship with Jitro and the Czech Republic and continuing to develop Spivey Hall, Clayton State University and the Southern Crescent's significant international profile."

by Jared Morrison

**INTERNATIONAL APPEAL:** Above Collage, Left to Right, The Spivey Hall Tour Choir; An interior view of magnificent Spivey Hall and the Schwietzer Memorial Organ, built and installed by Fratelli Ruffatti of Padua, Italy; A lake view of Spivey Hall.



## Study and Soccer: Olaitan Yusuf excels both on and off the field

Clayton State's Olaitan Yusuf, a tall, slender sophomore forward on the Laker women's soccer team is all business when it comes kicking the soccer ball around.

A TWO-TIME ALL-AMERICA, the Peach Belt Conference Player of the Year and the Peach Belt Conference Freshman of the Year are just a few of the accolades that have been showered upon Clayton State's sensational soccer star the last two seasons.

Olaitan Yusuf, the NCAA Division II national scoring leader as a freshman in 2004, has helped lift the program to national prominence. A native of Ilorin, Nigeria, she has also shone on the world stage, playing for her native Nigerian national team.

In addition to her success on the field, she has excelled in the classroom. Yusuf was named to the ESPN the Magazine Academic All-District team in the fall of 2005, one of the most coveted awards bestowed among student-athletes, recognizing both academic and athletic achievement. She holds a 3.5 grade point average in nursing, which ranks among Clayton State's best.

But despite all her accomplishments and recognition, Yusuf is as humble as one comes. Her quiet demeanor and infectious smile make for one special college student-athlete.

Although soccer is Yusuf's first love, what drew her to Clayton State was the opportunity and her passion for obtaining an education, plus the fact she felt right at home with Lakers coach Totty Totty, who also is a native of Nigeria and played on the country's national team.

"Nkiru Okosieme and Judith Chime (both Nigerian players on the Clayton State team)

encouraged me to come to Clayton State," said Yusuf. "And after I spoke to Coach TO (Totty) I felt so comfortable. He has been like a father to me. Clayton State has provided me with all the things needed to be successful both academically and on the field. I'm so appreciative."

The youngest of two brothers and three sisters, Yusuf says her gravitation to the nursing field probably resulted from the caring nature she developed growing up in a large family.

"I am the youngest of my brothers and sisters and was always taking care of their kids," said Yusuf, who has 18 nieces and nephews. "I think that is the reason I chose nursing, because I am so accustomed to taking care of them and my grandparents."

Yusuf is the third of her brothers and sisters to come the U.S. and study. Being part of such a big family, she does get homesick from time-to-time, but said nothing will stand in the way of her education, even if the (Nigerian) national team came calling.

"An education is very important, especially in a woman's life in Nigeria," said Yusuf. "Even if I had the honor of playing on the national team, I would not take the risk of it affecting and clashing with my school work."

After completing her nursing degree, Yusuf is planning on pursuing a master's degree before returning home to Nigeria. She will be a junior in the fall of 2006.

by Gid Rowell



**GO TEAM:** Above Collage, Left to Right, Clayton State's Women's Soccer Team; Clayton State's Men's Soccer Team celebrates a championship win; Clayton State's Men's Soccer Team. Above, Two-time All-America Olaitan Yusuf.

## Distinguished Alumni 2005

Overall Distinguished Alumni Winner  
**Kevin William Meckes**



### CLAYTON STATE'S 2005 OUTSTANDING Distinguished Alumni is Kevin William Meckes

who attended Clayton State from 1995-1998 as a biology major. During his tenure at Clayton State, Kevin helped coordinate the Information Technology Project, establishing the University with ubiquitous laptop computers - the first institution of higher education in the Southeast to do so. He also assisted in implementing a Universal I.D./Point of Service card - now called the LakerCard and was vice president of the Student Government Association and chairman of the Student Life Activity Committee in 1995-1996.

In 1998 he entered the Oxford College of Emory University; and, in 2001, he received his Bachelor of Science in Anthropology and Human Biology and was inducted into Lambda Alpha, the National Honor Society in Anthropology. In 1997 Kevin began working part-time for Pocono Marketing International in Mt. Pocono, Pa., as a marketing associate, where he received the Foundation Award three years in a row and the Youngest Entrepreneur Award in 1999.

From 1995-1997, Kevin worked as a surgical technologist/assistant at South Fulton Medical Center and from 1996-1998 for Private First as a surgical assistant/PRN. He served on the Hospital Olympic Committee and planned the O.R. response team procedures during the 1996 Olympic Games. Kevin was only 21 at the time.

Kevin has worked part-time at Newton General Hospital in Covington, Ga., assisting surgeons in orthopedics, plastic and general procedures and has helped developed the Vascular Surgery Service in the OR. In 1997, Kevin went to work for LifeLink of Georgia as Quality Assurance Coordinator and Tissue Recovery Supervisor. While there, he gained his certification as a tissue bank specialist (CTBS), a national certification that tests knowledge of standards to prevent disease transmission and to assure optimum clinical performance of transplanted cells and tissues.



**Jerri Clay-King, '80**  
**School of Arts & Sciences**

Jerri Clay-King attended Clayton Junior College from 1978 to 1980 as an education major. She completed her BS in Special Education K-12 in 1983 at Georgia State University and in related Vocational Education in 1989 from Georgia Southern. For 23 years Jerri has taught special education in Fulton County schools and has been the Career Technology Intervention Specialist at Tri-Cities High School for 10 years, mainstreaming special education students into regular classrooms and society. She volunteers for various activities at her church, her daughter's school and Noah's Ark Animal Rehabilitation Center in Locust Grove. For nearly two years, Jerri has volunteered at RescueCats, Inc., a non-profit organization based in Fayetteville where she bottle feeds orphaned kittens, coordinates adoptions, fosters cats prior to adoption, works at adoption fairs and fundraising events and designs newsletters. When she retires, she wants to use her teaching skills to educate children about caring for their animals.



**Lillie R. Farmer, R.N., '85; '94;**  
**School of Health Sciences**

Lillie R. Farmer earned her Associate Degree in Nursing from Clayton State in 1985 and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Clayton State in 1994. She attended Emory University's wound, ostomy and continence certification program and earned a MAEd from Central Michigan in 2003. Currently at Southern Regional Medical Center, she has dedicated 27 years to the nursing practice. In 2004, Lillie was awarded the Georgia Nurses Association Staff Nurse Award, recognizing her contribution to the nursing field as a facilitator of the healing process, a patient advocate and a mentor and role model for other nurses. "Clayton State encouraged me and supported me as a student. My instructors were always available for any school-related issue. I'm proud to have participated in Clayton State's nursing program," she says. Lillie offers these words of wisdom to Clayton State's next generation of nursing students: "Grow your garden and let nursing reward you with satisfaction from the job, patients and co-workers. And, most importantly, know that what you're doing is something you enjoy."



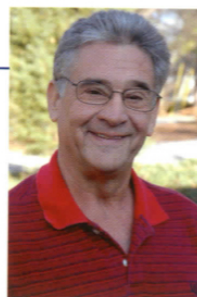
Rick M. Jeffares, '95; '97  
School of Technology

Rick Jeffares is city manager for Locust Grove, Ga. With 41 employees and a \$6 million budget, he is responsible for the day-to-day operations and functions for the fastest growing city in metro Atlanta. Other responsibilities include: forming the Downtown Development Authority, revitalizing the downtown area and implementing a \$12 million sewer and water system improvement plan for the city. He is president of J&T Environmental Services, Inc., which provides services for operation and managing water and wastewater treatment plants, managing laboratory collection and testing, developing standard operating procedures, assisting with equipment and plant maintenance and coordinating repair or purchase of equipment and materials. Rick is certified as both a Water and Wastewater Treatment System Operator and as a Water Laboratory Analyst. He holds a Certificate of Public Management from the University of Georgia, in addition to his Associate of Applied Science and Bachelor of Applied Science from Clayton State.



Anou Southsavath, '03  
College of Information and  
Mathematical Sciences

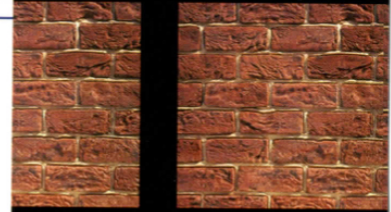
Anou Southsavath works for the city of Morrow, Ga. As Information Technology Director, he is responsible for more than 80 workstations and 10 servers. The city has made headlines in recent months with its innovative technologies, receiving one of the first "Trendsetter" awards sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association and "Georgia Trend" magazine. In 2004 the Best of Georgia Award sponsored by the Government Technology Conference was bestowed on the city, recognizing excellence in Information Technology in the public sector. With programs like QuickTicket, QuickVoice and the Comet Tracker, Morrow is fast becoming a public safety technology leader. Anou has a vested interest in all of this; not merely because he researched and facilitated the installation of these technologies, but because Morrow is his hometown. "I know that if I am successful enhancing Public Safety, City Hall and/or Public Works, that I am making a positive difference for the citizens of Morrow, my neighbors." He holds a certificate, an associate and a bachelor's degree from Clayton State in IT.



Lee Moore, '72;  
School of Business

Lee Moore owns Moore Companies, an umbrella for several development, construction, and insurance companies. He says he's one of the "old alumni" who really appreciates Clayton State, having earned his Associate in Business Administration in 1972. And, having been around for a while, he has served the community over the years on numerous committees that have made a positive impact. He was formerly a member of the Kiwanis Club and served three separate terms as chair on their Board of Directors. He was also chair of the Clayton County March of Dimes, chair of DFACS' Abused & Neglected Children Committee and chair of the Clayton County School Board. Lee was founder of A-Plus for Clayton County, named Businessman of the Year by the Riverdale Future Business Leaders of America and served on the Leadership Clayton Board. He is an active member of the McDonough Christian Church.

# alumni Bricks



## Alumni Association

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## retiree profile

### Dr. Bryan Edwards



**IN 1982 DR. BRYAN P. EDWARDS** joined the staff at Clayton Junior College as director of the Office of Community Services, now known as Continuing Education. Under his direction, the program became the largest in metro Atlanta and the second largest in the state, serving more than 65,000 individuals yearly. He was promoted to dean of Continuing Education and executive director of Outreach in 1997 until President Thomas K. Harden invited him to become vice president of External Relations.

Last winter, Bryan retired as vice president emeritus of External Relations. The 23 years he spent at Clayton State were marked by several milestones, including the Harry S. Downs Center for Continuing Education and Gateway Village, home to the Georgia Archives and the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) Southeast Regional facility. Bryan played a significant role in both.

One of the most significant aspects of his retirement is the time he now has to devote to the Fayette County Development Authority and the National Mental Health Association of Georgia.

Bryan has been on the Board of Directors for both organizations for many years.

Today, Bryan and his wife Norma are enjoying retirement, working on projects and traveling. Last spring, they took a land/sea excursion to Alaska, sailing through Glacier Bay on a cruise ship and then flying by helicopter out of Juneau to a 'musher camp' for a three-mile dogsled ride. Most recently, they returned from a trip through the Panama Canal and the Baja Peninsula.

Bryan spends some of his spare time improving his golf game and looks forward to getting in a lot more practice. He and Norma love going to the theatre and are loyal supporters and patrons of Clayton State's Spivey Hall, the Alliance Theatre and the Atlanta Symphony. "I'm creative," says Bryan. "I love to be creative; whether it's art, music, people, buildings, or programs, they all present opportunities to be creative."

## Class Notes

### James Jernigan ('78)

Jernigan is president of 1-800-TV CREWS, the first and only national field video production company in America. With fully staffed local offices in the top 20 markets in the United States, 1-800-TV-CREWS sends literally thousands of crews into the field, covering everything from entertainment, news and sports to public relations and advertising. Producer and past president of SGA, Jernigan's most recent endeavor is the production of "Lipstick and Dynamite: The First Ladies of Wrestling," a documentary about the women wrestlers from the 1940's.

### Greg Mitchell ('97, '98)

Mitchell is using his two degrees from the School of Technology (AAS in Industrial Services and Supervision, BAS in Technology Management) and his student

internship with Delta Air Lines as a technical services project manager in his current job with World Airways as director of aircraft acquisitions and fleet management. In that capacity Mitchell, a Newnan resident, is responsible for all fleet management activities including: financial and market studies, analyzing, locating and negotiating all aircraft purchases and leases, as well as managing all aircraft deliveries, redeliveries and fleet standards and specifications.

### Gina Papa ('99)

Papa, Clayton State's first women's soccer MVP, integrative studies major and the University's May 1999 Commencement speaker, is working as a systems support specialist in Advanced Learning Technologies for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. "I attribute Clayton State's

success both on and off the field to the commitment of the men and women who comprise the heart and soul of the Athletic Department," she says.

### Ben Bachmann ('00)

Bachmann has been very busy the last five years... obtaining a post graduate diploma, a master's degree and now being appointed assistant director of music at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. "After graduation, I was assistant organist and choirmaster at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Peachtree Street for two-and-a-half years before moving to England and attending the Royal College of Music, where I received a post graduate diploma and a master's degree in organ performance," said Bachmann. From England, Bachmann moved to San Francisco and into his current position at

Grace Cathedral. Bachmann plays during services accompanying the choir, works with the boy's choir and adult mixed ensembles and plays organ recitals.

### Leah Brownell ('01)

Brownell is currently preparing for a big move from her native Penticton, British Columbia to Bangkok, Thailand, where she has accepted a teaching job with the help of International School Services. A Clayton County middle school teacher, Brownell has spent the past seven years in the Atlanta area, the past three of which she taught sixth grade math, reading and social studies at M.D. Roberts Middle School in Jonesboro. Brownell hopes to teach math, but she might end up teaching science or a mixture of the two. A former Clayton State tennis star, Brownell does not speak Thai, but she is learning the language through an audio program.

## trustee profile

Lata Mahajan Chinnan



**ONE ONLY HAS TO MEET** Lata Chinnan to know her. She emanates genuineness, generates friendship, and you instantly know she likes you and is interested in what you do.

Lata was born and raised in Punjab, India and went to Punjab Agricultural University, receiving her BS in Biology and an MS in Biochemistry. But her real claim to fame started in the eighth grade when she tried out for the Field Hockey team. Running faster than anyone, she easily made the team and went on to be selected for the state team just three months later.

In college, her team won seven straight championships, including state and interuniversity, and in 1974 she played on India's women's team for the World Cup in France, one of six teams selected to play in the 1976 Olympics in Montreal.

But fate would have a different path for Lata. In 1975, she married Dr. Manjeet Chinnan, professor of food engineering for the University of Georgia in Griffin. Early in her marriage, Lata worked as a research associate at

the University of California, Davis and later with the State of Georgia in the Mental Health Department conducting hormone studies.

In 1984 she bought the New South Package Store in Riverdale, Ga., which gave her more time to spend with her children Vikas and Shelley and to become more involved with her community. In addition to her involvement at Clayton State, Lata is involved with numerous organizations, including the Board of Directors for Arts Clayton, the Georgia Alcohol Dealers Association, and the Indian American Cultural Association of Atlanta, which she serves as a lifetime member.

When asked how her sports associations have impacted her life, she notes, "I learned how to work with people and to build stamina. Playing sports gave me the opportunity to go to college and to travel all over India and the world."

However, because she will be teaching at an international school, all of her students will speak English.

### Joni Gruwell ('02)

Clayton State's first NCAA Division II All-American runner, Gruwell is accounting manager for Gate Precast Company. "While a student-athlete at Clayton State, I learned what it takes to succeed," says the former accounting major.

### Tom Marshall ('04)

A dean's list student during his entire Clayton State career as a Information Technology major, Marshall caught the eye of Clayton State's Office of Information and Technology Services while he was still a student. His success in creating several programming projects for the University landed him his first IT job as an entry level Systems Analyst. Now, five years later,

Marshall, a McDonough resident, is Clayton State's director of Administrative Systems.

### Myron Head ('05)

A native of Chicago, Head was recently hired by John Hancock Atlanta General Agency, an affiliate of John Hancock Financial Network, as a financial services representative. "We are excited to have such a talented professional join John Hancock Atlanta. We pride ourselves on the high caliber of our associates, and believe that Myron will devote himself to helping clients reach their financial goals," said Michael R. Smith, managing partner of John Hancock Atlanta General Agency. "I do not believe it is possible for me to pay back the University for all it has done for me in my four years," says Head. "However, if I can ever be of any service to the University as a stu-

dent, alumni, volunteer, or through my line of business, my services are available to Clayton State University."

### William Jacocks Rivers, III ('05)

Rivers scientific abstract on soil microbial ecology was accepted by the American Society for Microbiology South East Branch, and he was admitted to the Mercer School of Medicine by early decision. Rivers, a Jackson, Ga., resident who grew up in Leesburg, Ga., is planning on pursuing internal medicine when he begins medical school in August 2006.

### Branko Skovrlj ('05)

Skovrlj has been accepted to the State University of New York Upstate Medical University College of Medicine. A biology major and a native of Croatia, Skovrlj graduated Magna Cum Laude and received the 2005 O. C. Lam III Award for

Excellence in the Biological Sciences presented to the most outstanding biology student as designated by the biology faculty. He also played varsity basketball at Clayton State.

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Campus beauty surrounds Clayton State's James M. Baker University Center in the spring time. Learn more about the building and its namesake inside this issue.

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