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THE LAKER CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY



THE SCHOOL OF

Graduate Studies



TECHNOLOGY

ARCHIVES

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SUPER FANS



President's Message

Dr. Thomas Barnett, Clayton State's senior faculty member and head of the Department of Communicative Arts & Integrative Studies, has made what I think is a definitive statement on the development of the University.

"I've been here 35 years and, in my estimation, this is the most important moment in the history of Clayton State University. It opens the door to a whole new world of meeting the educational needs of students and citizens in the Southern Crescent."

Dr. Barnett was speaking of the November 2005 approval by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia of Clayton State's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS).

Since that time, the MALS program has enrolled its first cohort of students, and three more graduate programs have been approved for implementation this fall – the Master of Science in Nursing, the Master of Health Administration and the Master of Business Administration. All four programs currently comprise Clayton State's School of Graduate Studies, headed by Associate Provost Dr. Thomas Eaves.

Clayton State's pursuit of graduate programs began in August 2004 when Dean Dr. Ray Wallace and several Arts & Science faculty formulated the first MALS proposal. Now that the Board of Regents has given its stamp of approval to four graduate programs in all, Clayton State has petitioned SACS, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, to change Clayton State's accreditation status to the graduate level. The first step in this process took place in April of this year when a SACS team visited the Clayton State campus.

In this issue of "The Laker Connection" you will get the chance to learn more about the MALS program, as well as the three newer graduate programs, and to meet the individual who will soon make history – becoming the holder of the first Clayton State University graduate degree – Anna Cox.

History has already been made on the basketball court, when the Clayton State women's basketball team went to the 2007 NCAA Final Four in Kearney, Nebraska. The Lakers did the University proud, as Coach Dennis Cox indicates in his observations on the trip.

History is also being made adjacent to campus, where Clayton State's unique relationship with the National and Georgia Archives continues to thrive, thanks in part to the Georgia Archives' Circuit Rider program.

As I noted at the time the MALS was initially approved, this is clearly an important occasion in the history of our institution. Here then is some history being made at Clayton State.

Thomas K. Harden, President

The Laker Connection
Volume II, No. II

Dr. Thomas K. Harden, President

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COVER STORY
Clayton State's School of Graduate Studies now has four master's level programs. Pictured on the cover (L to R): Dr. Michael Deis, Dr. Sue Odom, Dr. Russell Porter, Dr. Tom Eaves (Dean of the School of Graduate Studies) and Dr. Tom Barnett.

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Clayton State University's Master's Level Education

The School of

Graduate Studies

You've never been closer to
earning your master's degree.



SOUND OF MUSIC: Clayton State's Director of Theory and Composition Dr. Chris Arrell teaches graduate student Barbara James in MUSC 5000 Great Works in Music History.

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY'S QUALITY EDUCATION, small class sizes, knowledgeable faculty, beautiful wooded campus and convenient Metro Atlanta location have long made the University an ideal place to earn a bachelor's degree.

Now Clayton State combines the same one-on-one superb faculty instruction and rigorous academics to bring master's level education to the Southern Crescent.

This fall, Clayton State introduces three new master's level programs: the Master of Business Administration, the Master of Health Administration and the Master of Science in Nursing. These programs join Clayton State's first graduate program, the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, in furthering the University's commitment to excellence, innovation and collaboration in research and in the preparation of professionals for the highest levels of practice.

If you're a Clayton State alum interested in returning to your alma mater for an advanced degree, or a community member seeking quality graduate education close to home, Clayton State invites you to explore our School of Graduate Studies.

by Lauren Graves

Clayton State's School of Business offers an MBA program for working professionals who are seeking to move their careers to the next level and beyond. The MBA is a fast-track program that will take 18 months to complete and is designed for busy executives whose time is already at a premium.

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



Dr. Michael Deis, Director

THE PROGRAM IS PRIMARILY OFFERED on weekends and utilizes online components to increase students' ability to use technology and to help students use their time most effectively.

The MBA is offered in a lock-step, cohort format to build stronger relationships among students so as to increase communication and the sharing of experiences. The curriculum is rigorous and designed to prepare graduates to operate successfully and lead organizations in a business environment that is global and rapidly changing. The program also enables graduates to gain an insight into an area that is

increasing in importance for almost every business — supply chain management.

The program is taught by a talented and dedicated group of faculty that have a blend of excellent academic skills and real-world experience. Faculty members take pride in their accessibility to students and measure their success by the success of students not only in the classroom, but also after graduation. The School's professional staff members also are available to assist students with the admission process and with career placement upon graduation.

BUSINESS IS GOOD: Clayton State's School of Business faculty. Front Row Center: retiring dean Ernest "Bud" Miller and incoming dean Jacob Chacko.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Admission into the program is based on several factors to ensure a talented and diverse student body. These factors will include: completed application for admission to the School of Graduate Studies; completed application for admission to the MBA program; GPA from a completed undergraduate degree from an accredited college/university; score on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT); and at least three years of full-time work experience. For additional information on Clayton State's MBA program, including the benefits of earning an MBA and Clayton State's MBA curriculum, visit the website: <http://business.clayton.edu/mba/>



Dr. Russell Porter, Director

Clayton State University offers the MHA degree for individuals who are seeking exceptional educational preparation to lead health organization operations and to care for patients and residents. No specific background is necessary except a strong desire to serve and care for those in need.

MASTER OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

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DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete pre-requisites, core courses, advanced core courses, electives (chosen by the student), a residency (if required), a comprehensive examination, and a thesis. Total credit hours are 39-45 depending on residency requirements. The unique blend of on-campus and on-line instruction allows full-time students to complete the MHA in as little as one and a half years. The on-campus instruction requires only seven days of on-site instruction per semester (full-time) with the remaining coursework on-line. For specific admission criteria, including GPA, GRE and GMAT requirements, visit the MHA program website at <http://cps.clayton.edu/mha/>.

THE MHA PROGRAM PREPARES STUDENTS for positions of increased responsibility within healthcare and for further career choices beyond the entry level. The program also benefits students with clinical, business or other backgrounds, who want to expand their careers into health administration. Graduates from the MHA program improve the quality of care and resource use in health organizations.

Programmatic goals include obtaining a selection of both diverse student and faculty educational and experiential backgrounds and

fostering increased interdisciplinary understanding of health care. Because a health administrator supports those who provide care, it is incumbent to include both clinicians and non-clinicians in the student body to refine their analytical, verbal and quantitative skills for resolving complex healthcare issues. Individuals learn both cognitive and affective educational domains at the highest levels.



Clayton State's MSN degree is designed to prepare registered nurses for advanced practice roles as culturally competent educators and leaders. The program appeals primarily to RNs who hold a BSN and have a desire to continue their career interests in nursing education or leadership/management. RN work experience is preferred but not required.



Dr. Sue Odom, Director

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

CLAYTON STATE IS EMERGING AS a leader in health professions education. Our faculty support the advancement of health related disciplines and the education of students through scholarship, interdisciplinary collaboration, grant development and research. Our students enjoy small class size, one-on-one interaction with faculty and an excellent range of clinical opportunities in the greater Atlanta region.

Students work closely with faculty advisors within the selected area of concentration when designing individual program progression.

Faculty members are available during the MSN on-campus sessions via email or during virtual office hours. Program concentrations include Nursing Leadership, which develops nursing leaders who are able to influence, design, manage, transform, and evaluate the evolution of nursing services and care delivery, and Nursing Education, which prepares nurses to facilitate learning in various environments through the application of knowledge in instructional design, curriculum development, technology utilization and evaluation of learning.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students must earn 36-38 graduate credits. All courses are provided in an online or hybrid framework. Courses will meet one full day at the beginning and at end of the semester (Friday or Saturday). Coursework is conducted primarily via online discussions and with potential chats, as well as projects and research papers that are typically turned in at the semester's end. The program can be completed in two academic years or four semesters of full-time study at nine credit hours per term. Students are expected to graduate within five years and must take a minimum of four classes per academic year. For specific admission criteria, visit <http://nursing.clayton.edu/msn/>.





Dr. Tom Barnett, Director

Clayton State University is Georgia's only public university to offer the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) degree. This interdisciplinary graduate program began in fall 2006 and prepares students to excel in multiple fields including education, journalism, law, government, the arts and business.

MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL STUDIES

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

This is a 36 semester hour graduate degree program, and completion time is based on many factors. Attending graduate school on a full-time basis, a student could graduate in less than two calendar years. Obviously, completion would take longer if classes are taken on a part-time basis. The program is designed for working adults, since classes are offered in the evening. All students are required to take the introductory seminar; to select three out of five interdisciplinary foundational seminars; to complete 18 credit hours within an area of academic concentration; and to fulfill either the Capstone Thesis or Capstone Non-Thesis requirement. For specific admission criteria visit <http://a-s.clayton.edu/mals/>.

WITH THE NEED FOR MORE advanced degrees in all sectors of American professional life, the MALS program enhances the opportunities for career advancement, or even career change, by further developing proficiency in communications, intellectual confidence and analytic abilities.

Students drawn to a liberal arts graduate education are generally motivated by a desire to satisfy their intellectual curiosity and to gain a better understanding of contemporary culture. The MALS degree is designed for a variety of individuals: recent college graduates, professionals in the public and private sectors, current and prospective teachers, lawyers, state work-

ers, nonprofit arts administrators and private business owners.

Many prospective students exploring this field will return to or continue their chosen profession with a new perspective on key content issues and honed skills of inquiry. Others, anticipating a career change, choose MALS to gain a broader knowledge base in a new area. In the case of recent college graduates, MALS allows them the breadth of inquiry of liberal arts while also providing a bridge to doctoral programs or to professions where an advanced degree is expected. Finally, some students enter our program to simply broaden their intellectual horizons.

SHAKESPEARE CHAT: Students in Dr. Greg McNamara's MALS 5150 Studies in Shakespeare wrap up the semester with discussion. Clockwise from center: Dr. Greg McNamara, Mary Seedlock, Jacqueline Hudson, Dolores Cox, Anna Cox, Sha-Ron Rosignon and Nkiru Okosieme.



by Gina Finocchiaro

MALS student Anna Cox Clayton County educator, Clayton State education

She always knew she wanted to teach; what she didn't know was what she wanted to teach.

SO, WHEN ANNA COX BEGAN her undergraduate studies at the University of Georgia, she switched from a degree in music to a degree in English with a minor in Latin. However, undergraduate studies weren't enough for her, so Cox kept a close lookout at Clayton State and waited for a graduate program.

As a student in Clayton State's first graduate program, the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS), Cox is expected to graduate in fall 2007. As a Latin instructor at Jonesboro High School, Cox will be using the MALS degree to round out the knowledge that she gained from college and share a greater base of knowledge with her students.

"I love showing the students how important classical studies are in their other classes and in courses they will see in college," says Cox. "While we were reading 'Romeo and Juliet' in my MALS Shakespeare class, I was reading and translating 'Pyramus and Thisbe,' the ancient version of the story, with my high school students. I truly enjoyed being able to offer and bring new material to my reading of that text."

Graduate students have up to six years to complete their graduate studies. Cox will have completed her studies in one. In addition to being one of the first to apply and be accepted to the MALS program, Cox brought graduate credits from the University of Georgia which transferred towards her studies at Clayton State. Cox is also taking two classes per semester.

"Anyone who enters graduate studies will find it intimidating," says MALS Director Dr. Tom

Barnett. "Anna was able to do graduate level work and found joy in that."

Clayton State unveiled its first graduate program in fall 2006. MALS is an interdisciplinary, evening program designed for a wide spectrum of individuals: recent college graduates, professionals in the public and private sectors, current and prospective teachers, lawyers, state workers, non-profit arts administrators and private business owners.

"The MALS degree appeals to a broad spectrum of people," says Barnett. "Anna is a student where a master's degree would advance her career in terms of title, position and pay."

The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies is a relatively new concept in graduate education, but it rests in the tradition of liberal education. This graduate degree has become an increasingly popular degree. It is now offered by more than 100 universities nationwide, but only Clayton State does so among Georgia's public universities.

Clayton State also allows select undergraduate students to get a taste of graduate level courses. Students with at least 90 credit hours and a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) are eligible to register for graduate classes. For instance, the summer 2007 semester will allow undergraduate students to explore "Studies in Southern Literature" with graduate students while earning undergraduate credits.

"This is an enormously stimulating program," says Barnett. "We expect that more and more Clayton State undergraduates will begin applying for MALS."



“I enjoy the high level discussions and readings that I don't get every day as a high school teacher. The enthusiasm of the students and professors is refreshing.”

- Anna Cox

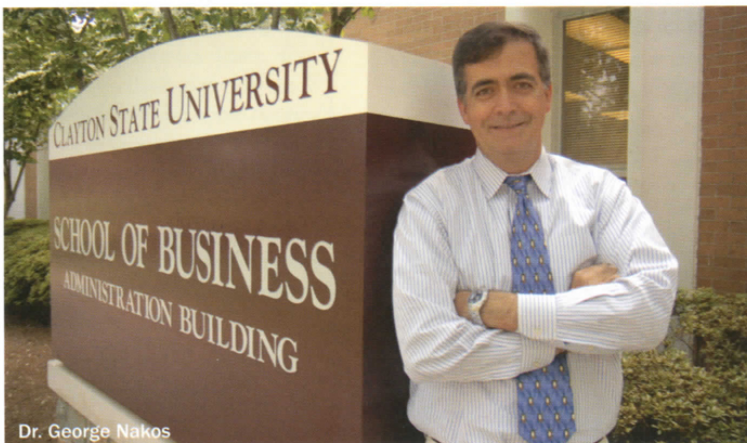
ALL IN THE FAMILY: Cox lives in Jonesboro and is the daughter of Clayton State Communications instructor Larry Wiley. Like his daughter, Wiley worked for the Clayton County School System for many years before retiring. He has taught at Clayton State part-time for more than 25 years.



Dr. Heather Harvey

Clayton State visionaries integrate technology, business and international health to enhance learning outcomes

by Leigh G. Wills



Dr. George Nakos

CAN ECONOMIES OF SCALE REALLY be applied to higher education learning outcomes? Adam Smith identified division of labor and specialization as the two key means to achieving larger return on production. Through these two techniques, employees would not only be able to concentrate on a specific task, but with time, improve the skills necessary to perform their jobs. The tasks could then be performed better and faster.

But how does this pertain to education? In the current business climate, globalization is the future. And in higher education, the future is now. By integrating certain specialties into the classroom experience, students' learning potential increases and they become more productive, more balanced, and ultimately, more competi-



Keith Cotrell

The secret lives of part-time undergraduate students

by Gina Finocchiaro



“ I love the professors. They have all been caring, well-qualified professionals with a love for their work.”

- Maureen Keillor

IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR THE media to stereotype college students as being wild party goers or library nerds. However, student culture is impossible to stereotype and is as diverse as any other culture represented in the world today.

Clayton State University, ranked as having the most diverse student body among comprehensive colleges in the Southern United States by U.S. News & World Reports' annual "America's Best Colleges" five times, is the perfect place to examine the diversity among students, especially part-time undergraduate students.

Like other types of students, Clayton State's part-time students are also hard to identify. They may be fresh out of high school, returning to college after a short or long break, or even beginning school after having a career. Some students are lucky enough to have a flexi-

“ I am happy for the opportunities and choice I made to finish my education at Clayton State. I feel like part-time, nontraditional students are able to have experiences here that we could miss out at bigger schools.”

- Keith Cotrell

ble job that allows them to take day or night classes, while other students, myself included, can be seen making a mad dash across the parking lot in order to get to work on time. Many of the students are also kept busy with their families at home in addition to work and school.

“To be quite honest, as a 48-year-old mother of five and grandmother of five, my involvement is with my family, and not on campus,” says History major and English minor Maureen Keillor of Fayetteville.

Keillor works at Lovejoy Middle School as a media secretary when she is not shuttling in between classes. She explains that time management is often the biggest obstacle to overcome when it comes to working full-time and going to school part-time.

“Most folks look forward to unwinding at the end of a busy day,” explains Keillor. “But, I must gear up for either a night of class or a night of homework after work.”

Keillor first began her studies at Clayton State in 1996. However, she left school in order to help her husband start up a business. With her husband’s business off to a running start and her children out of the house, she decided to head back to school.

“I was left without an excuse to return to school!” Keillor says. Back at Clayton State, Keillor found the support she needed from her professors.

Another part-time student who loves Clayton State is Nursing major Keith Cotrell of Newnan.

“The instructors have been wonderful,” he explains. “They challenge us, but they also want us to succeed. They support us well without spoonfeeding us. You can see their commitment to the [nursing] program.”

Cotrell works at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta as a full-time flight paramedic. He received an associate degree in Paramedic Technology from Clayton State in the early 90’s. When he graduates in December 2008, he plans to remain at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta as a nurse.

A father of five young children, Cotrell finds time to be involved with the Student Nurses Association. He also enjoys the University’s small class-sizes and the emphasis on technology.

Psychology and Human Services major Danilo Umali and his wife, Karen, met at Mercer University and took a break from school to get married. Now, 11 years later, they are both preparing for graduation in the upcoming year.

The Umalis, who live in North Atlanta, are able to fit school into their hectic schedules by taking online and evening courses. Umali works full-time managing Jake’s House, which sells the independent

clothing line “Life is Good,” while his wife works at a special needs school in Fayetteville as a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) assistant.

“After we got married, we realized that we could explore what we really wanted to do,” says Umali, who originally attended classes at Mercer University at his parent’s behest.

“I took the job at Jake’s House so that I could take more classes,” says Umali. “We’ll see if I decide to change careers. What I am doing now is so much fun.”

After graduation, Umali plans to continue his education part-time at the University of Georgia’s College of Law, where they offer a four-year part-time Juris Doctorate degree. His wife also plans to attend UGA where she can further her studies in SLP.

“Clayton State has been such a rewarding experience,” says Umali. “They have really outstanding professors, and they do great job catering to working professionals.”

All in all, it’s a safe bet that Clayton State’s professors are truly what keeps part-time students around Clayton State’s campus. In my own experience as a full-time worker and sometimes full-time student, I’ve found the professors to be munificent. Kudos to Clayton State’s professors for their support of part-time students with full-time jobs.



“ My wife and I were scared that we would be so old and obsolete. At Clayton State, you find out there are so many people like you that have to juggle jobs and even kids. I don’t feel like an outsider.”

- Danilo Umali



Clayton State scholars visit South Africa on Fulbright-Hays Grant

by Leigh G. Wills



LAST DECEMBER, DR. RAY WALLACE, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and faculty members Dr. Michael Deis, associate professor of Management; Dr. Shondrika Moss-Bouldin, assistant professor of Communication; Dr. Victoria Pasley, assistant professor of History and Rajopal Sashti, assistant professor of Geography (and director of The Nine University and College International Studies Consortium of Georgia) completed a 30-day International Studies program in South Africa as part of a Fulbright-Hays program offered through the U.S. Department of Education. They were joined by 11 other scholars from sister institutions and high schools from throughout the state of Georgia.

Because of the varied disciplines of each of the participants, each came away with a different perspective of

“ I was able to experience both the tremendous steps that have been made since the ending of apartheid, but also see the monumental problems that still need to be solved...as a result of its brutal history.”

- Dr. Victoria Pasley

South Africa. One thing they all had in common, however, was the monumental problems the country faces as a result of apartheid.

According to Deis the seminar titled, “The Current Social, Political and Economic Climate in South Africa,” had an ultimate goal of promoting mutual understanding between South Africa and the U.S. The 15 individuals participated in numerous field trips and lectures in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. In addition to the 10 days spent in Johannesburg and the six days in Cape Town, they also spent three days in Durban, four in Port Elizabeth and individual days in Grahamstown, Knysna and Hermanus. Lectures were given at Witwatersand University in Johannesburg, the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal-Westville in Durban, Rhodes University in Port Elizabeth and the University of Cape Town. Discussion and lectures covered such diverse topics as “Social Africa in the Global Context,” “Economic Issues in the South African Economy,” “Facing the AIDS Issue,” “Women in South African Society,” “Race in South African Politics,” “Land Issues in South Africa,” plus discussions on multilingualism and religious diversity in South Africa.

Deis, the only business professor of the 15, took a special interest in South Africa’s economy. He was able to speak to representatives from multinational corporations such as Sun Microsystems, Ford Motor Company, General Motors and Coca-Cola. He toured a Volkswagen plant, heard a lecture from an economist at a large bank and met with the president of a Chamber of Commerce. By meeting and talking with businessmen, politicians, university faculty and citizens, he was able to learn about the economic system of the country and the challenges it is facing.

Wallace was most interested in how the country had developed politically since Nelson Mandela’s release from Robben Island in 1994, and how the country’s new-found freedoms had influenced the higher education choices of its citizens. He was able to discover a great deal about the high school and university systems by speaking to front-line educators and his peers at several universities. One interesting discovery was that, during apartheid, South Africa was governed by 16 distinct educational authorities whose sole purpose was to enforce racial segregation at all educational levels. After apartheid ended in 1996, all these different educational authorities were combined into one authority.

“With a total of 11 official languages recognized in the country;

the ravages of AIDS, TB and malaria continuing to kill huge percentages of the people; resistance to change from the former rulers; political corruption by the ruling political party, the ANC or African National Congress, including reverse racism towards Whites and Indians and the academic under-preparedness of many African teachers and students alike, the educational system has taken several direct hits that might well take many decades to overcome,” says Wallace.

In addition, Wallace noted that he was told by his counterparts that as many as 40 percent of all the teachers in South Africa are expected to die in the next three to five years due to AIDS and there are insufficient numbers of new teachers in training to take up the slack. He added that teacher training in South Africa suffers the same problems there as in the U.S.; poor pay compared to other professions and an increasing problem with violence in the schools.

Pasley, who teaches about South Africa in her 20th Century World History class and in her African History class, gained a perspective that she hopes to convey to her students.

“I was able to experience both the tremendous steps that have been made since the ending of apartheid, but also see the monumental problems that still need to be solved... as a result of its brutal history,” says Pasley.

Pasley also commented on the “delicate balancing act the ANC government is doing between social programs and redistribution and wooing business.”

Despite the disheartening realities of a country still trying to find its way after so many years of turmoil and turbulence, the visiting faculty were captivated by the beauty, intelligence and hospitality of the region and its people and will be presenting their reflections to the faculty and students in the near future.

Globe Trotting: (Facing page, Above) From L to R, Dr. Michael Deis, Dr. Victoria Pasley, Rajopal Sashtl, Dr. Shondrika Moss-Bouldin and Dr. Ray Wallace. (Facing page, Below) A view of South Africa’s coastline submitted by Dr. Michael Deis.



Dr. Randall Gooden

A unique relationship: Clayton State and the Archives

by John Shiffert



UNIQUE. IT'S A MUCH OVERUSED and abused term. It doesn't mean "something that doesn't happen often" and it doesn't mean "rare or unusual." If something is truly unique, then it is "one of a kind."

Such is the nature of Clayton State University's relationship with the Georgia Archives and the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) Southeast Region. Since the intersection of Jonesboro Road and Clayton State Boulevard is the only place in the nation where a state and national archives are co-located, and since that location is immediately adjacent to the Clayton State campus, the University has, from the very beginning, had the opportunity to establish a unique relationship, a relationship that has proven beneficial to all three partners.

Clayton State and the two archives is a partnership that has already spawned numerous successful pro-

“Great potential exists for Clayton State becoming an archival studies center in the Southeast and for gaining a reputation as a feeder school to established archival studies programs on the graduate level.

- Randall Gooden

grams since the Georgia Archives opened in 2003 and the NARA Southeast Archives opened in 2005. Programs like a new History major for Clayton State, internships for Clayton State students, Clayton State's Office of Auxiliary Services managing the archives' bookstore, Clayton State speakers taking part in the Georgia Archives' Lunch and Learn Series, archive personnel speaking at Clayton State events, and NARA supplying exhibits for the University's Constitution Day events.

“Over the course of the last year, the National Archives Southeast Region and Clayton State University initiated programs in support of an ever-maturing archival and educational partnership,” notes James McSweeney, regional administrator of the National Archives Southeast Region. “Our institutions established a formal student intern program, and students in Clayton State University's archival science program discussed archival theory and process with NARA managers. Most significantly, we developed innovative collaborations for national Constitution Day, including on-site NARA workshops and Constitution-specific research experiences for Clayton State students based upon our U.S. District Court holdings.”

Next door at the Georgia Archives is another program that can truly be called unique for the State of Georgia. It's the Circuit Rider Archivist Program, a name that evokes the colonial and early American periods when all varieties of professional individuals – preachers, doctors, dentists, lawyers, judges – rode from town to town to dispense their services. In this case, the Circuit Rider for the Georgia Archives is Dr. Randall Gooden, an assistant professor of History at Clayton State since July 2005, who has been traveling throughout the state – by car, not by horseback – for the archives during that time.

The Circuit Rider program is an outreach program of the Georgia Archives, aimed at providing professional assistance to those governments, historical societies, public libraries, public and private colleges and universities who may not have a background in archival management and may be in need of the resources available at the Georgia Archives. In most cases, Gooden helps these organizations move in the right direction toward processing, storing and preserving records.

The Circuit Rider Archivist Program is a partnership between the Georgia Archives, the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board and Clayton State University. It is made possible from a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission... which is affiliated with Clayton State's other archival partner, NARA.

“The Circuit Rider Archivist program is a very cost-effective way to deliver personalized assistance to historical organizations and local governments, and Randall has both the knowledge and the people skills that have made him very effective,” says David Carmicheal, director of the Georgia Archives. “The fact that we are partnering with Clayton State makes the program all the more appealing because it leverages our close relationship. I see this as the first of many projects we will do together.”

The second formal round of Circuit Rider visits began on July 1, 2007, with 52 organizations participating, 37 of which will be visited by Gooden. Through his travels, Clayton State students benefit from his knowledge of new internship possibilities. In addition, the value of the University's current undergraduate track lies with preparing students for graduate study in archives and in helping people who are employed in positions with archival responsibilities to better understand their responsibilities. Gooden anticipates that his role at Clayton State will grow as the number of archival course offerings increases.

“As the archival profession becomes more developed it better defines its own professionalism and increases its credentialism, thus, more formal training is needed and, as that occurs, the importance of graduate studies will also become more important,” he says. “This program is a vehicle for expanding Clayton State's reputation throughout Georgia.”

Since the spring of 2006, Gooden has taught a basic course in archival studies, a survey class in U.S. History, and an introductory course in public history at Clayton State.

“There is a unique opportunity here in Morrow... an archival mecca,” Gooden concludes, adding that there are also good in-service and continuing education opportunities here for working archivists and records managers. “There are people watching us in the profession, noting this as a model of cooperation. Everyone involved here is aware of the opportunity we have and seeking ways to enhance our relationship.

“People across the country are aware of our unique situation.”

PRESERVING HISTORY: (Facing page, Below) Cherokee County Historical Society Executive Director Stefanie L. Joyner and Archivist and Registrar Meagan Griffin discuss the best practices for preserving the “Buddy Alexander” photograph collection with Circuit Rider Archivist Dr. Randall Gooden. The Society received a grant from the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board to catalog the collection, comprised of some 70,000 images; a life's work for this local photographer. The Historical Society is located in the old courthouse in Canton, GA.

news at clayton state

athletics,

Dr. Jacob Chacko Named Dean of Clayton State School of Business

Starting on Jan. 1, 2008, Dr. Jacob Chacko will be the new dean of the Clayton State University School of Business. The associate dean of the School of Business since 1999, Chacko will succeed Dean Ernest "Bud" Miller, who will retire from Clayton State and shift back to the business world at the conclusion of 2007 after 10 eventful years leading the school.

Chacko joined Clayton State from the University of North Dakota, College of Business and Public Administration, where he served as the associate dean. Prior to that appointment he served as chair of the marketing department at UND as a tenured associate professor. He has also served as international programs coordinator for the United States International University in San Diego.

Miller's tenure as dean saw the Clayton State School of Business attain an elite status through accreditation by Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International in April 2006, following almost six years

of intensive effort by Miller, Chacko and the University's entire Business faculty. A second milestone for the School of Business took place in January 2007, when the University's fourth master's program, a Master of Business Administration, was approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

"The School of Business is being called to be increasingly responsive and accountable to our stakeholders. We have to balance the School's needs with the demands of its stakeholders, in particular, the University, students and alumni, academic community, industry and local community," says Chacko of his vision for the future of his school. "A good example of this balancing act is the launch of our part-time MBA program. We will need to continue to look for opportunities in other communities in the University's service area and introduce value added programs. If we are successful in balancing the needs of our stakeholders, then ours will be the school of choice."

Clayton State University's College of Arts & Sciences under new leadership

Clayton State University's College of Arts & Sciences Dean, Dr. Ray Wallace, has accepted a new position as provost and senior vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith. Associate Dean Dr. John Campbell assumed the duties as dean of the College beginning July 1, 2007 for the academic year 2007/2008. A search committee will be formed in July 2008 to permanently fill the office. Campbell, who joined the faculty at Clayton State as head of the Department of Natural Sciences in 1996, has been serving as associate dean since 2004.

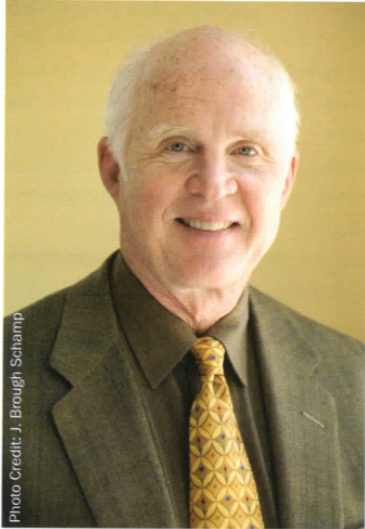
"I believe the transition will be smooth," says Campbell. "We have a wonderful, professional faculty and staff within the College, and they care deeply about doing their best for students and the University. Having the privilege to serve as the associate dean of the College for three years has given me the opportunity to become familiar with the departments and their programs.

"In the next academic year we will continue the development of our academic programs within the framework of the University's Strategic Plan. We will work to improve retention and grad-

uation rates and build upon the existing strong foundation to prepare us for the changes and challenges coming in the future. In addition, we will integrate new faculty into the College and continue the professional development of all faculty and staff. Working with them as their dean will be an honor."

Students, foundation, alumni, campus life, etc...

Pulitzer Prize winner Taylor Branch speaks on myths and miracles from the King years



Taylor Branch

The story of how Taylor Branch became a Pulitzer Prize winning author of the definitive trilogy on the King years, and his assessment of those years and their place in American history, kept an audience in Clayton State University's Spivey Hall spellbound during the University's Seventh Annual Martin Luther King Celebration.

Branch explained how a multiplicity of small steps took him away from the evasion of Civil Rights issues that was so common in the South in the 50s and 60s... the crossover effect of black rock-n-roll, sitting in the segregated seating of Ponce De Leon Park to watch the Atlanta Crackers play, the example of black girls as young as eight years old marching in Birmingham... all led him to a point wherein, as a graduate student, he spent the

summer of 1969 trying to assess the potential for black voter registration in 20 south Georgia counties. And to a point where, "I decided to tell the story of the movement."

Branch emerged as a nationally-recognized authority on the Civil Rights movement with the 1988 publication of "Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-1963," winner of the Pulitzer Prize for History. Since that time, Branch has completed his America in the King Years trilogy with "Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years, 1963-1965," and "At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years, 1965-1968." "At Canaan's Edge," published by Simon & Schuster in January 2006, was a finalist for the 2006 National Book Award for non-fiction.

Clayton State students place First at Georgia DEX Conference

Three Clayton State students placed first at the 2007 Georgia Delta Epsilon Chi (DEX) Conference held in Atlanta.

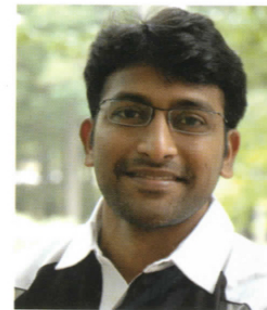
Delta Epsilon Chi is the international professional association for college students interested in careers in marketing, management, merchandising and entrepreneurship. Clayton State's DEX Chapter was founded in 1985 and started winning state competitions right away.

Terry Gallagher (Fayetteville) and Ann Evers (Marietta) took first place in Advertising while Reginald McCaw (Jonesboro) took first place in Web Site Design.

Master of Health Administration Starts with an international perspective

The Master of Health Administration (MHA) program at Clayton State University officially starts this fall. But this summer the first international graduate student at Clayton State University will start his MHA career taking some prerequisites in graduate health econometrics and health accounting. A native of Hyderabad, India, Dr. Chandra Mouli Cherukuri (MBBS-MD) is a medical doctor interested in pediatric management and/or psychiatric management. His initial research in the United States will focus on health ethics with Dr. Russell Porter, Clayton State's MHA director.

Cherukuri studied medicine and surgery at the Mamata Medical College in India. He completed his internship and obtained his license to practice medicine in India before arriving in the United States, just two weeks before the summer semester began. He is adapting quickly to his surroundings and is even helping faculty members with some of their research endeavors.



Dr. Chandra Mouli Cherukuri

Sanner and Brooks named 2007 Alice Smith Award winners at Clayton State



Alina Brooks and Dr. Susan Sanner

Dr. Susan Sanner and Alina Brooks are the winners of the 2007 Alice Smith Awards at Clayton State University.

Sanner, an assistant professor of Nursing in the School of Nursing, is the faculty recipient of the Smith Award. Brooks, administrative assistant to Dean Dr. Charles Ford in the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences, is the staff winner.

The University's 13th Annual Alice Smith Awards for both faculty and staff were presented at Clayton State's Faculty/Staff Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, May 1. An annual event since 1995, the Smith Awards are presented to the faculty member and staff member ranked most outstanding as determined by committees of their peers. The two, \$1000 awards were established by local philanthropist Joseph Smith in honor of his wife, Alice.

This year's faculty finalists included: Dr. Kurt-Alexander Zeller, Dr. David Ludley, Dr. Amelia Broussard, Jean-Jacques Medastin and Dr. Adel Novin. This year's staff finalists included: Joan McElroy, Barrett Hoover, Pam Healan and Karen Blackburn.

Thai Fulbright Scholar to join Clayton State faculty in fall 2007

Based on a \$27,500 grant awarded by the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars to Clayton State University, a Fulbright Scholar in Residence (SIR) from Thailand, Professor Samrit Yossomsakdi, will join Clayton State beginning in the fall 2007 semester.

Yossomsakdi is chair of the Department of Political Science at Burapha University, located in the Bangkok area. The purpose of the SIR grant is to infuse Thai/Southeast Asian dimensions into various Clayton State courses. As a part of his assignment, the visiting scholar will teach two courses per semester, present guest lectures, speak frequently to community civic organizations and also engage in professional enrichment activities.

The SIR grant is the fifth Fulbright grant awarded to Clayton State University during the past three years.



Samrit Yossomsakdi

"Clayton State is one of the few four-year universities within the University System of Georgia that has been recognized by the Fulbright program for making a significant contribution to promoting mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through educational and cultural

exchange," notes Clayton State President Dr. Thomas K. Harden.

Dental hygienists all smiles at Hinman Dental Society meeting

Clayton State University Dental Hygiene students Anna Hendricks, Donna Rogers and Nikita Willingham were each awarded the prestigious "Hinman Scholar" Scholarship at the Hinman Dental Society Meeting on Mar. 17.

The Hinman Dental Society provides three scholarships each year for senior Clayton State dental hygiene students.

Scholarship candidates must have a 3.0 minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) and must show potential for life-long learning. In addition to satisfying GPA requirements, students must submit a short essay addressing their academic and professional accomplishments.

Nikki Sawyer is Clayton State's 2007 Chancellor's Academic Recognition Award recipient



Nikki Sawyer

Clayton State University senior Nikki Sawyer, a resident of McDonough, Ga., has been chosen as the University's 2007 Chancellor's Academic Recognition Award recipient. The award is a celebration of individual academic achievement and recognition of those students throughout the University System of Georgia's institutions who have attained the distinction of earning the highest grade point average (GPA) in their school and who represent excellence in academic achievement and personal development. Only one student per institution is awarded the Chancellor's Award.

In addition to the Chancellor's Award, Sawyer has already been awarded "Ms. Brain 2006," the Clayton State Scholastic Achievement Award, the 2007 O.C. Lam III Award for Excellence in Biological Sciences and several scholarships including the Allan and Elizabeth Marshall Scholarship and the Harmon Born Scholarship. She graduated in May with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. She plans to earn her doctorate degree in Neuroscience.

A chilling tale at Spivey Hall



Clayton State University's Spivey Hall is world-famous for sending chills up and down the spines of its patrons. However, when the Spivey Hall chiller was on its last legs recently, Executive Director Sam Dixon didn't call on Pavarotti or Yo Yo Ma for help; he called the Clayton State Plant Operations team, headed by Maintenance Manager Darren Thomas.

It was no small task that Thomas and his crew faced... installing a 150 ton

BTU air-cooled York chiller weighing 24,000 pounds with no down time.

It wasn't a matter of simply getting rid of the old chiller, moving in the new one, and plugging it in. The old chiller had to be isolated, a back-up chiller installed for use between chillers, the old chiller moved out without damaging any equipment, and then the 12-ton monster unwrapped and then carefully lowered into place, welded, connected, painted, etc.

International English Honor Society inducts new members

Clayton State University's Alpha Nu Xi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society, inducted five new members in spring 2007.

The chapter's newest members were Jason Joiner (Sharpsburg), Tyanna Jones (Conyers), Kristen Curcuru (McDonough), Laurissa Wolfram (McDonough) and Justin Norsworthy (Forsyth). Presiding over the induction was outgoing president Dana Staves (Jonesboro). Heading the slate of new officers for the 2007-2008 academic year is new president Cynthia McKinney (Stockbridge). Assistant Professor of English Dr. Rebecca Godlasky, the chapter's faculty sponsor, presided at the event.



Outgoing President Dana Staves

Clayton State hosts Indian exchange scholar



Dr. Robert Welborn, Dr. Padma Deshmukh and Dr. Thomas K. Harden

Dr. Padma Deshmukh of Smt. Chandibai Himathmal Mansukhani (CHM) College in Ulhasnagar, India visited Clayton State University this spring as part of the exchange scholar program. As a microbiologist, she taught several microbiology, biology and chemistry classes and participated in labs.

"It's very informal and casual here," said Deshmukh. "I would like for the exchange program to be extended to students as well."

Clayton State is currently the only school in which CHM College participates in an exchange scholar program. Thus far, Clayton State has sent two professors to CHM College: Dr. Kitty Deering and Dr. Chris Ward.

"It's a wonderful program," said Deshmukh. "Faculty from both sides get to interact with each other, and they get to carry over the good points from both sides."

Clayton State's exchange scholar program with CHM College began in 2004. Dr. Robert Welborn, professor of History and director of International Education, was the first Clayton State faculty member to travel to CHM College.

Hopkins and Jordan named to Alumni Association Board of Directors

The Clayton State University Alumni Association has announced the appointment of Ben Hopkins and Larry Jordan to its Board of Directors.

"Ben and Larry will be excellent additions to our Alumni Board of Directors," says Alumni Association President Dina Swearngin. "They both were extremely involved in campus activities and love Clayton State. Being so active on campus, they will be able to provide valuable insight in helping us develop important partnerships on campus, such as forming a student alumni group."

Hopkins, from Morrow, Ga., is a recent graduate from Clayton State, completing a Communication and Media Studies degree in 2006. He is currently employed by the University, working in the Division of Student Affairs.

Jordan, from McDonough, Ga., is also a 2006 graduate, receiving his degree in business management. A realtor, he is employed by Keller Williams Realty Traditions in Stockbridge, Ga.



Ben Hopkins



Larry Jordan

Philosophy Professor Dr. Alexander Hall publishes first book

Clayton State University Assistant Professor of Philosophy Dr. Alexander W. Hall discusses medieval Christian theological thought in his first book "Thomas Aquinas and John Duns Scotus: Natural Theology in the High Middle Ages."

Released worldwide on Apr. 5, 2007 by Continuum International Publishing Group, Hall's book seeks a middle ground between the philosophy of Aquinas and Scotus in relation to what many scholars believe are opposing answers to

the question, "What can we know of God?"

"Medieval Christian theologians believe that since we don't directly experience God, it is difficult to learn about him," explains Hall, who notes that Aquinas and Scotus were perhaps the best medieval thinkers to investigate this postulate. The book discusses what Aquinas and Scotus think we can learn about God and argues that their conclusions have much in common.

Distinguished alumni recognized at Alumni Association Dinner

Seven Clayton State University alumni received Distinguished Alumni Awards at the Clayton State Alumni Association Dinner held at the Omni Hotel in Atlanta.

Charles D. English ('81), of Fayetteville, won the Overall Distinguished Service Award for the Clayton State Alumni



Charles D. English

Association. English graduated from Clayton Junior College with an associate degree in Criminal Justice and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Public and Urban Affairs and a master's degree in Homeland Security and Defense. He was appointed to the position of Director of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) in 1996 by Governor Sonny Perdue and serves on the state's Homeland Security Task Force.

Anna J. Gaissert ('78), of Florida, won the award for the College of Arts and Sciences. Now retired, she served for many years as a counselor in the Clayton County School System.

Christopher A. Menard ('94), of Stockbridge, won the award for the School of Business. He now owns Triality Software

Training which specializes in Microsoft Office Specialist certifications.

Stacey Young Rivers ('05), of Riverdale, won the award for the College of Professional Studies. She is currently the Network Manager for Turner Broadcasting Systems Broadcast Operations.

Judith P. Conway ('90),

of Riverdale, won the award for the School of Nursing. She is now minister of Congregational Care at First Baptist Church of Morrow.

Sue Y. Dowling ('01), of Conyers, won the award for the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences. She now works for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation as the Internet Safety Coordinator and Forensic Computer Specialist.

Joan E. McElroy ('75), of Rex, won the Distinguished Service Award for the Clayton State Alumni Association. She has served the University in a number of roles, with the last 17 years being spent in the Career Services Department.

Study Abroad Student Shines in England

Clayton State University student Leah Baker recently received first prize for the Northumbria Shine+ Awards held by the University of Northumbria in Newcastle, England. The Northumbria Shine+ Awards reward international students who have learned new skills, achieved personal ambitions, enjoyed new experiences or made a contribution to their institution since coming to study in the United Kingdom. Students are required to write a letter home to their friends or family about their extracurricular activities in order to enter the awards.

Baker's letter, an amusing comparison of British and American every day life, won her a trip for two to Edinburgh, Scotland.

"I had to use my legs more than I had ever used them in my life," wrote Baker. "In the States, everyone drives even the shortest distances, but here you have to walk everywhere, and for the first few months my legs felt as though someone had taken a sledgehammer and beaten the life out of them!"

Clayton State to unveil new African American Studies curriculum

Clayton State University will offer a concentration in African American Studies in its Integrative Studies program beginning in fall 2007. The first course, "Introduction to African American Studies," will begin what is hoped to grow into a minor and major program.

Clayton State already has courses geared towards African American studies, such as "Civil Rights and the Media, 1955 to the Present" and "The Reign of Hip Hop," both taught as special topic courses within the Communication and Media Studies program, and

"African American Literature," taught in the English Studies program by Dr. LaJuan Simpson, assistant professor of English.

Last year, a committee was formed in order to develop the African American Studies Curriculum. Several classes are currently being developed to complement the courses already offered by Clayton State. Simpson works very closely with Dr. Thomas Barnett, department chair of Communicative Arts and Integrative Studies, to oversee the development of the program.



The elite – Clayton State women's basketball

by John Shiffert



Women's Basketball player Kim Lloyd

LET THE 2006/2007 BASKETBALL season be known as the year that Clayton State reached "elite" status. Under the direction of head coach Gordon Gibbons, the men's team played in the NCAA Division II Championship Tournament for the first time... certainly an elite honor. The Lakers finished 24-8 and won their first-ever tournament game, defeating Catawba 72-69 in overtime, before losing in the semifinals of the South Atlantic Regional, 71-70 to Virginia Union as leading scorer Todd McLaurin missed most of the game with a foot injury.

Yet, as fine a season as Gibbons' team had, it was the Clayton State women who made national headlines, including a first-time appearance on ESPN as part of the Division II Final Four. After winning their own South Atlantic Regional on their home floor (66-65 over Georgia

“ Maybe the greatest feeling we had the entire trip was from visiting the fifth graders at Kenwood Elementary School. They had signs made for us, cheers made for us, and written speeches prepared for us.”

- Coach Dennis Cox

College in overtime), the Lakers headed to the University of Nebraska at Kearney for the Women's "Elite Eight," to play Texas A&M-Commerce. Although head coach Dennis Cox admitted after the game that the Lakers "played nervously," they were still elite enough to defeat the Lions 60-55, to advance to the Final Four against undefeated and top-ranked Florida Gulf Coast. Although the Commerce game marked the first time a Clayton State athletic team had advanced that far in the national championships, there may have been another reason the Lakers were nervous.

"The NCAA sent a charter plane to Falcon Field in Peachtree City to pick us up and fly us to Kearney. We were flattered and touched that so many people came to send us off. However, it was the 30 passenger prop jet that provided the greatest thrill," recalls Cox. "It was a blustery day, which created a very turbulent ascent. That, coupled with the fact that we had a few in our group that had never flown before, provided several very tense minutes. It felt like we were on a roller coaster, not smooth like Space Mountain, but rough like the old wooden ones."

Fortunately for Cox and his team, the reception they received in Nebraska made up for the rough start.

"By far the nicest thing about Kearney (is) its people. Everyone there was very helpful, courteous, and very knowledgeable and interested in the Elite Eight tournament being held there," he says. "From the minute we arrived we truly did feel 'Elite.' The NCAA representatives, UNK representatives, the town - just everyone - made us feel special for being there."

Of course, the Lakers were still far from home, although Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Harden, Athletic Director Mason Barfield, and their wives also made the journey to Nebraska, there to be joined by Clayton State's own private rooting section.

"Maybe the greatest feeling we had the entire trip was from visiting the fifth graders at Kenwood Elementary School. They had signs made for us, cheers made for us, and written speeches prepared for us," says Cox, leading to the conclusion that, whether or not anyone is smarter than a fifth grader, no one roots better than a fifth grader. "We spoke to them about the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship, and then we taught them some cheers, gave them Clayton State pompoms and shoulder packs and took some pictures together with them. They came with their parents to both of our games and sat behind our bench. They really got into the games, cheering wildly with their orange and blue pompoms and screaming our cheers and

chants. It was really huge for our girls to have that support from them."

And the Lakers gave the kids an experience to remember.

"The first game on Wednesday is kind of a blur, but I just remember being really, really happy and thankful to get a win at the Elite Eight and make it to be one of the final four teams playing in the country," admits Cox. "We definitely did not play our best, but we played hard, and we fought through the nerves to scratch out a win."

But that was nothing compared to the next game. Facing arguably the best DII team in the country, the Lakers fell behind 22-2 in the first six minutes of the game... the type of hole that no one comes back from... right? Wrong.

"Maybe the worst feeling of the tournament was getting behind 22-2 in the first several minutes of that game. I'm thinking, 'man everybody is watching, and we are going to embarrass ourselves,'" recalls Cox. "Well, it didn't turn out that way. That adversity gave us the opportunity to show our character and heart, as we came back and actually led by two after seven minutes of the second half."

Incredibly, Clayton State, after being down 22-2, proceeded to outscore the Eagles 40-18 over the next 21 minutes, taking a 42-40 lead with 13:19 left behind the efforts of sophomore Marie St. Fort (a team-high 16 points.)

"Over a month later, I still run into people that tell me that was the best comeback they've ever seen," marvels Cox. "I'm so proud of our girls for the way they represented themselves."

Although the Eagles eventually won the game 61-57 to conclude Clayton State's season at 29-6, it was a comeback for the ages. An elite comeback in keeping with the character of a remarkable team and coach, who tells this story of what happened after the game.

"It hurt really bad to lose, but I was proud. On my walk back to the locker room, I was trying to compose myself, and garner the strength I would need to console them, encourage them and congratulate them," he remembers. "When I got to the locker room door, there was a little girl standing outside the door. I recognized her as one of the Kenwood fifth graders. I realized that she was one of the most special ones. She is hearing impaired and very shy. She said she wanted to say good-bye to the team before we left. So, I took her in with me to see the team."

"I think that really put things into perspective for all of us. We were so blessed. We had nothing to be ashamed of or be down about. We could hold our heads high."



Clayton State's super fans – Jim and Betty Cobb

by Gid Rowell



FOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL FANS, EVERY March is a special time of the year, aptly described as "March Madness." It signals an exciting time on college basketball campuses across the country, as post season tournaments tip off and NCAA hoop fans dream of their teams making the "Big Dance" and ultimately having a magical run to the "Elite Eight" or "Final Four."

These dreams are no different on the campus of Clayton State University, but for the University's biggest hoop fans, the husband and wife team of Jimmy and Betty Cobb, it's "March Madness" all year long. The Cobbs are "fanatical" about Clayton State basketball.

For the last six years, attending Clayton State women's and men's basketball games has been a ritual for the Cobbs, who live in Ellenwood, Ga. They have traveled all over the South, cheering on the Lakers, attending

“They call us grandma and grandpa. We get some weird looks sometimes, but it’s been fun. We get a new batch of grandkids every year.”

- Betty Cobb

well over 200 games, missing only a handful during the span.

Along with the constant fixtures of coaches Gordon Gibbons and Dennis Cox pacing the sideline and athletic trainer John Zubal at the end of the bench next to the water cooler, the next certainty when it comes to Clayton State basketball is the Cobbs will always be in the stands. It doesn’t matter whether it is in Raleigh, N.C. or Tampa, Fl., they are always there.

“We haven’t missed many in the last six years,” said Jimmy Cobb. “The only one I can remember is a preseason game last year. The coaches were so surprised not to see us in the stands they called the next day to find out that I was in the hospital.”

“The Cobbs are huge supporters of Clayton State basketball. They have become great friends to our program, and it is such a comfort to always see them in the stands cheering us on,” says Cox.

The Cobb’s became Clayton State’s “Super Fans” in the fall of 2001 after meeting former coach A.C. McCullers’ women’s team eating their pre-game meal at the Golden Corral in Stockbridge. He invited them to the game, and the rest is history.

“Our daughter played high school ball for A.C.,” said Jimmy. “He invited us to the game that night, and we loved it. We tell everyone that you only have to come once, and you will be hooked.”

The Cobbs, who frequently attend practices and walk on campus, usually sponsor a pre-game meal for both the women’s and men’s teams during the season, featuring Betty’s homemade lasagna.

“That was the difference in our game against Augusta State,” said senior guard Brandon Kelley as the Lakers defeated top-10 ranked Augusta State earlier this year. “Mrs. Cobb told us that she put an extra helping of whooping in there for us, and it worked. We played one of best games of the year.”

“They call us grandma and grandpa. We get some weird looks sometimes, but it’s been fun,” says Betty. “We get a new batch of grandkids every year.”

The Cobbs have been married for 44 years and celebrated their wedding anniversary this year at the 2007 Peach Belt Conference Basketball Tournament in Greenwood, S.C. Jimmy is retired from J.L.J. Construction, while Betty is retired from the Army Air Force Exchange Service.

“We’ve been celebrating our wedding anniversary the last five years at the Peach Belt Conference Tournament,” said Betty. “The first two years we went to Columbus, followed by Augusta, and last year we were at Lander.”

The Cobbs had plenty to cheer about in 2007, as both the women’s and men’s basketball teams enjoyed two of their best seasons. The men’s team was ranked as high as second in the country in 2006-07 and finished with a 24-8 record, advancing to the NCAA Division II National Tournament. The women’s squad had a magical season, advancing to the NCAA Division II Final Four in Kearney, Neb., falling 61-57 in the semifinals. The Lakers finished fourth in the country with a school best 29-6 mark, winning the Peach Belt Conference regular season title, the Peach Belt Conference Tournament Championship and the NCAA Division II South Atlantic Region Championship.



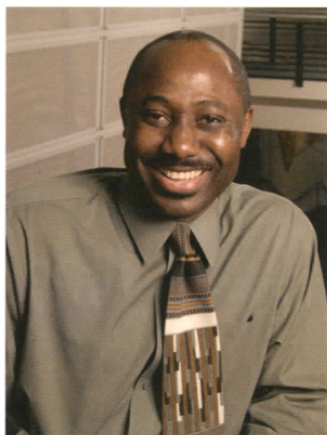
Jim and Betty Cobb

SUPER SUPPORTERS: (Facing page, Above) The Cobbs pose with the Clayton State Lakers women’s basketball team. (Facing page, Below) Can you spot Jim and Betty? The Cobbs cheer on the Lakers men’s basketball team during the March Peach Belt Conference Tournament game against Augusta State. Look closely in the large picture on page 22 of this issue, and you can glimpse the super fans in the upper right-hand corner.

by Leigh G. Wills

Jean-Jacques Medastin Doing what he loves to do

When you see this man, he's smiling. One might consider why; but only if you don't know him very well.



“ I love people and I love being with people. I love to tell jokes. I am a very passionate person; if I don't believe in something, I don't do it! That is why I teach; if I didn't love it, I wouldn't do it.”

- Jean-Jacques Medastin

FAMILY MATTERS: Jean-Jacques lives in Stockbridge with his wife, Linda, and their two teen-aged children, Fabrice, 17 and Daitza, 15. He enjoys taking care of God's people, which includes an occasional bout of soccer on the weekends, shooting hoops with his kids, listening to his wife play piano, singing solos in church and writing poetry and songs - in French, of course.

JEAN-JACQUES MEDASTIN IS A HAPPY MAN, pure and simple. He enjoys his life and his career; two sometimes very conflicting aspects of life, but not for him.

Jean-Jacques was born in Saint-Marc, Haiti, the third of seven children, and immigrated to New Jersey with his wife, Linda, in 1989. There they started a family, and Jean-Jacques started college. In the beginning, he was an IT major, but after the first two years, and in the midst of the dot.com crash and the great lay-off by IBM (30,000 at one time), Jean-Jacques decided to change his major to biology.

After graduating in 1995 with a B.S. in Biology from Kean University, he was determined to go to medical school. But with a wife and two small children, it wasn't going to work. He began a job with the EPA analyzing chemical extractions. In 1996, he and Linda decided to move to Georgia where he quickly found another position in an environmental lab, and where he quickly got promoted to supervisor.

But Jean-Jacques wasn't satisfied; he wanted to return to school and to eventually get a doctoral degree. He heard about a program at AIU for a master's degree in Information Technology; and, after his acceptance and subsequent graduation from the program, he immediately began teaching there in 1998.

He began his career at Clayton State in 2001 in the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences (CIMS) as a part-time instructor and within a year was offered a full-time position as assistant professor. While part-time, he also taught at Atlanta Technical College

and prior to that at the Art Institute of Atlanta.

His fortes are database applications, database design and, of course, webmaster. He has taught Visual Basic programming, Foundations in Information Systems and Advanced Computer Applications along with programming languages and introductory courses to the Internet, Information Systems and Computing. His areas of professional interest include not only information systems, but also global infrastructure, internet security, information technology and education, student success and team-based learning in higher education.

Jean-Jacques is a member of several academic/professional organizations, including TAG, WEBzine, CNET, Bravenet and InfoWorld. He is webmaster for WebBSIT (an on-line consortium of five University System of Georgia universities) and the Clayton State Student Success Committee, and he is the web editor for CIMS. He also participates in service learning projects within the community.

As a Seventh Day Adventist, Jean-Jacques is very active as head elder and spokesman for the Franco-Haitian community, a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Union of Seventh Day Adventists and a chaplain of the Bilingual Youth Federation of the South Atlantic Conference of Seventh Day Adventists.

Busy as he must be, he still sports that infectious smile and manages to keep his students, friends and colleagues laughing, all while doing what he loves to do.... teach.

by Leigh G. Wills

John Embry Parkerson, Jr. International service with a smile

John Parkerson has some rare qualities. Not that there aren't others like him; they're just hard to find.

HE IS OPTIMISTIC, FUNNY AND innately down-to-earth. He's generous with his time, his talents and his expertise.

Major John Embry Parkerson, Jr. (retired), former attorney for The U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG), served his country 15 years in a variety of international law assignments, including chief of the International Law Branch in the Office of JAG, The Pentagon; associate professor of Law at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point; U.S. forces Europe legal liaison, U.S. Embassy, Bonn; and international legal advisor, U.S. Army's European headquarters, Heidelberg.

Since 1993, John has been general attorney in the law department at Delta Air Lines; one of three attorneys who form the International Law Team at Delta's Atlanta headquarters. He is the primary legal counsel to the Latin America and Caribbean region and has worked closely with Delta's management to create its Latin American business strategy.

Lately, John has focused on the numerous legal and regulatory issues associated with Delta's expanding international business presence, which includes preparation of legal memoranda and "foreign vendor" motion briefs in connection with the company's Chapter 11 reorganization.

In addition to his busy schedule at Delta, John volunteers as member and past chair of the Board of Trustees for the Clayton State University Foundation, as member of the University's College of Professional Studies Advisory Committee and as adjunct professor of Social Sciences and Contemporary Issues in the

College of Arts & Sciences, a position he says is "really fun."

Currently, John serves on eight international boards, including chair of the International Executive Advisory Council at Clayton State. He is the recipient of the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce's 2001 International Business Person of the Year award and was a finalist for the 2006 Governor's Award for Individual Contribution to the International Community. And if that weren't enough, he has just been named the first Honorary Consul of Hungary for Georgia, Tennessee and North and South Carolina.

He credits the relationship with Hungary to the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce's Trade Mission to Hungary, Romania and the Czech Republic in 2003. Representatives from Clayton County, including Clayton State President Dr. Thomas K. Harden, visited with the U.S. Ambassador to Hungary and other diplomats from the region to foster economic, educational and cultural exchanges between these countries and the county. John's appointment as Honorary Consul is a direct result of that initial visit.

Shortly before his appointment, Delta announced it would begin service to Budapest. John arranged for the Hungarian Ambassador András Simonyi and his entourage to take the inaugural flight to Budapest. On the flight home, John was asked what he thought about establishing an Honorary Consul in Atlanta. Two years in the making, this rare, down-to-earth gentleman has found yet another vehicle to serve his county and his community. His generosity has paid off; his genuineness has come full circle.



John Embry Parkerson, Jr.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: John and his wife, Jo-Ann, live in Clayton County with their two sons, Justin, 22, a senior at Clayton State University and Christopher, 17, a junior at Woodward Academy. Jo-Ann co-owns Indulge: a retail store in Eagle's Landing specializing in unique gifts, cards and imported chocolates. John plans to continue his work with Hungary and plans to serve as a resource link and contact person to the Embassy in Washington.



Walker Concrete's solid commitment to safety

by Gid Rowell

"IT DOESN'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT" is a common axiom when it comes to safety issues in the workplace. For Doug Walker, a '75 Clayton State alumnus, member of the University's Board of Trustees and president of Walker Concrete, south metro Atlanta's largest concrete company, it's a proverb that has never been more germane.

Walker Concrete's commitment to safety is well-known, and with the opening of the company's state-of-the-art training facility, it has become a recognized leader in driver safety as well, with safety programs all over the country touting its incredible, realistic vehicle simulator program.

"It's nothing like driving a concrete truck," said Walker, a Clayton State alumnus and recipient of the Alumnus Distinguished School of Business Award in 2002. "It has the feel of gravity; and, with a live load churning, it's a rolling plant. Our training facility was designed for our drivers,

making sure we are the safest on the road."

The main attraction, and what many safety officials are coming to see at the Walker Training Center on Southlake Parkway in Jonesboro, is the facility's high-tech concrete truck simulator, one of only three in the United States. And at a cost of more than \$500,000, the Mark III Motion-Based Driver Training Simulator is something to see.

The simulator combines a fully operational concrete truck cab with the latest digital simulation technology to create life-like training scenarios that improve driving behavior and skill.

The simulator, which is run by nine different computers, uses high resolution projection imaging on three screens to create a 180-degree to 360-degree field of vision. Two LCD side mirrors simulate the rear view from the truck cab for the driver. One of the more realistic features of the simulator is the cab of the truck, which will rock and actually turn on its side if an accident occurs, while the simulator is in "real-time" mode.

The simulator allows for hands-on training before a driver actually gets a truck on the road. It takes the guess work out of driving a concrete truck. You can't safely road test a driver."

- Doug Walker

ng instructors can create a variety of situations, from or fog, or suffering a tire blowout, to being cut off by a visual database of scenarios includes driving in urban, freeway and off-road areas. The simulator o and vibration system for accurate driving noises, b being fully operational in terms of instrument and the dash.

rete has more than 160 trucks at nine facilities, and i become a valuable tool in its comprehensive driver Walker Concrete trucks log nearly 650 trips per day er drivers have participated in the program.

Walker Concrete Risk Management Vice President the driver training program doesn't begin and end re simulator. The training package is a three-prong each with computer-based training, instructor-led ulation-based training. Each part of the package key aspects of commercial truck driving: Circles of n Driving), Shifting Techniques, Fuel Management, ent, Space Management, Adverse Conditions and vvers.

first complete a six-hour computer based training ility before graduating to the simulator. Once they puter training, a new driver takes what he or she has skill level is tested in the simulator. The so-called pot" is achieved when an equal balance between is found, so that strengths of each component con- g the most effective form of learning possible.

crete truck takes a special person," said Simpson. ng all the time; and, when it's fully loaded, it weighs Needless to say it doesn't take corners well, and ercial trucks, a concrete truck can spend more time ns than on regular paved roads."

the obvious safety benefits from the training simu- nforeseen benefits from the training is the preven- from drivers learning how to correctly shift and The training has led to less stress on the engine, , leading to less maintenance costs. Another posi- roved fuel management, decreasing consumption

Walker Concrete was founded more than 50 years ago by Doug's father, Barney Walker. He began the company with a pickup truck and a two-bag mixer pouring footings, driveways and foundations all across the Clayton, Henry and Fayette counties. A few years later, he received his first large commercial project, providing concrete for the original Atlanta Motor Speedway and has never looked back.

Doug, who became president of the company in 1980, was driving a concrete truck at age 16 and hauled the mortar cement that helped build the first facilities of the then-Clayton Junior College. He later graduated from Clayton State in 1975 with a degree in business and met his wife, Debbie, in biology class at Clayton State. Walker, who resides in Fayetteville, has been a member of the Clayton State Foundation since 2004.

Today, Walker Concrete is the leading supplier of concrete products and related services in the south metro-Atlanta area, with more than 250 employees and nine locations. Walker has locations in Jonesboro, Barnesville, Conley, Fayetteville, Griffin, Jackson, Locust Grove, Palmetto and Tyrone.



LROY (A.A. Office Administration '90) — Roy, of Rex, GA, received a 2007 Distinguished Service Award from the Clayton State Alumni Association. McElroy, after 30 years of service at Clayton State, was also recognized as a finalist for the 2007 Alice J. Smith Staff award, presented to the top Clayton State staff member each year.

BAKER, III (A.S. Business '76) — Baker, III, of Chaseland Corporation and its subsidiaries, was recognized by the Clayton State System of Georgia in its publication, "30 Years of Transforming Lives." He has 30 Clayton State alumni recognized from USG and Clayton State. A long-time supporter of Clayton State, the James M. Baker Center is named in his honor.

DISSERT (A.A. Psychology '78) — Dissert, of Fernandina Beach, FL, was named a 2007 Clayton State Arts & Sciences Distinguished Alumni. Recently named to the Clayton County School Board, Dissert served many years as a Clayton State graduate. He was president of the Student Professionals Association and a past member for Clayton Mental Health Center, the Human Resources Center and the Gang Taskforce.

DR. J. ENGLISH (A.A. Criminal Justice '78) — English, of Fayetteville, GA, was named a 2007 Clayton State Overall Distinguished Alumni. He was appointed the head of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency in 2006 by Governor Richardson. He has served for 10 years with Clayton State. He serves on Georgia's Security Task Force and has Clayton State named a Best Practices as a state team member.

(HITLOW) STREET (A.A. '83) — Street, of Milledgeville, GA, is a lawyer in her firm Hitlow Street, P.C. She graduated magna laude from West Georgia State University in 1985, with distinction from Emory University School of Law in 1988 and with a master's certificate in EU Competition Law from King's College in London in 1999.

JUDITH CONWAY (A.S. Nursing '90) — Conway, of Riverdale, GA, received the 2007 Clayton State School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award from the Clayton State Alumni Association. She currently is the Minister of Congregational Care at First Baptist Church in Morrow, GA and is an immediate past president of the Georgia Baptist Nursing Fellowship.

RACHEL CRUMBLEY (A.A. Journalism '90) — Crumbley, of Fortson, GA, is the Corporate Relations Manager at Callaway Gardens. A former Student Government Association president, she is married with two children.

CHRISTI ZUNIGA (A.A. Music '91) — Zuniga, of Omaha, NE, plays piano for an orchestra in Nebraska. Her husband, Nick, also graduated from Clayton State in 1991 and is a graphic artist for an architectural firm.

WANDA (WARLICK) WATSON (A.A. Psychology '92) — After completing her associate degree at Clayton State, Watson received a BS in Nursing from Emory University in 1994 and currently is pursuing her master's in Nursing Education. She is employed by Emory as a Rehab Specialist at the Emory Center for Rehabilitation Medicine.

ELAINE (SUMISLAWSKI) BETSCH (B.S. Nursing '93) — Betsch, of Germantown, TN, is a pre-op and recovery RN with the Memphis Surgery Center, Cresthaven. She retired with the rank of Colonel from the Air Force Reserves in 2004.

MELISSA D. KINARD (A.S. Nursing '93) — Kinard, of Beaufort, SC, is a RN at Beaufort Memorial Hospital. She also owns her own photography business, ProPhoto of Beaufort.

KATHY DAVIS (B.S. Nursing '94) — Davis is in her fourth year of the Ph.D. nursing program at Georgia State University. She is currently a full-time assistant professor at Gordon College in Barnesville and works part-time at Henry Medical Center in Stockbridge, GA. In 2006, she had the privilege of presenting at the 17th Annual Nurse Educators Conference in Breckenridge, CO, and at the Seventh Annual Interdisciplinary Research

Conference at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland.

CHRIS MENARD (B.B.A. Accounting '94) — Menard, of Stockbridge, GA, received the 2007 Clayton State School of Business Distinguished Alumni Award from the Clayton State Alumni Association. He is owner of Triality Business Solutions, a business that specializes in Microsoft Office training. He was the first Microsoft Office Master Instructor worldwide for Office XP, 2000 and 97.

KESIA T. MARTIN (A.S. Biology '95) — Martin, of Mobile, AL, is the Diabetes Center Program Assistant at Providence Hospital in Mobile.

LEAH MILES (B.A.S. Management '97) — A resident of Hampton, GA, Miles is owner of Georgia Life Skills Services, an organization that offers clients tutoring services and life skills training. She is a member of the Clayton State Alumni Association Board of Directors and will serve as the Board's Treasurer in July 2007. She was the first person in the state of Georgia to graduate with a B.A.S. degree.

C. WALTER TANNER (B.B.A. Management '97) — Tanner, of Lawrenceville, GA, was named a Senior Associate at Newcomb & Boyd, a multidiscipline consulting and engineering firm.

CAROL (SMITH) WILLIAMS (CERT. Industrial Services & Supervision '97) — Williams, of Locust Grove, GA, is the P.R.I.D.E. Statistical Analyst for the Toys R Us Distribution Center in McDonough, GA.

SANDRA R. CHANDLER (A.A. Mathematics '98) — After graduation, Chandler worked in the Learning Support Center for about a year as a math facilitator. She graduated from Georgia State in 1992 with a B.S. in Mathematics, minor in Physics and in 1995 with a M.S. in Mathematics, concentration in Statistics. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Tidewater Community College in Norfolk, VA, and owner of Chandler's Ministry International.

KIM (KAMMERER) HAMILTON (B.A. Middle Grades Education '98) — Hamilton, of

is a math teacher at Davis Rockdale County. She and [unclear], both played basketball at [unclear].

[unclear] (B.A. Integrative Studies) serves as the Aide to the [unclear] of Madison, AL.

[unclear] (B.S. Nursing '99) – A [unclear] ton, GA, Pascal is a regis- the Clinical Informatics [unclear] plant Unit for Piedmont [unclear].

[unclear] (A.A.S. Office [unclear]) – A resident of Auburn, Network Administrator for [unclear] ment in Opelika, AL.

[unclear] (B.A.S. Allied Health) the director of Health and [unclear] at Eternal Joy MCC. [unclear] in Trotwood, OH, is in her [unclear] ted Theological Seminary, [unclear] aster in Divinity & Master [unclear] al Care & Counseling.

[unclear] (B.B.A. Management '01) [unclear] ville, GA, was a finalist [unclear] yton State Distinguished [unclear] is an advertising account [unclear] IC and received an award [unclear] r's top automobile adver- [unclear] re in 2006.

[unclear] (B.B.A. Management '01) [unclear] pton, GA, resident, is an [unclear] Manager at Nationwide [unclear], GA.

[unclear] (B.B.A. General [unclear] rowner, of Hampstead, [unclear] or the 2007 Clayton State [unclear] nni Award. She is the [unclear] ence Engineer at GE [unclear] irolina.

[unclear] (B.S. [unclear]) – Originally from Tyrone, [unclear] itly lives in Jackson, MS, [unclear] ated cum laude from the [unclear] sippi with a master's in [unclear].



Attention alumni: Legacy Court honors the Bent Tree and displays bricks laid in honor of friends of Clayton State. Bricks can be purchased from Alumni Relations for \$50. Call (678) 466-4477.



of Bent Tree found in Big Sky Country

Alumnus Richard L. Howell ('94) has located a long, lost cousin to our beloved Big Sky country of Montana. Pictured above is a photo of Howell, posing with his "Laker Connection" magazine at the tree. Howell, who received an A.A.S. degree in electrical technology, moved to Columbia Falls, MT, in 2003. He owns an electrical business called The Watt Doctor and lives 17 miles from Glacier National Park with Rocky Mountains from his window. The Bent Tree clone is located in the Big Sky area round next to state highway 93 in Rollins, MT.

Biomedical Science. She is in her first year of dental school at Mississippi and will be graduating in 2010.

J. DAVID PEEPLES (B.B.A. Marketing '02) — Peeples, a resident of Hapeville, GA, is owner of Peeps Containers in Lake City, GA. A former member of the Clayton State golf team, he is married to Allyson (Rutledge) Peeples, a 2004 B.S.N. graduate and a former member of the Laker women's basketball team.

ANGELA (SPEER) POORE (A.A.S. Computer Network Technology '02) — Poore, of Newnan, GA, is a Senior Security Engineer with Delta Technology.

JEFF M. WILSON (B.S. Nursing '02) — Wilson, of Jonesboro, GA, serves as the Coordinator of Education at Piedmont-Fayette Hospital. Following graduation in 2002, he served in the military in Afghanistan.

MARCUS ADAMS (B.I.T. Information Technology '03) — Adams, a Jonesboro, GA, native, is employed by Loggins & Associates as a Digital Archivist.

NATHAN AKINS (B.A.S. Administrative Management '03) — Akins, of Dallas, GA, is as an assistant manager for Bank of America and is an instructor of Accounting at Chattahoochee Technical College. He also earned his MBA in Global Management in 2005 from the University of Phoenix and an MBA with a concentration in Accounting in June of 2006.

BRANDE (CHATMAN) JONES (B.S. Biology '03) — Jones, of Riverdale, GA, is in graduate school at Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

LINDA PHILLIPS (B.B.A. Management '03) — Phillips is owner and broker of Phillips & Associates Realty, a real estate company located in Decatur and serving metro Atlanta. She currently resides in Ellenwood, GA.

DENNIS J. BAKER (B.S. Integrative Studies '04) — Baker, of Fayetteville, GA, was a finalist for a 2007 Clayton State Distinguished Alumni Award. He works in the Clayton County District Attorney's Office as the deputy chief investigator.

DENEN (B.S. Integrative Studies '04) — Denen, of Loganville, GA, with 3M based out of St. Louis, MO, is a network manager for Turner Broadcasting, Inc. in Atlanta. In 2006, Rivers was selected a "Rising Leader" for the Women in Cable Telecommunications Organization.

Nursing '04) — Neal, of Marietta, GA, was recently named the Treatment Manager at Henry County Hospital in McDonough, GA. She has been a nurse for 28 years.

(B.B.S. Marketing '04) — A resident of Marietta, GA, Nelson was named the winner of three national "Rookies" awards by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. She is a member of the Clayton State Board of Directors and was elected the Board's President in July 2007.

(B.S. Communication & Media Studies '04) — A resident of Atlanta, works at the Clayton State in McDonough, GA.

(B.A.S. Technology Studies '04) — Ajayi, a former member of the Clayton State Track & Field squad, is currently a graduate student in Sports Administration at the University of Georgia.

(B.I.T. Information Systems '04) — Dowling, of Conyers, GA, was named the 2007 Clayton State Student of the Year for the College of Business Administration. She is a Safety Coordinator and a Specialist for the Georgia Department of Transportation and a member of the National Transportation Safety Board's Against Children Task Force.

(B.S. Nursing '05) — A resident of Denver, CO, was recently accepted into the nursing program at the University of Colorado. She has pursued research in geriatric care nurses and their chronic health experiences possibly leading to automatic stress syndrome.

(B.A.S. Technology Studies '04) — Rivers, of Riverdale, GA, was named the 2007 Clayton State Student of the Year for the College of Professional Studies and was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from

the Clayton State Alumni Association. She is currently a network manager for Turner Broadcasting, Inc. in Atlanta. In 2006, Rivers was selected a "Rising Leader" for the Women in Cable Telecommunications Organization.

DAPHNE (ROBINSON) SHAW (A.A.S. Paralegal Studies '05) — Shaw, of Atlanta, is a paralegal with Balch & Bingham in Atlanta.

LAUREN SINGLETON (B.S. Integrative Studies '05) — Singleton, of Sharpsburg, GA, was a finalist for a 2007 Clayton State Distinguished Alumni Award. She is the City of Morrow Tourism Center Director.

VANESSA R. AUSTIN (B.A.S. Management '06) — A resident of Duluth, GA, Austin is the I.S. Business Coordinator & Administrative Assistant for Piedmont Healthcare in Vinings, GA.

DAVID L. BAIRD II (B.B.A. Marketing '06) — A resident of McDonough, GA, Baird works at the Rental Management Department at Penske Truck Leasing in Forest Park, GA.

MARY (JOHNSON) CAIRO (B.A.S. Management '06) — Cairo, of Jonesboro, GA, is an Office Coordinator for Southern Regional Medical Center.

BATAVIA (SURLIN) DOMINGUE (B.A.S. Management '06) — Domingue, of Hampton, GA, is an Advancement Associate at Community Christian School in Stockbridge, GA.

BEN HOPKINS (B.A. Communication & Media Studies '06) — Hopkins, of Morrow, GA, works in the Student Affairs Office at Clayton State. He was named to the Clayton State Alumni Association Board of Directors in 2007. At Clayton State, Hopkins was active in student government, the Bent Tree newspaper, the Student Ambassador program and the Sigma Pi fraternity.

LARRY JORDAN (B.B.A. Management '06) — Jordan, of McDonough, GA, is a realtor with Keller Williams Realty Traditions in Stockbridge. He was named to the Clayton State Alumni Association Board of Directors in 2007.

TERI L. KINARD (B.A.S. Management '06) — Kinard, of Meansville, GA, is an Assessment

Specialist at Flint River Technical College in Thomaston, GA.

JODIE B. MACK (B.S. Nursing '06) — Mack, of Starkville, MS, is a registered nurse at Oktibbeha County Hospital in Starkville.

PRECIOUS PROTHRO (B.A. Middle Grades Education '06) — Prothro, of Fairburn, GA, is a middle school teacher at Dutchtown Middle School in Hampton, GA.

KIMIKO SMITH (B.A. Communication & Media Studies '06) — Smith, of College Park, GA, is the Communications Program Specialist for the American Cancer Society and communications liaison between the American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, and American Heart Association for the Preventive Health Partnership Collaboration.

APRIL TAYLOR (B.A. Integrative Studies '06) — Taylor is an assistant women's basketball coach at Newberry College, a NCAA Division II school in South Carolina. She was a three-year letterwinner at Clayton State. She also served as the SAAC President for the Peachbelt Conference and was voted Homecoming Queen in 2005 at Clayton State.

JANET (MCGHIE) THOMAS (B.S. Nursing '06) — A resident of Pine Lake, GA, Thomas is a registered nurse at DeKalb Medical Center.

PAUL ALAN YOUNGBLOOD (B.S. Criminal Justice '06) — A resident of Locust Grove, GA, Youngblood is a Loss Prevention Supervisor for Kohl's.

THOMAS ZAHAROPOULOS (B.B.A. Management '06) — A resident of Stockbridge, GA, Zaharopoulos is a DOT Administrator for Black & Veatch Corporation, which is a major international water/power/telecom company based out of Kansas City, MO.

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We want to hear from you!

Contact Gid Rowell
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Your gift helps the Clayton State University Foundation in its mission to educate students, support faculty and staff and increase community awareness. We appreciate your contribution.

You may also make a gift through the **Laker Legacy Society**, which has been established to:

- Ensure that the University will have financial resources to provide excellent opportunities for future generations and
- To recognize those alumni or friends who have made a commitment to the future of the University through a documented planned gift, such as through a will or a bequest.



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Contact the **Office of Development** at Clayton State University by calling **(678) 466-4474** to discuss giving options or to request more information.

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