



*Clayton State in fall*



2000 Clayton State Boulevard  
Morrow, GA 30260-0285

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ATLANTA GA  
PERMIT #4444



FALL 2008 • VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 2 • A PUBLICATION OF CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

# THE LAKER CONNECTION

THREE **NEW**  
BUILDINGS OPEN

Enhancing student success

CLAYTON STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Dean Miller's Legacy  
10 years at Clayton State

Clayton State University -  
*Fayette*

Change Takes New Form  
Campus expansion on the horizon

Alumni Dinner  
Dining at the Georgia Aquarium



## Letter from the president

### The success of our students has always been the primary focus at Clayton State University. Our professors

have, from the beginning of the institution, provided their expertise and effort to each student so he or she would have a good opportunity to succeed in class. We have also provided our guidance and personal assistance to enhance students' probability of reaching their life goals.

In 2004, Clayton State renewed its commitment to student success when the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) was developed. The QEP provided for eight student success initiatives;

- Enhance freshman year programming.
- Improve student preparation for and performance in all classes
- Establish appropriate program of academic assistance for students.
- Improve academic advising/mentoring.
- Improve student recruitment and marketing.
- Improve enrollment processes.
- Improve non-academic areas of student life.
- Enhance professional growth and recruitment of faculty and staff.

In 2008, as the new residence hall (Laker Hall), the Student Activities Center (SAC) and the new building for the School of Business come on line, Clayton State continues to provide transformational experiences for our students.

This issue of The Laker Connection also focuses on other aspects of the transitions that Clayton State is undergoing in the on-going pursuit of student success, both on-campus and off-campus, with the establishment earlier this year of Clayton State University – Fayette, the University's new instructional site in Peachtree City. Already a success with some 300 students enrolled, Clayton State – Fayette is another example of how the University serves the public, and its students... in effect, bringing the University to the students for their convenience. Closer to home, the acquisition of the Atlanta Bible College property just to the east of campus is another development that signals a transition for the University... the first addition to the Morrow campus in 39 years.

Dr. Thomas K. Harden  
President





# Contents



## 3 CLAYTON STATE OPENS THREE NEW BUILDINGS

Clayton State is proud to present the three newest buildings on its Morrow, GA, campus: Laker Hall, the Student Activities Center and the School of Business Building. Take a look at what each building has to offer!

## features

- 10 **BUD MILLER: 10 YEARS OF TRANSITION**  
Clayton State recognizes the recently retired dean of the School of Business.
- 12 **THE ARCHIVES: MAINTAINING THE MEMORIES OF CLAYTON STATE**  
The University's archive facility creates new exhibits displaying Clayton State's past.
- 14 **"A DREAM COME TRUE" - CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY - FAYETTE**  
Clayton State University now offers classes in Fayette County's Peachtree City.
- 22 **CHANGE TAKES A NEW FORM: CAMPUS EXPANSION**  
Clayton State acquires new property adjacent to the Morrow campus.
- 24 **A GUST BLOWS IN GEORGIA**  
Lakers run from a sub-.500 regular season to the NCAA Division II Sweet Sixteen.
- 30 **ALUMNI DINNER VOYAGE UNDER THE SEA**  
Clayton State alumni gather at the Georgia Aquarium for the 2008 Alumni Dinner.

## departments

- |    |                 |    |                        |
|----|-----------------|----|------------------------|
| 16 | CAMPUS UPDATE   | 28 | STUDENT/ALUMNI PROFILE |
| 26 | FACULTY PROFILE | 32 | CLASS NOTES            |
| 27 | TRUSTEE PROFILE |    |                        |

## THE LAKER CONNECTION Vol. 3, No. 2, FALL 2008

### UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

**PRESIDENT**  
Dr. Thomas K. Harden

### THE LAKER CONNECTION STAFF

**EDITORIAL STAFF**  
John Shiffert, *Managing Editor*  
Lauren Graves, '04, *Editor*

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Erin Fender, '05  
Lauren Graves  
Gid Rowell

**DESIGN AND LAYOUT**  
Lauren Graves

**LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Erin Fender

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Paul E. Bailey  
Stanley Leary  
Gid Rowell  
Submitted photographs

**PRINTER**  
Creasey Printing Services, Inc.

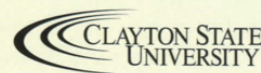
**THE LAKER CONNECTION** is published two times a year by the Office of University Relations. It is mailed to alumni, trustees, retirees and friends. For additional copies of the magazine or address changes, please email [johnshiffert@clayton.edu](mailto:johnshiffert@clayton.edu) or write The Office of University Relations, Clayton State University, 2000 Clayton State Boulevard, Morrow, GA 30260-0285.

**CLASS NOTES** and alumni updates may be sent by email to [gidrowell@clayton.edu](mailto:gidrowell@clayton.edu) or by mail to The Office of Alumni Relations, Clayton State University, 2000 Clayton State Boulevard, Morrow, GA 30260-0285.

Clayton State University is a Senior Unit of the University System of Georgia. Clayton State University is an outstanding comprehensive metropolitan university that transforms the lives of students, advances knowledge and drives economic growth.

Clayton State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. Clayton State is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution. Individuals requiring disability related accommodations for participation in any event or to obtain print materials in an alternative format, please contact the Disability Resource Center at (678) 466-5445.

Visit us online at [www.clayton.edu](http://www.clayton.edu).







# Clayton State University Foundation

The mission of the Clayton State University Foundation is to "assist Clayton State University by attracting financial and other resources to achieve the University's mission and goals to educate students; support faculty and staff; and to increase community awareness."

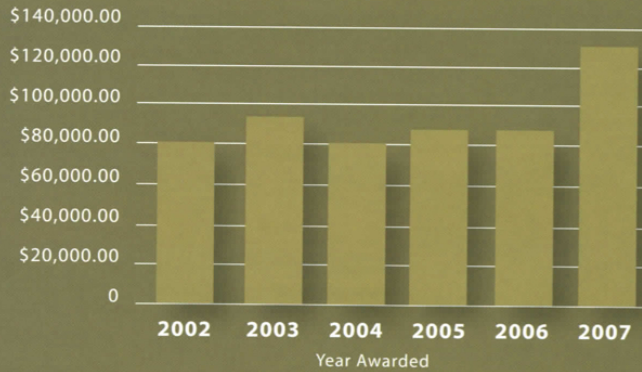
The Clayton State University Foundation is operated by a 28 member Board of Trustees, chaired by Judge Stephen E. Boswell in 2006 and 2007. The board accomplishes their mission through fund raising efforts and sound money management practices. As the asset growth chart indicates, assets of the Foundation have steadily increased to more than five million dollars. The Foundation Board carefully invests endowment funds and monitors the awarding of endowment proceeds.

A large portion of endowment proceeds, along with Foundation support of the Honors Program, is used to provide scholarships to deserving students. As indicated on the scholarship chart, in six years the Foundation has awarded over one-half million dollars in student scholarships.

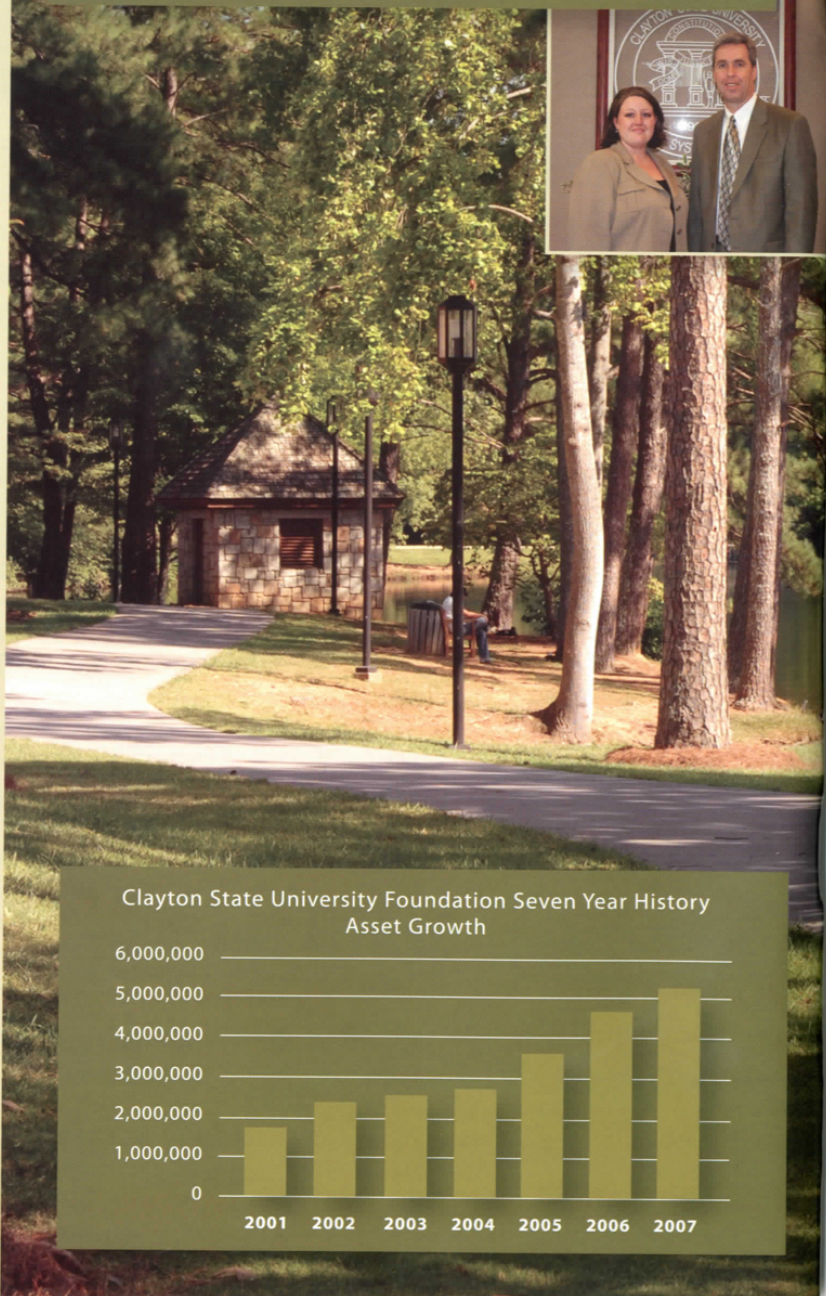
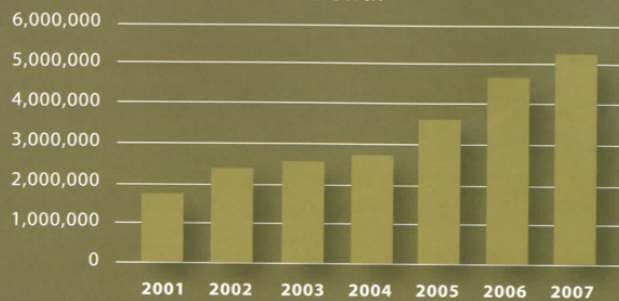
In addition to scholarships, the Foundation supports many activities and events of Clayton State University, including faculty and staff development, student awards and recognition, and construction of facilities. The Foundation is a vital part of the University, doing much to enhance the academic experience.

To learn more about the Clayton State University Foundation and ways you can be involved, or to make a contribution to the Clayton State University Foundation, please contact Reda Rowell in the Clayton State Office of Development at (678) 466-4474. Whether an immediate gift for current activities, the creation of an endowment to provide an annual scholarship or support another program, or to establish a planned gift by remembering Clayton State in your will, we will work with you to structure your contribution to meet your goals.

### Clayton State University Foundation Scholarship Awards



### Clayton State University Foundation Seven Year History Asset Growth







A rendering of Laker Hall's front entrance adjacent to Clayton State Boulevard. Students make an easy walk from housing to classes.

# Laker Hall

Enhancing student success

## INTRODUCING LAKER HALL

Clayton State University is proud to introduce Laker Hall, a four-story, state-of-the-art, 178,000 square foot public/private venture student housing facility featuring 451-beds and fully-furnished suite-style living. For the first time in its history, Clayton State University students, particularly first-time full-time freshman, can call the campus "home."

If you're envisioning the cramped dorm rooms of yesteryear, you'll be relieved to know that Laker Hall is light years ahead of the norm when it comes to student housing. Students live four to a unit in apartment style suites. Each suite features four private bedrooms, two bathrooms and a shared living room space. Suites also include a kitchenette with a microwave and full-size refrigerator/freezer. All utilities are included in the housing costs, so you get the luxury of an apartment suite without the hassle of monthly utility bills.

Each bedroom comes furnished with a twin-size bed, chest of drawers, desk, chair and closet. Each resident has a personal key to his/her private bedroom space that is separate from LakerCard entry into the suite.

## About the Building...

*Use: 451 bed housing facility.*

*Architect/Contractor: Niles Bolton Associates, Inc./H.J. Russell & Company*

*Cost: \$21 Million*

*Square feet: 178,000 sq. ft.*

*Location: Off of Clayton State Boulevard*

*Construction time: From August 2007 to August 2008*







Shared living space in a Laker Hall suite.

But you'll want more than just a place to sleep and study. Laker Hall offers technology savvy extras such as card swipe entry into both the main entrance and your suite, High Definition capable cable television service, VOIP telephone service, Wi-Fi wireless internet throughout and Gigabit (that's right, Gigabit) Ethernet service – the fastest Ethernet service in the state of Georgia. Round it all out with a game

room, café, lounge and group study areas and 24-hour Front Desk service, and you have a great environment to live.

But it gets even better...

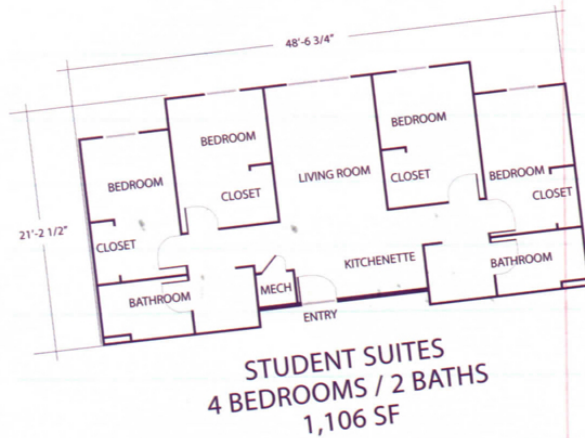
#### LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Living in Laker Hall not only puts you within easy walking distance of classes and the newly completed Student Activities Center, but is also gives you the opportunity to really get to know other students, develop friendships and potentially make better

grades. Here's how...

National studies show that living on campus plays a role in higher grade point averages and retention rates, because students benefit from the community environment. Living with people with common interests and majors; joining study groups; participating in faculty interaction sessions, becoming part of student cohorts and having access to internet service in your bedroom and suite gives you ample resources to press on towards your college degree.

But perhaps just as important as your college lessons will be the life lessons you'll learn from other students – not to mention the experiences you'll



*Living on campus spells success because students...*

- are more satisfied with their living environments;
- are more likely to graduate and to enter graduate school;
- meet more diverse people;
- are exposed to a wider range of ideas and cultures;
- develop greater artistic interests;
- develop strong interpersonal skills;
- finish college in less time;
- have more contact with faculty and other students;
- are more likely to have greater self esteem.



Laker Hall's front entrance near the end of its construction. For added security, student residents will use their LakerCard for entrance into the building and their suites.

bring to the mix. Students in Laker Hall come from different economic and racial backgrounds, ages and parts of the world, exposing you to a wider range of ideas and cultures.

You can also take on leadership roles specifically designed for undergraduate by getting involved with the Laker Hall Council or interviewing to become a Resident Assistant (RA).

Clayton State Criminal Justice major M.B. Shockley is one of 18 RAs assisting residents during the fall 2008 semester.

"It's a great opportunity for traditional, non-traditional and transfer students to come together and connect," says Shockley. "[Laker Hall] is home to all kinds of Clayton State students."

#### TRANSFORM YOURSELF

Many students choose to study at universities that offer student housing, because they feel that living on campus is part of the true college experience. But futons and Ramen Noodles aside, experiencing college through residence life can be life transforming.

Students who want a transformational experience come to Clayton State with an interest in learning who they are and who they want to be. At Clayton State, we're not just swapping a room at home for a room in Laker Hall or trading internet for internet. We have the best, brightest and most creative students coming together, and we're creating an environment for student connection. That's the magic of residence life.

#### FRESHMAN TAKEOVER

Laker Hall will no doubt become a mix of traditional, non-traditional, international and transfer students. All

first-time full-time students are required to live on-campus both fall and spring semester.

Housing cost is \$2,475 per semester for a 10-month contract (August through May), totaling \$4,950 for the 2008-2009 academic year. The required meal plan is \$1,425 per semester or \$2,850 for the 2008-2009 academic year. Room and meal plan costs are charged directly to your university student account, and students who qualify for financial aid may use these funds to pay for all or a portion of the costs.

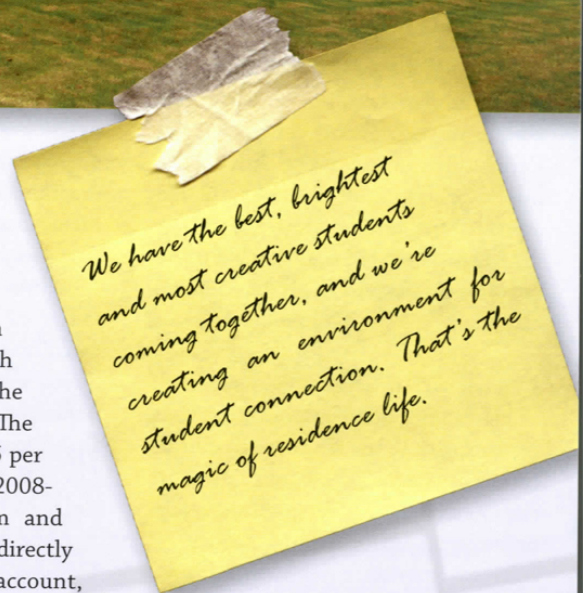
Laker Hall is a co-ed housing facility, however suitemates will be of the same sex. Students may choose someone they know to live within their suite by completing the Suitemate Survey. If you do not have a suitemate request, students will be assigned with suitemate based upon their responses to the Suitemate Survey.

Each bedroom is fully-furnished with a twin size bed, chest of drawers, a desk, a chair and a closet. The shared suite living room area is furnished with

a sofa, chair, end tables and television stand.

For a list of frequently asked questions about Laker Hall or for more information on Clayton State's largest building, visit the website <http://adminservices.clayton.edu/housing>.

By Lauren Graves





# Student Space

## Student Activities Center gives students a place to call their OWN...

Stress relief is here. Clayton State University students can now unwind after classes in the new Student Activities Center. The second of the University's public/private ventures, the 62,000 square foot Student Activities Center (SAC) opened in fall semester 2008 and promises to become the hub for life on campus.

### FOR THE STUDENTS

Universities are centers for higher education, but there's more to education than hitting the books. The Student Activities Center promises to add to students' skills, helping enrich the college experience with social programming and physical activity. And while every building on Clayton State's campus is dedicated to the students, the Student Activities Center is the first building built to promote social interaction and health and fitness.

"We hope that students will use the Student Activities Center for decompression time, for getting out of the classroom and running up and down the basketball court," says Clayton State Director of Recreation and Wellness Cindy Lauer.

The two-level Student Activities Center is now home to Clayton State's fraternity and sorority life, student or-

ganizations, intramural sports, recreation and fitness and health and wellness, to name a few programs. If you think it sounds like students have taken over this building, you're right.

"This building gives students something to own," says Eric Simon, director of the Student Activities Center and the Department of Campus Life. "It's their building. They can claim a place on campus that is their own."

And students really do own the building, as student fees support the recreational facility. Since this was student funded project, it seemed appropriate to offer student organizations the building's best office space. Their new digs are on the second floor overlooking the café and adjacent to a wall of windows.

"The design team wanted to say 'thank you' to the students for funding this project. So students get prime real estate in this facility," explains Lauer.

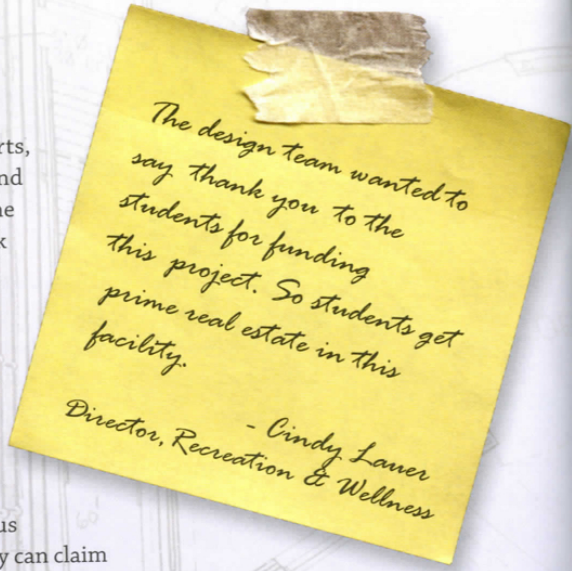
In addition to student organization office space, the Department of Recreation and Wellness and the Department of Campus Life finds a home in the new building and collaboratively

manage the facility.

### WHAT'S INSIDE?

Now let's get to the fun stuff. The second floor of the building features a cardio balcony complete with more than 40 pieces of cardio equipment, flat panel televisions and a great view out the building's curtain wall of windows. Beyond the cardio balcony you'll find a large and small group exercise room for activities such as personal training and yoga classes.

The lower level features two basketball courts, a strength training area including Cybex weight machines and locker room facilities. A café, game



The design team wanted to say thank you to the students for funding this project. So students get prime real estate in this facility.

- Cindy Lauer  
Director, Recreation & Wellness







A rendering of the Student Activities Center shows the architectural detail of the facility. A tempered glass wall of windows lines either side of the structure, allowing natural light to pour into the space.

## About the Building...

*Use: Multi-use facility that houses Campus Life and the Department of Recreation & Wellness. Intramural sports find a home in this building as do student organizations.*

*Architect/Contractor: Cooper Carry/Skanska USA Building, Inc.*

*Cost: \$17 Million*

*Square feet: 62,000 sq ft on main*

*Location: Near the soccer fields and tennis courts.*

*Construction time: From August 2007 to August 2008*

*Features: café, conference room, student lounge, game room, strength training area, cardio area, basketball courts, group exercise studios, locker rooms ...*

room, conference room and student lounge also find a place in the building, as does an outside courtyard that Simon believes will become a favorite student gathering area.

"I believe my favorite place in the Student Activities Center will be the courtyard," said Simon as the building neared its completion in summer 2008. "My experience has been that the courtyard is a focal point on campus. It's a great place to hang out."

While the building is a student dominated structure, the Student Activities Center can be utilized by Clayton State faculty, staff and alumni.

A rentable ballroom provides a great space for meetings, presentations, speaking events and even formal dinners. When arranged in theatre style seating, the ballroom holds approximately 500 to 550 people; when arranged in round tables for dinner events, the ballroom seats 308 people.

Faculty, staff, alumni and current SmartBodies members are also invited to join the new fitness center. For more information on membership costs,

please email [cindylauer@clayton.edu](mailto:cindylauer@clayton.edu) or call (678) 466-4977.

### PLAYING TO WIN

"We really want this to be fun," says Lauer. "Learning takes place in this type of environment, and this facility gives students a different environment to interact with each other... We want students to be so enticed, they can't resist."

Simon concurs, adding "Our mission at the University is to keep students involved... The Student Activities Center offers constructive entertainment and is a great place to spend downtime."

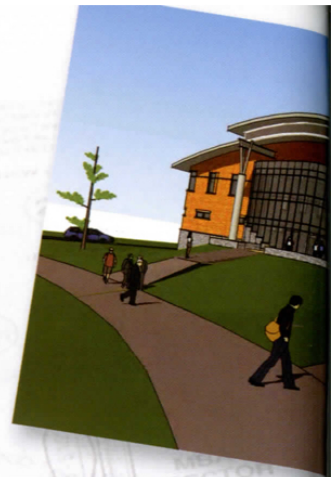
By Lauren Graves



Shown nearing its completion, the Student Activities Center promises to be the new student hang out on campus.



# Taking care of Business



## Clayton State's AACSB accredited School of Business moves into its new building.

### About the Building...

*Use: Multi-use facility that houses 30 faculty, administrators and staff; capstone classroom; study areas; etc.*

*Architect/ Contractor: Flynn Fenderup/ YLH Construction*

*Cost: \$4 Million*

*Square feet: 17,900 sq ft*

*Location: Connected to the Technology Building*

*Construction time: From summer 2007 to summer 2008*

### WHAT'S INSIDE?

Rounding out Clayton State's new construction projects is the two story, 17,900 square foot School of Business Building. Home to business faculty, staff and administration, the School of Business Building connects to the existing Technology Building and gives business students a place to focus on their studies within close proximity to professors and advisors.

Construction on the School of Business Building commenced in summer 2007 with former Dean of the School of Business Ernest "Bud" Miller hailing the structure as "a new home that will match the quality of our programs."

The building is considered the third step in the process of reinventing Clayton State's School of Business; steps one and two being the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation of the School's undergraduate programs, and the establishment of a Master of Business Administration, respectively.

### CONSIDERATE CONSTRUCTION

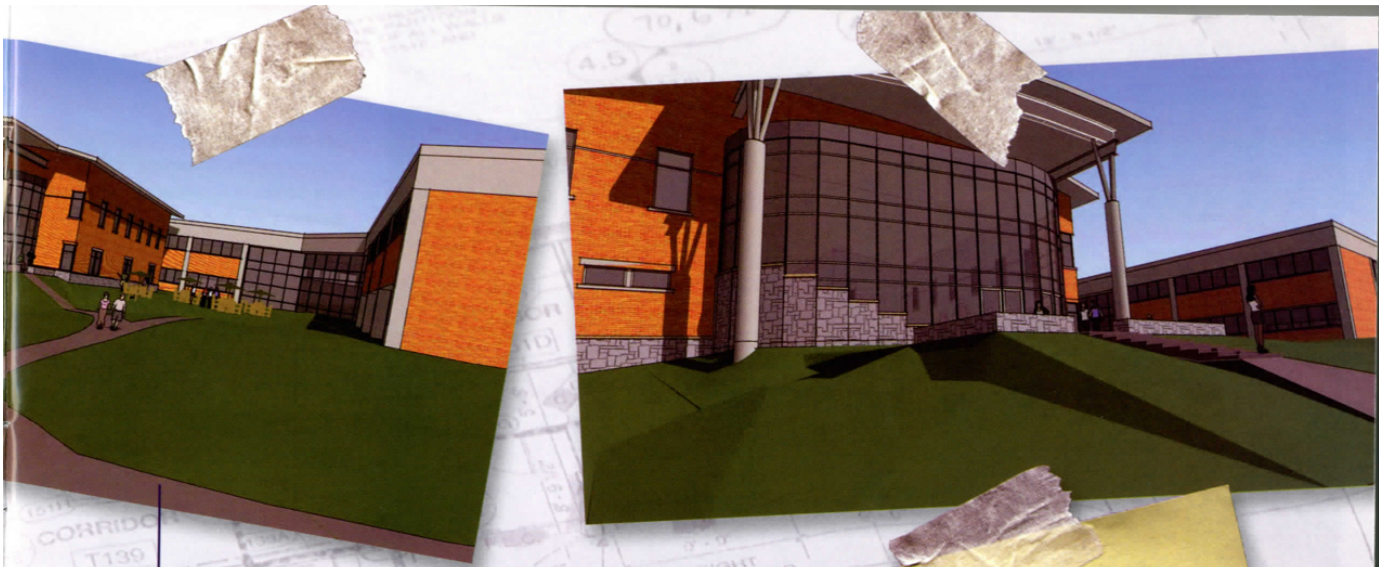
Not only does the new building re-

fect the quality of Clayton State's business programs, but it also reflects the University's desire to maintain the natural beauty of the campus. Extra care was taken to leave as many mature trees as possible around the structure, which caused construction workers to get creative when maneuvering equipment around the large pines and dogwoods.

In addition to preserving trees, the new School of Business Building was constructed using an environmentally friendly insulating material called insulated concrete forms (ICF). ICF help reduce noise pollution and is more energy efficient for heating and cooling. According to Steve Phillips with YLH Construction Company, few commercial buildings utilize ICF in their construction, putting Clayton State's School of Business Building on the cutting edge in energy conservation.

Another energy efficient aspect of the School of Business Building construction is the use of technology to aid in control of the building's lighting. A curtain wall of glass on the front entry of the building allows an abundance of natural lighting during the day, while





Artist renderings of the glass curtain wall entrance to the School of Business Building. The School of Business Building connects to the existing Technology Building.

the use of lighting controls limit indoor lighting to hours when the building is in use.

While creating a structure that melds with the beauty of the campus is important to Clayton State University, education is the institution's main goal. The building is designed to nurture and enhance teamwork, and includes several glass-enclosed spaces for students to study together. Business students will also benefit from the intimacy the School of Business Building affords when it comes to meeting with faculty or studying with other students.

#### STUDENT SUCCESS

"We are very fortunate to have a dedicated and talented faculty and staff who are accessible to students and committed their success," says School of Business Dean Dr. Jacob Chacko. "We are very proud of the accomplishments of our School's faculty, staff and students and are very enthusiastic

about our School's future."

For more information about Clayton State University's AACSB accredited School of Business or to learn about the MBA program, visit <http://business.clayton.edu>.

By Lauren Graves

*We are very proud of the accomplishments of our School's faculty, staff and students and are very enthusiastic about our School's future.*

*- Dr. Jacob Chacko  
Dean of the School of Business*

During construction of the new School of Business Building, great care was taken to ensure that trees surrounding the construction site were preserved.







**Left:** Bud Miller at the summer 2007 groundbreaking ceremony for the new School of Business Building.  
**Bottom Left:** Bud and his wife, Mary.  
**Opposite Right:** Bud with Dr. Michael Deis and Dr. Jacob Chacko at Homecoming 2005.



By John Shiffert

## Bud Miller: 10 years of transition



Ernest M. “Bud” Miller concluded 10 years as dean of the School of Business at Clayton State University on Dec. 31, 2007. A remarkable 10 years. A time filled with manifest accomplishments for both the University and the School of Business. A time of success. A time of transition.

“Bud’s addicted to the jazz of change,” says Mary Miller, his wife and partner in all that has transpired over the past 10 years.

Much has changed at Clayton State since Miller became an unconventional dean of the University’s School of Business in 1997. And one of the leading agents of change at Clayton State has been Bud Miller. During that period,

the School of Business has, to just hit the highlights; gained international accreditation through AACSB, started an already-successful MBA program, and began construction on a new building to house the School. However, that’s not what Miller remembers about Clayton State.

“The sense of collegiality. The willingness of people to help out when asked. The culture of helping at Clayton State,” he says. “These 10 years have gone by very fast, because this is a great place to work, and the people are wonderful.

“The last 10 years have been a wonderful experience for my wife and me. After my family, I think of what we’ve



achieved here at Clayton State to be the most significant accomplishment of my life.”

There is much significance in that last statement, both in the phrase “we’ve accomplished” and in the recognition of the significance of the accomplishments. First, if you know Bud Miller, then you know that he always, always, has credited the faculty and staff of the School of Business for the success the School has enjoyed over the past 10 years. It was always “we” and not “I” with this dean. In fact, he wouldn’t even consent to be interviewed for this story without making sure that the faculty and staff of the School of Business received proper credit.

“We make a huge difference in our students’ lives – we make a bigger difference in our students lives than the Harvards and Princetons,” he says... a claim of no small significance to Miller, since he holds an MBA from Harvard. “The difference that the faculty and staff make at this university is that they change forevermore the lives of our students.

“If we took the talent, dedication and hard work ethic of our faculty, and came up with some quotient to measure it, it would be as high as any other team or organization I’ve been around.”

Miller came to Clayton State in 1997 because he saw an opportunity to effect change and do good in a field he knew was important.

“Talking with the deans, the administrative council, the faculty and the staff, I saw Clayton State as an institution whose time has come,” he said at the time. “It has reached critical mass... going into uncharted waters. They’re doing something that hasn’t been done before. To be a part of that was intriguing to me.”

After 10 years, Miller’s opinion of



Clayton State is maybe the only thing that hasn’t changed.

“Clayton State is poised for greatness, we need to seize the opportunity,” he says. “We’ve created a demand. We can move forward boldly. This university can compete effectively because of the commitment of our faculty and staff. We care about the needs of our community. We respond to the needs of our community. That’s our niche. Accessibility and the caring nature of our faculty and staff are always mentioned by our students and our alumni. That’s our niche.”

When talking specifically about the School of Business, Miller, as is his wont, credits his team for making change happen.

“The team all came in with a commitment to teaching and remaining current in their fields... to serving their profession and their community,” he says of his faculty. “We set a high goal – re-invention through AACSB accreditation.

“Our curriculum is totally updated based on the input of the community. Our faculty has regular meetings with professionals in their fields to get input on what our curriculum should be. The faculty have reached out and embraced this concept. They’ve done a remarkable job.”

As Miller prepared to return to the corporate world, his goal was to work 50 percent of the time and catch up

with family (he and Mary have five grandchildren under the age of five) and friends and to travel the remaining time.

“I’m not leaving Clayton State – I’m going to another job. I’m going to work as a director on the boards of several companies and advise a couple of CEOs as their companies go through positive growth change. It’s possible but not probable that I would go back full time to take over a company. I wouldn’t do it for money, I’d do it if the jazz was enticing,” he explained as he prepared to turn the School of Business over to Associate Dean Dr. Jacob Chacko, and as he reflected on the benefits of change.

“When we started what seems like 100 years ago, the reasons we talked about reinventing the school were: first, to better prepare our students for successful careers and lives, and, second, to insure the companies in our market would be able to hire graduates who had the necessary tools and skills to help those companies,” he says. “I take a lot of pride in my career in that the person to whom I passed the baton was able to do the job better than I. Jacob is going to take the school to a higher place than I ever could. The best is yet to be for the School of Business. Jacob with this team is going to go great places, and that makes me very proud. That’s Bud’s legacy.”





**Left:** One of the displays featuring images from Clayton State's past. **Below:** Signage from Clayton State's junior college days sits beside photographs of current campus construction projects. **Opposite Right:** Clayton State President Dr. Thomas K. Harden congratulates archivist Rosemary Fischer on the "Tee Time at the Archives" display. **Opposite Right Below:** Photographs and memorabilia from nursing pinning ceremonies.

## The Archives: Maintaining the memories of Clayton State

By Erin Fender



Thirty-nine years of history and memorabilia are swiftly filling compact shelving in a small room in the Clayton State University Library. A room filled with memories in forms of photographs, books, T-shirts and even the first mascot costume.

The Clayton State University Library Archives has come a long way with the help of archivist Rosemary Fischer, who joined the staff in 2004 and hit the ground running in establishing the archives.

"The Archives has come a long way in three years: from an empty room to a room now filled with documents, photographs, slides, phonograph records, books and reports," she says.

The Library Archives maintains the memories of Clayton State. Collections

are established and inventories are created for box contents. To ensure the preservation of these pieces, many items are stored separately and even differently. Photographs, for example, are stored separately from paper documents.

For Clayton State, the Archives collections reflect the organizational chart and administrative units of the university. Collections are given record group numbers and are labeled accordingly. Fischer assists anyone interested in researching in the archives.

Most who contact her are interested in photographs. However she emphasizes, "we have everything from old course catalogs to faculty brochures. The audio visual collection has grown and takes up a row now."

Fischer works with several different departments at Clayton State to provide internship opportunities. Internships for the archives began with the History Department sending one student each semester. Now the Integrative Studies Department and the Archives course regularly have students to intern in the Clayton State Library Archives.

However, students pursuing any degree have areas of expertise they can offer. English majors can help with writing histories of school clubs and doing oral histories. Information Technology majors can help with creating web pages for collections.

"We have established an excellent internship program and have brought publicity to Clayton State and the





Archives through multiple outreach programs in the community,” says Fischer.

Since the establishment of the Library Archives there have been two public exhibits. Events such as exhibits help to promote the archives and their mission of retention and preservation of Clayton State’s history (both the past and present).

This past spring, Fischer put the most recent exhibit into her interns’ hands.

“The interns did a fantastic job in pulling together six different displays for the exhibit. It was extremely successful. We had very favorable comments on how enjoyable and informative the displays were. The interns are extremely talented and brought their talents and skills to the archives,” she says.

As the students were working on creating an inventory and documenting the artifacts the Archives collected, they formulated the displays. The exhibit, named, “Tee Time at the Archives,” was on display during the month of April 2007.

“We came up with the event name of ‘Tee Time’ because we have a very large collection of T-shirts commemorating different events and activities,” she explains.

One display featured history panels reflecting the University’s past and current presidents and name and college seal changes. A graduation display reflected academic regalia, photographs, pins from the nursing program and diplomas from 1973 to the present.

A spirit area featured stadium blankets, pennants, shirts and photo-

graphs from activities and sports. A display also featured the history of Clayton State’s mascots, Lucky and Loch.

The interns also created a display representing the construction and the expansion of the University. The display featured aerial photos of the campus, construction photos and a time capsule.

“Tee Time at the Archives” would not have been complete without the large display of T-shirts commemorating events, activities, and organizations at Clayton State. The exhibit opened with a special event -- Clayton State President Dr. Thomas K. Harden signed the statement of authority for Clayton State University Library’s Archives. This document is essential because it establishes the Archives authority to collect, preserve and to promote Clayton State’s history.

“Our donors share their papers and memorabilia, which they have kept because of their memories and relationship with Clayton State. It makes us proud to see the progress of our school, and the part we have played in making it what it is today,” says Fischer. “The Library Archives is the memory of our school from its roots as a junior college to the present status as a full university. The University has a very rich history and reflecting on what we were helps us see the path to who we are today.”

Naturally, the Archives are always looking for additional Clayton State memorabilia. In addition, the Library staff has set up a memorial fund in the name of Fischer’s mother, Dare Fischer, to help support the work of the Archives. To contribute to the Archives in either fashion, contact Fischer at [rosemaryfischer@clayton.edu](mailto:rosemaryfischer@clayton.edu) or call (678) 466-4333.





## “A dream come true...” Clayton State University – Fayette

By John Shiffert

“Welcome to Fayette County... this is a dream come true.”

Thus spoke Jack Smith, chairman of the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, on Dec. 4, 2007 at the dedication and ribbon cutting of Clayton State’s new instructional site, Clayton State University – Fayette. In officially welcoming Clayton State to Fayette County, Smith spoke for dozens of county elected officials, civic leaders and businessmen, many of whom were in attendance, and most of whom had waited more than 20 years for this day... the opening of a permanent higher education facility in the county.

“The dream [of higher education in

Fayette County] has been alive for a long time and has passed through many hands,” Smith said in speaking to the more than 100 individuals who attended the dedication and ribbon cutting at the Westpark Office Park, 1200 Commerce Dr., in Peachtree City.

At present, Clayton State University – Fayette, which hosted its first classes in January 2008, includes four classrooms, administrative offices (including those for Admissions and Financial Aid) and 9,000 square feet.

Smith’s comments were a highlight of the dedication ceremony, wherein several prominent Fayette civic leaders had a chance to express their apprecia-

tion for the successful conclusion of an effort – bringing higher education to the county -- that began back in the 1980s.

“It’s been a dream and a desire of the Development Authority since I’ve been on the board,” noted Randy Hayes, chairman of the Fayette County Development Authority.

“The process was in its embryo stage in the 80s,” added Pat Murphy, chair-elect of the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce. “This is the next big step. You’ll be surprised at the number of potential students out there.”

Actually, Clayton State officials



might not be all that surprised at the number of potential students. As a part of the University System of Georgia, Clayton State has a natural mandate to serve the needs of the public in its service area. As a result, the University has always worked closely with community leaders to determine the course of its educational programs. The University has been directly involved with providing higher education in Fayette County since opening its first Fayette Center across the street from the Fayette County Courthouse in Fayetteville in 1995. And, a second, temporary Fayette Center was opened in the Peachtree City Tennis Center in October 2002. In both cases, the University was providing continuing education

courses, but Clayton State officials have long known of the demand for higher education in the county.

"We've offered classes in many venues in Fayette County," noted Clayton State Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Sharon Hoffman in her remarks during the dedication. "We've both been persistent from 1995, and today is just the beginning. We think we'll outgrow this facility."

"Fayette County should be congratulated for its efforts in bringing the Fayette Center here," said Clayton State President Dr. Thomas K. Harden in his opening remarks. "We are where we want to be. We anticipate being in this facility for some time, but we also anticipate eventually outgrowing this

facility.

"We're lighting a lamp tonight. We're going to keep that lamp burning."

In estimating that eventually as many as 1000 students may use the present Clayton State University - Fayette, Harden also referenced the University's previous efforts in the county, saying, "This is bigger, this is grander, this is tremendously exciting to me."

While the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has initially approved degree programs in Psychology, Administrative Management, Technology Management and the Master of Business Administration for Clayton State University - Fayette, courses for all of the University's undergraduate majors are available, notes Assistant Vice President of Academic Outreach Dr. Kevin Demmitt, a Fayette County resident.

"We're targeting nontraditional students who have some college credits and high school juniors and seniors who are qualified to take joint-enrollment college courses," he says. "In Fayette County, 25 percent of adults over age 25 have some college credit but no degree and an additional 7.2 percent have only a two-year degree. Thus, the potential for bachelor's degree completion programs is quite substantial. Because of our location we are ideally situated to provide higher education opportunities to the residents of Fayette County. A significant number of Clayton State faculty and staff live in the proposed service area and thus may work at both the Fayette County Center and Clayton State's main campus as needed.

"I relish this opportunity to bring this university I love together with my hometown."



**Opposite Above:** The ribbon cutting ceremony held at Clayton State University - Fayette in December 2007 **Opposite Below:** Clayton State Assistant Vice President of Academic Outreach Dr. Kevin Demmitt. Please contact [kevindemmitt@clayton.edu](mailto:kevindemmitt@clayton.edu) with questions about Clayton State University - Fayette. **Above:** Clayton State's instructional site in Fayette County located at 1200 Commerce Drive in Peachtree City, GA.



## Bates named dean of College of Professional Studies



Dr. Rodger Bates

Dr. Rodger Bates accepted the position of dean of the University's College of Professional Studies, beginning Feb. 1, 2008.

Formerly special assistant to the vice provost for University Outreach at New Mexico State University, Bates is the former president of New Mexico State University at Alamogordo, where he supervised 110 full time faculty and a staff of 65. During his time at Alamogordo (2000-2006), he secured special funding for capital projects totaling more than \$4.5 million dollars.

The holder of a B.A. in Sociology from the College of William and Mary, he also holds an M.A. in Sociology from the University of Memphis and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Delaware.

In addition to serving as dean of the College of Professional Studies, Bates' Clayton State faculty appointment will be in the Department of Social Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences.

## High school senior receives associate degree

Union Grove High School senior Derek Delk was one of the 400 graduates taking part in Clayton State University's 38th Annual Spring Commencement on May 10, 2008.

Delk received his associate degree in Integrative Studies from Clayton State President Dr. Thomas K. Harden and then Interim Dean of Arts & Sciences Dr. John Campbell... almost three weeks before he received his high school diploma from Union Grove. A Joint Enrollment student at the University, Delk is the first person to earn a degree from Clayton State while still enrolled in high school.



Derek Delk

## Billye S. Aaron shares her story of Martin Luther King



Billye S. Aaron

Clayton State's annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemoration Day has featured many noted Civil Rights figures since University President Dr. Thomas K. Harden initiated the event in January 2001.

Andrew Young, Joseph Lowery, John Lewis, Julian Bond and many others have shared their thoughts over the past eight years as part of the living history of the movement. On Jan. 24, 2008, an audience in the University's Spivey Hall heard a different, more personal view of MLK from the 2008 keynote speaker, Atlanta educator and media personality Billye S. Aaron.



Dr. Patricia Todebush  
2008 Alice Smith Faculty Award Winner



Sandy Haught  
2008 Alice Smith Staff Award Winner

## 2008 Alice Smith Award winners

Dr. Patricia Todebush and Sandy Haught are the 2008 Alice Smith Award winners at Clayton State University.

The University's annual Alice Smith Awards for both faculty and staff were presented at Clayton State's Faculty/Staff Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, Apr. 30. 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 the late philanthropist Joseph Smith in honor of his wife, Alice.



## Students sign their names to a piece of Clayton State University history

Clayton State University students had a chance to ink their names to a piece of history headed for the new Student Activities Center.

Until Apr. 4, 2008 a steel beam that is a part of the construction was placed in front of the James M. Baker University Center on the Clayton State campus for students to sign. The beam then made its way to the construction site.

Student Government Association students. From Left to Right: SGA Treasurer, Darius Thomas; SGA Secretary Olguin LaRoche; SGA Academic Affairs Chairman, Rajiv Manborde and Audreianna Smith.



## Fulbright Scholar from New Zealand teaches at Clayton State

Clayton State University hosted Professor A.G. (Sandy) Stewart, a Fulbright Scholar in Residence (SIR) from New Zealand, for the spring 2008 semester. Stewart is head of the Center for Maori Education, Research and Development at Bay of Plenty Polytechnic in Tauranga, New Zealand.

His fields of expertise are improvement of teaching and student learning with an emphasis on policy analysis and evaluation. A speaker of te reo Maori - the indigenous language of New Zealand, Stewart has taught such courses as Maori Culture and Language, Social Studies, Music, and English as a Second Language. In connection with his professional work, he has also traveled in Scotland, Germany, Italy, Ukraine and Malaysia.

Stewart taught two courses in the Teacher Education Department and also gave guest lectures to various Clayton State social science, humanities and education classes.

## Biology professor a top researcher on chimpanzee communications

Dr. Jared Tagliatela, a research associate at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center and new assistant professor of biology, was a lead researcher on a study involving the use of positron emission tomography (PET) to monitor the brain activity of chimpanzees during communicative behavior.

"One of the major findings of this study indicates the region of the chimpanzee brain that anatomically corresponds to the human Broca's area is involved in the production of communicative signals," he explains.

Tagliatela will appear in a new series, "Evolve," on The History Channel.



Dr. Jared Tagliatela

Assistant Professor of Chemistry Todebush began teaching at Clayton State in 2004. She obtained her doctorate from the University of Georgia in 2000. In addition to teaching introduction to chemistry courses, she has been an advisor for the Clayton State Science Association since 2004.

"I love teaching chemistry to others, working on research with students and I even enjoy the committee and administrative aspects of my work. I think this is the reason I am so amazed I won this award, because I am just doing what I love to do everyday," expresses Todebush.

Haight has worked at Clayton State since 1989. As the business manager, she works closely with Facilities Management's Harun Biswas, director, on all projects, including contracts and pay requests for architects and contractors. She interacts with all departments on campus and enjoys working at Clayton State because of the people and its surroundings.

"Being nominated is an honor in itself but to win is truly an honor, and I feel blessed. The other nominees are wonderful, and they all deserved to win this award," says Haight.



## Duley named ADEA Dental Hygiene Teaching Fellow

Dr. Susan I. Duley, department head of Dental Hygiene and associate professor of Dental Hygiene at Clayton State University, has been named a 2008 American Dental Education Association/GlaxoSmithKline Dental Hygiene Teaching Fellow.



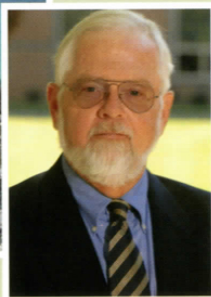
Dr. Susan Duley

According to Dr. Rodger Bates, dean of the Clayton State College of Professional Studies, this fellowship allows Duley to give clinical education presentations related to oral health and disease at professional meetings, in dental hygiene schools and before community groups. Corporate Member GlaxoSmithKline provides American Dental Education Association (ADEA) fellowship recipients a stipend of \$13,000 to be used for travel and education.

One of just three recipients of the 2008 award, Duley, as 2008 ADEA/GCK Fellow, will also be promoting the profession of dental hygiene.



The Bahamas, study abroad destination 2008



Dr. Robert Welborn

## History professor authoring history of Clayton County

Associate Professor of History Dr. Kathryn W. Kemp is hard at work on another book project. The author of "God's Capitalist, Asa Candler of Coca-Cola," the biography of the Coca-Cola founder, Kemp is writing a history of Clayton County that will be published in summer 2008 by Historic Jonesboro/Clayton County as "Historic Clayton County: The Sesquicentennial History."



Dr. Kathryn Kemp

"Writing is part of the work of a university professor, but I am also a Clayton County resident, so this gives me the opportunity to make a contribution to the community where I live," she says.

## Three faculty selected for summer 2009 European Council positions

Clayton State's growing international reputation grew further at the annual faculty selection meeting of the European Council of the University System of Georgia.

Meeting at Macon State College, European Council representatives chose three Clayton State faculty for the summer 2009 program. Dr. Christopher Ward was chosen as the 2009 program director of the St. Petersburg, Russia program. Dr. Karen Young will teach in the Madrid, Spain program and Dr. Nikki Finlay will teach in the Bonn, Germany program. The European Council administers five summer study abroad programs in London, Madrid, Paris, St. Petersburg, and Bonn.

## International Education has record-breaking year

Director of International Education Dr. Robert Welborn is pleased to report that the University's growing international programs had another record-breaking year in the 2007/2008 academic year.

"We have had another record breaking year, both in total numbers of students, total number of programs, number of faculty teaching abroad and numbers of students in new destinations," he says. "We have four of our own programs this year, up from three last year. As of 2004, we had none of our own programs. In 2005, we did our first Clayton State study abroad program."



### Burns-Ardolino looks at reshaping women with her new book

Clayton State University Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Integrative Studies and Women's Studies Dr. Wendy A. Burns-Ardolino is looking at the reshaping of American women... or, at least, the cultural significance of the relationship between American women and their bodies as mediated by both traditional and contemporary foundation garments.

Burns-Ardolino's new book, "Jiggle: (Re)Shaping American Women" was released by Lexington Books. Beginning in the 1930s with a discussion of traditional foundation garments, Burns-Ardolino analyzes



Dr. Wendy Burns-Ardolino

contemporary shapewear in terms of shaping women physically, culturally and socially.

"This book is for everyone," she explains. "But, particularly for people interested in cultural studies, sociology, media studies and women's studies. The popular audience would most likely be women who wonder about how other women experience their bodies and how the media influences how women see and experience their bodies."

### Clayton State awarded \$73,000 Fulbright Grant by U.S. Department of Education

Clayton State University has been awarded a \$73,000 matching Fulbright-Hays grant by the U. S. Department of Education for a four-week on-site "Seminar on Tradition and Transformation in Hungary and the Czech Republic." Clayton State, University System of Georgia (USG), K-12 teachers and academic administrators participated in the four week program from June 6 to July 5, 2008.

The purpose of the program was to provide on-site educational and field experiences to increase participants' knowledge and understanding of the historical, social, cultural, political, economic and contemporary aspects of Hungary and the Czech Republic. Participants will incorporate the knowledge gained into various courses to help students and citizens overcome stereotypical images of Eastern and Central Europe in general and Hungary and the Czech Republic in particular. The seminar was affiliated with institutions of higher education in the

two countries and, as a part of the program, participants were involved in lectures, conferences, meetings, cultural activities and visits to historical and cultural sites in and around Budapest, Prague, Debrecen, Pecs, Telc and Karlovy Vary.

According to Clayton State University President Dr. Thomas K. Harden, the program in Hungary and the Czech Republic is a direct outgrowth of the trade mission to the two countries in which he and several area business leaders participated during the fall of 2003. Harden also notes that Clayton County and Morrow are home to the first Hungarian Consulate in the state of Georgia and that Delta Airlines' John E. Parker, Jr., past chair of the Clayton State University Foundation Board of Trustees, and another member of the 2003 trade mission, serves as Honorary Consul of Hungary for the states of Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina.

gram. In 2006 we did two; in 2007, three; and in 2008, four."

For the 2007/2008 academic year, which ran from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, Clayton State had 48 students studying abroad... up from 44 last year.

Destinations for this year's study abroad students included: The London Maymester program, Italy Honors spring break, South Africa, Italy summer study abroad, Paris summer study abroad and the Bahamas Maymester.

"That's a record number of Clayton State students for this program, which has operated since 1999," notes Welborn.

On the teaching side, nine Clayton State faculty members taught students abroad in 2008. Two taught foreign students in faculty exchange programs -- one in India (where Welborn himself has taught) and one in Peru -- and the other seven taught Clayton State students and students from other University System institutions in study abroad programs... two in South Africa, three in Italy, one in London and one in the Bahamas.



## Clayton State University awards first ROTC Scholarship

Clayton State University recently welcomed Col. Chuck Waggoner, ROTC Eastern commander, and the new Clayton State University cadre, with a reception that also recognized the awarding of the University's first ROTC scholarship.

The reception, hosted by Clayton State Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Sharon Hoffman, welcomed the new Clayton State University cadre: Maj. Peter W. Almeida, Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Ricks, human resource technician Sylvia Simmons and a Gold Bar recruiter.

Waggoner, along with Lt. Col. Kevin Anderson, professor of Military Science at Georgia State University, presented the first ROTC scholarship awarded at Clayton State University to Oriskany Carr. A senior at Chapel Hill High School, Carr begins the pre-nursing program at Clayton State in fall 2008.

The Clayton State University ROTC program began with the fall 2008 semester, initially introduced as a military sci-



(Left to Right) Col. Chuck Waggoner, Dr. Lisa Eichelberger, Oriskany Carr, Dr. Sharon Hoffman and Lt. Col. Kevin Anderson

ence (MS) program for freshman and sophomores. The ROTC program is a full partnership program with Georgia State University.

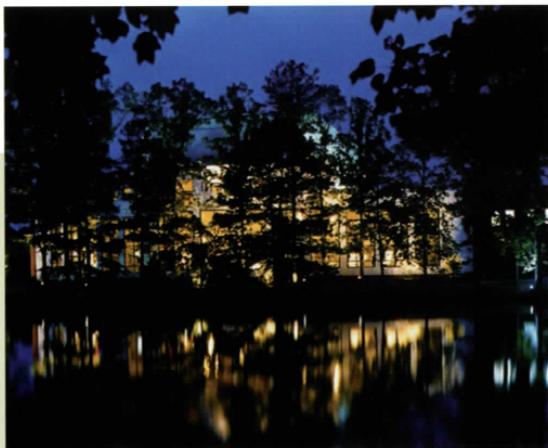
## Clayton State launches student-run Internet radio station

A concept that has been floating around the Clayton State University campus for the past seven years has finally come to fruition.

During the week of Apr. 21 to Apr. 24, a student-run internet radio station was launched, celebrating the official beginning of Clayton State Internet Radio (CSIR), the University's newest student organization. Since the concept of a student-run radio station at Clayton State has been explored

several times since the idea was first proposed in late 2000, the launch of CSIR was the culmination of many years and many individuals' efforts.

For further information on CSIR, go to their website at <http://studentorg.clayton.edu/csir/>.



Clayton State's Spivey Hall at night

## Spivey Hall Children's Choir releases new CD, "I'll Be Seeing You"

The Spivey Hall Children's Choir announces the release of its third CD, "I'll Be Seeing You," now available through Spivey Hall at Clayton State University.

"I'll Be Seeing You" presents a collection of favorite works performed throughout the history of the Spivey Hall Children's Choir. Recorded live in Spivey Hall in the spring of 2006, the CD, produced by ACA Digital Recording, Inc. of Atlanta, features 21 songs sung by 48 of the most advanced students in the program conducted by Dr. Martha Shaw, founding artistic director of the Spivey Hall Children's Choir and professor of music at Shorter College in Rome, GA, with piano accom-



## Baird honored by D.O.D.



Debye Baird

Director of Client Support Services Debye Baird was honored by the Department of Defense as a "Patriotic Employer."

Baird was nominated for the award by alumnus John Westbrook ('07). Currently a sergeant in the 55th Combat Communications Squadron at Robins Air Force Base, Westbrook worked for the HUB under Baird. The Patriotic Employer award is presented by the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

## Vickson named GOAL winner

Jessica Vickson, a student in Office Administration in the College of Professional Studies, has been named as Clayton State's winner of the Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL) for 2008.



Jessica Vickson

The announcement was made at the GOAL recognition meeting on Mar. 12 at Clayton County's Rotary Club Luncheon.

Vickson was chosen by a panel of local leaders over three other nominees for the award. The runners-up were: Arwen Mullikin (first runner up), Office Administration; Andrita Brown, Marketing and Merchandising; and Karen Render, Office Administration.

## Nursing and Dental Hygiene programs awarded \$326K grant from HRSA

The Clayton State University School of Nursing and the Department of Dental Hygiene, part of the University's College of Professional Studies, have been awarded a \$326,730 Student Disadvantaged Scholarship Grant (SDS) from the federal Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

The grant, for FY2009, will be split almost equally between the two programs and marks the third consecutive year the University has received an SDS grant from HRSA. The School of Nursing will receive \$157,952 for the period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The Department of Dental Hygiene will receive \$168,778 for the same period.

The Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students program was created by Congress under the Disadvantaged Minority Health Improvement Act of 1990 for the purpose of providing financial assistance to disadvantaged health professions and nursing students.

The amount of the individual SDS award was transmitted to Clayton State's Office of Financial Aid for their records and to the Clayton State Bursar's Office for disbursement. The SDS is only used for scholarships for minority or disadvantaged students and funds are applied directly to the recipient's tuition/fee bill and any remaining balance distributed to the student for the purpose of paying other fees and incidentals associated with their education.

Clayton State University's student population is roughly two-thirds minorities and has been rated by "U.S. News and World Report" as the most diverse in the Southeast region of the United States for five out of the last seven years.

paniment by Assistant Director Judy Kerlin Mason.

Songs on this CD range in style from classical sacred works and spirituals to "America the Beautiful" and a medley of popular tunes by Johnny Mercer. The title track, "I'll Be Seeing You" by Irving Kahal and Sammy Fain and arranged by Harris M. Wheeler, is a nostalgic musical tribute to the hundreds of Children's Choir Program participants who have formed deep and lasting friendships as a result of their participation in this outstanding ensemble.

Copies of "I'll Be Seeing You" (ACA CM20101) priced at \$15

are available from the Spivey Hall Box Office, (678) 466-4200, and may be purchased via credit card, cash or check. All proceeds from sales of the CD benefit the Spivey Hall Children's Choir annual touring activities, which this summer included participation in the Pacific International Children's Choir Festival.





**Far Left:** A front view of the Atlanta Bible College (ABC) Administration Building, one of two buildings at ABC. ABC is located just east of the Clayton State campus. **Immediate Left:** Signage for the Atlanta Bible College. **Above:** The back entrance to the second building on the ABC campus. This building is currently used for ABC student housing.

By John Shiffert

## Change takes a new form... campus expansion

Change at Clayton State University has taken many forms over the years. New names (Clayton State College, Clayton College & State University), new buildings (as you can see by this issue of

“The Laker Connection”) including the first on-campus housing, new academic programs (more than doubling the number of bachelor’s degrees in the past decade), new degrees (the Master

of Arts in Liberal Studies, Master of Business Administration, Master of Health Administration and Master of Science in Nursing), new location (Clayton State University – Fayette)



and new status (from two-year college to four year college to university). However, one thing has remained the same – the University’s scenic 163-acre campus with its five lakes.

For the first time in the University’s 39-year history, when the doors opened on Sept. 30, 1969, the Clayton State campus itself is enlarging. During spring of 2008, the University, in the person of Vice President for Business Operations Dr. David Heflin with the assistance of Special Assistant to the President Corlis Cummings, negotiated and exercised an option to purchase the campus of the Atlanta Bible College (ABC, or Bible College), situated just east of the Clayton State main campus.

“This strategic acquisition places the institution in a position to meet the expected growth of the state and in the University System,” says Clayton State President Dr. Thomas K. Harden. “I am pleased with Dr. Heflin’s and Ms. Cummings’ combined efforts.”

The ABC campus comprises approximately 12.1 acres and two main buildings, a 15,720 square foot administration building and an 11,800 square foot apartment building. The administration building presently includes classrooms, offices, a large meeting/assembly space, a library and a kitchen. The apartment building currently has 10 apartments, although Cummings notes that this facility could also be converted in the future to office space.

For the present, Clayton State will lease the ABC property back to the Bible College for the next two to three years while ABC acquires a site for relocation. Long term, Cummings notes that this property gives the University the flexibility to consider utilizing its

existing buildings for a variety of uses, including classroom space, a possible annex to the existing library, administrative offices, and housing for visiting scholars and/or visiting faculty. Cummings also adds that the ABC purchase, while congruent with the University’s 2006 strategic plan, comes at a time when property values are such that Clayton State was able to obtain the property at a fair price.

**Right:** A view of the back of the Administration Building. **Below:** The student housing apartment building could be remodeled to provide additional office space.







**Above:** Coach Gordon Gibbons **Right:** Laker Trey Gross breaks away from the opponent during a season home game against rival Columbus State University. **Below Right:** Clayton State cheerleader Kia Williams shows her Laker spirit.



By John Shiffert

## A gust blows in Georgia

The tornado that chased the SEC Basketball Championships out of the Georgia Dome wasn't the only hurricane-like force on the state's basketball map in March 2008. After winning the Peach Belt Conference championship with a remarkable triple overtime win over USC-Aiken, Coach Gordon Gibbons' Clayton State Lakers took Augusta, GA, by storm, defeating the sixth-ranked Pacers from Aiken for a

second time in six days, then bouncing Lenoir-Rhyne in an even more remarkable overtime performance in the NCAA Division II South Atlantic regionals at Augusta State University's Christenberry Fieldhouse.

Although the Lakers failed to win the regional title, falling to host and nationally-ranked Augusta State, Clayton State's run from a sub-.500 regular season to the NCAA Division II Sweet





Sixteen was a blast seldom seen in the past.

The Lakers' second straight win over top-seeded Aiken that opened the regionals was practically routine compared to Clayton State's Peach Belt title win and the forthcoming second round triumph over Lenoir-Rhyne. In "Aiken... The Sequel," Gibbons' shock troops didn't even need overtime, winning 60-58 in regulation and handing the region's best team just its fourth loss (two of which were to Clayton State in the course of a week) in 31 games. All-Peach Belt forward Michael Sloan (14 points) and Peach Belt Tournament MVP Tracy Williams (14 points, five assists) paced Clayton State, as the Lakers led for the entire contest against a team that was 27-2 prior to running into Gibbons' suffocating full-court pressure man-to-man defense at tourney time.

That same defense then came out and blew Lenoir-Rhyne off the floor in overtime. In an occurrence even rarer than a triple overtime game, the Lakers shut out the Bears in the extra session, outscoring the region's fifth-seeded team (the Lakers' were the region's eighth and lowest seed) 14-0 to

win going away, 83-69. Although Sloan once again got most of the headlines, scoring a game-high 21 points and going into second place on Clayton State's all-time points list with 1256, the bigger story was the Laker "D" that held the Bears to 0-9 shooting in overtime. As Gibbons has said more than once in his seven seasons at Clayton State, "our team is built around defense."

The Lakers, 13-14 going into the Peach Belt championships, moved their record to 19-14 after winning two rounds in the NCAA Division II tournament, topping the similar feat of the University of Georgia's men's basketball team. Although the Bulldogs, 13-16 in the regular season, did manage to match the Lakers' feat of winning four straight conference tournament games, they ended up 17-17 after getting beat by Xavier in the first round of the NCAA Division I championships.

The Lakers' extended season finally ended in the rematch (of the Peach Belt semifinal) against Augusta as the Jaguars won 89-72 on their own floor in the regional final. Bernard Fields led Clayton State with 18 points while Williams scored 14 points and added

six assists. Will Lewis and Jerome Boyd both gave the Lakers strong performances off the bench with 13 and 11 points, respectively.

As an encore for the 2008/2009 season, Gibbons is still working on that script, undoubtedly one that will rival "Gone with the Wind."



**Above:** Clayton State's mascot Loch gets the fans going before a men's basketball game.

**Below:** The men's basketball team pose for a photo after becoming 2008 Peach Belt Conference Tournament champions.







## Dr. Gene Hatfield

### A credit to the university

By John Shiffert

faculty profile

Just as the first decade of the 21st Century has been a time of change and growth for Clayton State University, so too was the eighth decade of the 20th Century. One of the most significant developments took place in the '70s, when an extraordinary group of young history professors joined the faculty, preparatory to spending the next 30+ years shaping its academic future. Gene Hatfield. John Kohler. Brad Rice. Bob Welborn.

Now, the two remaining members of that august group, Drs. Welborn and Hatfield, are retiring. Although a group of younger historians who, in Hatfield's words, "are committed to teaching and their students, just as were those who came before them," have continued the excellence of the department, now is the time to recall the achievements of the outgoing Chairman of the Clayton State Social Sciences Department and the Director of the American Democracy Program, Dr. Eugene Hatfield.

In addition to his academic career, Hatfield has been arguably the most publicly active member of the Clayton State faculty since the early 1980s, most notably in local Democratic politics, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), the Georgia Civil War Commission (he was an original member) and the Friends of the

Georgia Archives. The past county chairman of the Democratic Party, chairman of the Sixth District Congressional Committee and a member of the State Executive Committee, Hatfield was also elected delegate to two Democratic National Conventions -- 1984 in San Francisco and 1988 in Atlanta.

"I spent countless hours working against Newt Gingrich. However, it was to no avail," he says, further admitting that he had thoughts of running for Congress in the 1990s and was asked to do so by Dick Gephardt and John Lewis.

Appointed to the ARC in 1990, he's been reelected on a number of occasions and is currently the longest serving member of the Commission, with a current term that runs until 2010.

"I have had a front-row seat on Atlanta's development in recent years. I witnessed close-up the preparations for the Olympics, the dramatic growth which has occurred throughout the period, the emerging problems of clean air and adequate resources, and the growing congestion in our transportation system," he recalls.

Currently serving as chairman of the Friends of the Georgia Archives, Hatfield is a charter member of that group, in addition to being the first and only president.

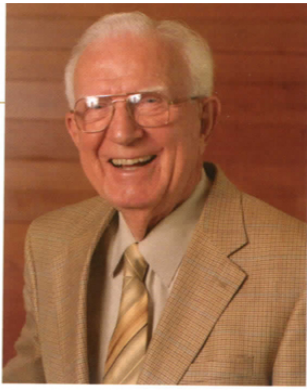
"Our biggest project has been the south side's largest book sale, but we have also provided resources to assist the Archives in a variety of ways," he notes.

In all these activities, Hatfield says, "I have always been conscious that I represented Clayton State and have done my best to bring credit to the institution. I think it very important that a public institution like ours be visible in the community."

Hatfield has been more than visible in the Clayton State community, where he has also brought much credit... his contributions have ranged from founding (along with Rice) and becoming the first director of the University's Honors Program to serving as chair of the History and Social Sciences Departments. As he moves into what promises to be an unsurprisingly active retirement (family, travel, research and writing on the Civil War) after 32 years, Hatfield recalls his fellow faculty, past and present.

"Over the years we have had outstanding teachers on our campus and that continues to be true today. I am very impressed with our young faculty and their commitment and enthusiasm," he says. "I have loved my time at Clayton State. I have enjoyed my colleagues. I have been gratified by the growth and development of which I have been part."





## Jim Wood

### Original trustee and longtime supporter

By Erin Fender

trustee profile

As the lone remaining founding member of Clayton State University Foundation's Board of Trustees, James M. Wood Jr., has watched Clayton State grow from an idea, to a junior college, to a four-year college, to a state university.

"I've been thrilled to be part of Clayton State University, watch it grow from a community dream and expand impressively over the years," Wood explains.

Wood grew up in Lanett, AL, graduating from high school at the age of 16. He saved enough money working after school in Lanett Cotton Mill to pay for two years at the University of Alabama. Halfway through college, he was drafted into the army and served in the U.S. occupation of Germany after World War II. Under the GI Bill of Rights, he was able to return to college and finish his bachelor's degree in Journalism in 1948.

Wood's career in journalism includes experience as a reporter, feature writer, medical science writer, trade industry editor, political speech writer and as editor and publisher of weeklies and dailies in Georgia. Hearing of a weekly newspaper in Fayetteville for sale, he bought it and became its publisher in 1963. That eventually led to another weekly in Clayton County. Growth of these two weeklies and purchase of a

printing plant evolved into the start of the "Clayton News Daily" in 1971.

As a civic minded and community oriented publisher, Wood became involved with Clayton State for many reasons, including the fact that his wife, Martha, now professor emerita of Mathematics, was one of Clayton State's original faculty members.

In the fall of 1981, Wood sold his interest in the "News Daily" and began work in public relations as Jim Wood & Associates, now owned by his youngest son, Chris. Wood also founded and still owns "ATL," an Atlanta airport trade newspaper. He owns a similar newspaper, "DFW People," at the Dallas-Fort Worth airport. He has been honored with a medallion for 50 years of service in Georgia journalism by the Georgia Press Association, of which he is still a member and past president.

Over the years, Wood has been active in government and public service. He served three terms in the Georgia House of Representatives, and was the 1982 Sixth District Democratic nominee for the U.S. Congress.

Wood is still community active

as the senior member of the Clayton County Board of Health, the Clayton County Rotary Club, the University of Alabama Atlanta Alumni Chapter, a lay leader at Jones Memorial United Methodist Church, and as a board member of the Good Shepherd Medical Clinic in Morrow. For more than 30 years the Woods have hosted a fundraiser known as the Tomato Sandwich Party, usually held in early August, offering tomato sandwiches along with entertainment and good fellowship. Last year the event raised \$53,000 to benefit the Good Shepherd Clinic.

Jim and Martha Wood have resided in Forest Park for 39 years. They have four sons and six grandchildren. Their sons recently set up special funds in the Clayton State University Foundation honoring both parents individually, monies which are designed to benefit and promote faculty and staff improvement at the University.



Photographed in August of 1974, Jim Wood signs the articles of incorporation for the then Clayton Junior College Foundation, Inc.





## Dina Swearngin

### Do you teach at Clayton State University?

By Gid Rowell

Clayton State University alumna Dina Swearngin is so identifiable on campus she often gets a question that brings a smile to her face, “Professor, what do you do teach at Clayton State?”

The question is natural and understandable because if she’s not at her home in Tyrone, GA, more than likely she’s doing something at Clayton State. Dina’s love and dedication for her alma mater is unparalleled. From student, to alum, and now back to student again as a member of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program, Swearngin truly bleeds orange and blue.

“I began college at Georgia State where, in my second quarter, I actually had a professor tell me ‘it’s true; you are just a number,’” said Swearngin, who is the past president of the Clayton State Alumni Association. “I transferred to Clayton State the next quarter. Like many, I thought I would complete the

core at Clayton State and then transfer to a larger university to finish my degree, but once you become involved at Clayton State, you become part of a family. I was smitten.”

Swearngin currently holds two Clayton State degrees, graduating in 1993 with her R.N., associate in nursing, followed by earning her bachelor’s in nursing in 1997. And if all goes as planned, she will make history next year, becoming the first Clayton State student to obtain an associate, bachelor’s and master’s degree from the University. With a 4.0 grade point average in the program, she is on target to graduate in the first MSN cohort in the spring of 2009.

“We are proud to have Dina as one of the first enrollees in the MSN program,” says Associate Professor of Nursing and Director of the MSN program Susan Sanner. “Since being admitted to the program, she has worked diligently to meet the standards of the MSN program and has done it successfully. It is very rewarding as a faculty member to work with Dina at this level where faculty and students develop more of a collegial relationship. I know that whatever Dina is involved in, she is going to do it with the highest standards.”

Swearngin says it’s literally a juggling act at times. Not only is she taking a full load in the MSN program, an active member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and a part-time nurse at

DeKalb Medical Center, she also home-schools her two daughters, Abbey (8) and Lindsey (5). Both have mom and dad’s (Geoff) “smarts” too, as they are well ahead of schedule, having already completed the fourth and first grades, respectively this past summer.

“Dina is the most remarkable person I know,” says Clayton State Assistant Professor of Healthcare Management Deborah Gritzmacher. “She is an enthusiastic motivator, as well as a cheerful participant in anything she feels passionate about. She is obviously an exceptional student and, in addition, she is self-directed and multi-accomplished. There are just not enough superlative adjectives to form a clear picture of Dina. I admire and respect her as a former student and now as a dear friend. I’m a better person for knowing her.”

Out of high school, Swearngin initially wanted to be a physician, but her career goals quickly changed at the age of 18 after spending countless hours in a hospital with her ill grandmother.

“She was a very important person in my life, and we practically lived in the ICU waiting room at Georgia Baptist for a month,” said Swearngin. “I realized then that I wanted to gain the knowledge required to make someone in my grandmother’s position more comfortable. I realized it was the nurses who intently cared for every aspect of the patient. They took the time to talk to the family and learn about my grandmother, the things she liked and what made her happy. It was that per-

Swearngin, President Harden and Alumni Director Gid Rowell gather at the bricks at Legacy Court.





sonal interaction with patients that I wanted for my career.”

For the last 15 years, she has done just that, specializing in neonatal intensive care nursing. She currently works PRN at DeKalb Medical, caring for premature infants after working for several years in the emergency room at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta.

“In the NICU, the patients are much smaller but so is the margin for error,” says Swearngin, 37. “I love the technology and the ever-changing needs of the preemie. Intuition plays a part in intensive care nursing, so some have called that the art of nursing.”

She credits much of her success to her education and the lessons learned and the support received from the Clayton State faculty and staff.

“It was very hard at the time but looking back it was well worth it,” she says. “The faculty and staff want the students to succeed. I was amazed that every professor offered their home number if I needed help. They were so helpful and were always available to answer questions, share personal experiences and make sure we had the clinical experiences that we needed. Most of all, I could tell that the education I receiving was quality.”

Her proudest moment as a student was being inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, the national nursing honors society. She remembers fondly a picture with her mom, who has since passed away, holding her induction certificate and honor cords behind Spivey Hall. She completed the RN-BSN program with a 4.0 while working full-time night shift at Grady.

Not only is Swearngin an accomplished neonatal ICU nurse and an excellent student, graduating with honors, as a member of Sigma Theta Tau, she is one of the most involved

and engaged alums of the University.

Whether it’s cheering on the Lakers at a basketball game, volunteering at Homecoming, or planning the Annual Alumni Dinner, she is always lending a helping hand. Her involvement with the Alumni Association began in 2000, and she has served in several leadership roles, including a two-year term as the Association’s president in 2006 and 2007.

“Under Dina’s leadership and vision, the Clayton State Alumni Association made unprecedented strides in its growth and development,” says Steve Stephens, Clayton State executive assistant and vice president of External Relations. “She was responsible for launching several new programs, including an enhanced membership program, a commemorative brick campaign and corporate partnerships with the Association. In addition, involvement at alumni sponsored events are at its highest and much of the recent success can be attributed to her hard work and dedication.”

Says Swearngin, “I am proud of the growth and recognition of our Association. We have a very dedicated group of directors and committee members who tirelessly volunteer their time to advance the association. We have become more involved with the University than ever before and our active membership is growing. We are developing traditions such as the pancake breakfast at Homecoming and our Annual Alumni Dinner in

April, which has grown to one of the premier events of the University.”

Not surprisingly, once Dina completes her master’s degree... she wants to teach.

“I love teaching,” she says. “If you love what you do, then why not teach someone else to do it? I’m passionate about nursing and neonatology and want others to learn from my experience in this field. So much of nursing education is based on experience. I would love to come to Clayton State and teach after graduation next year. It would complete the circle for me.”

Then, her answer to the frequent question she always gets while on campus would be ... “I teach at my alma mater.”



**Above:** Swearngin, a 1997 nursing alumna. **Left:** At the 2008 Clayton State University Annual Alumni Dinner. **Below:** Swearngin stands with President Harden during the removal of the Clayton College & State University signage in 2005.







## Alumni Dinner voyage under the sea

By Gid Rowell

**Above Left:** Attendees dined under the sea and toured the Georgia Aquarium. **Above:** Alumni dinner guests listen to President Harden. **Left:** The 2008 Clayton State Overall Distinguished Alumnus award winner Dennis C. Martino of Fayetteville, GA.

All Clayton State ships set sail for the Georgia Aquarium earlier this spring, as the Alumni Association welcomed a record crowd to its 16th Annual Dinner & Auction at the downtown Atlanta venue.

More than 170 guests made the voyage to the Aquarium for the annual event, which featured a guest speaker, the presentation of the Distinguished & Outstanding Alumni Awards and a silent auction. This year's attendance was 25 percent higher than last year, which was the previous high in the event's history.

"We had an overwhelmingly positive response for our dinner this year," says Executive Assistant and Vice Pres-

ident of External Relations Steve Stephens. "It was a special evening at an incredible venue. Our Dinner has blossomed into the 'signature event' of our Association."

"We are thrilled with the response we received this year for our Annual Meeting and Dinner this year. Our event has grown tremendously over the last couple of years, and we hope to continue to improve and make it better each year," adds Alumni Association President Shawn Nelson. "This has always been a special time for our friends and University family to get together and reacquaint themselves with each other and with the exciting growth and development of Clayton State."

A highlight of the dinner included the presentation of the 2008 Clayton State Overall Distinguished Alumnus Award to Dennis C. Martino, of Fayetteville, GA. Martino, who received an associate degree in Business from Clayton State in 1973, is the general manager and vice president of Martino-White Printing, Inc., and has been in the printing business for 34 years.

Martino has been a member of the Atlanta Airport Rotary Club for the last 25 years, where he is a past president and currently serves on its Board of Directors. He has been instrumental in facilitating of the Atlanta Airport Rotary Mitchell C. Bishop Scholarship at Clayton State, which is the oldest and



longest continuing scholarship at the University, beginning almost 30 years ago and influencing scores of students.

In addition, Martino has served as president of the Airport Area Chamber of Commerce and still serves on their Board of Directors. His community involvement includes Chris Kids, Travelers Aid and Children's Miracle Network.

Along with Martino, other alumni honored at the dinner were: Monica L. Martin, Distinguished College of Arts & Sciences Alumna; Charles E. Crownover, Distinguished College of Professional Studies Alumnus; Latoya N. Hubbard, Distinguished School of Business Alumna; Jeff M. Wilson, Distinguished School of Nursing Alumnus and Kristine B. Hopkins, Distinguished College of Information & Mathematical Sciences Alumna.

Martin holds two degrees from Clayton State, an Associate in Applied Science and an Associate in Sociology. She works as a family independence

case manager at the Department of Family and Children Services in Clayton County. In 2007, she was recognized as the DFACS Employee of the Year. She received this award in large part to her strong will and determination in overcoming a disability. Prior to 1999, Martin had received six years of disability before becoming employed with DFACS and thriving in her position.

Crownover obtained his bachelor's degree in Applied Science in 2002, graduating with honors. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps and his commissioning ceremony was held in Clayton State's Technology Building. He has risen to the rank of Captain, has served two seven-month tours in Iraq and is preparing for his third deployment.

After obtaining her bachelor's degree in Management from Clayton State in 2001, Hubbard was employed

by Nationwide Insurance, where she has climbed the company ladder quickly. Initially employed as a casualty claims representative in the Atlanta area, she has risen to the regional position of agency development sales manager, and now resides in Ohio.

Wilson graduated with a Bachelor of Science Nursing degree in 2002. He currently is the education program manager at Piedmont Fayette Hospital and is responsible for all aca-

demical affiliations between metro Atlanta colleges and universities, placing more than 100 students from multiple disciplines each semester into clinical rotations. Wilson also has military experience, entering the Air Force in 1992 and is currently a Captain.

Hopkins graduated in 1991 with an associate degree in Mathematics, receiving many academic honors. After Clayton State, she graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in Chemistry then completed her medical training at the University of Alabama School of Optometry. She completed her residency at the Southern California College of Optometry. Hopkins has recently completed a Master of Science in Public Health Epidemiology. She currently holds the rank of associate professor and chief of Vision Therapy Services at the University of Alabama - Birmingham in the School of Optometry.

Last year's overall winner, Charles D. English, of Fayetteville, spoke at this year's event. English, a 1981 graduate, is director of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and the Office of Homeland Security.

The Distinguished Alumnus Awards are based on three characteristics: a significant contribution to their career area, leadership or achievement in their field; and community involvement that makes a difference. Some of the other former winners include: Judge Steve Teske, Locust Grove City Manager Rick Jeffares, Georgia Senator Nadine Thomas, businessman Jim Baker, Judge Michael Baird, Clayton State Associate Dean Dr. Benita Moore, businessman Doug Walker, Judge Ben Studdard, former Georgia Representative Gail Buckner, television news producer Art Rogers and businessman/videographer James Jernigan, to name a few.

**Right:** Guests received chocolate sea shells handmade by alumna Dina Swearngin.

**Below:** A large glass wall in the ballroom allows dinner guests to view the tank featuring the Georgia Aquarium's famed whale shark.





# Class Notes



*Happy graduates!*



*Dina Swearingin, Gid Rowell and Shawn Nelson at spring commencement.*



*Graduate Justin Parkerson, son of trustee John Parkerson, and family.*

## Clayton State alumni, brag a little ...

Clayton State's Class Notes is the perfect place to share personal and professional news with friends and classmates. Please send us information about special milestones in your life, including births, marriages, careers, family events, etc. Send your news or updates along with a photo to:

Clayton State Alumni Relations  
2000 Clayton State Boulevard  
Morrow, GA 30260

Or email Clayton State's Director of Alumni Relations Gid Rowell at [gidrowell@clayton.edu](mailto:gidrowell@clayton.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!

### 1974

**BENITA MOORE**  
(A.A. '74)



Dr. Moore, of Jonesboro, GA, was named Clayton State University's "Shining Star" for 2008 by the University System of Georgia. Moore was saluted for her efforts in educating Georgians for the past 25 years. She has risen through the ranks of business education to serve as interim dean of both the School of Technology and the College of Professional Studies, and as associate dean of the College of Professional Studies. Moore was named the winner of the University's Outstanding Alumni Award in 2003.

### 1978

**ART ROGERS**  
(A.A. '78)

Rogers, of Atlanta, is the director of Programming and News Production for WSB in Atlanta. He was inducted into the "Silver Circle" of The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences at the Southeast Emmy Awards in 2007.

### 1979

**ZACK HENDON**  
(A.A. Business Administration '79)



Hendon, of Marietta, GA, has announced that The Hendon Law Firm, LLC, specializing in workers' compensation, has moved to a new office off of Roswell Road in Marietta.

### 1983

**CINDY MARIE BURRELL**  
(A.A. Nursing '83)

Burrell, of Atlanta, GA, is a Clinical Educator, RN CPN, at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston.

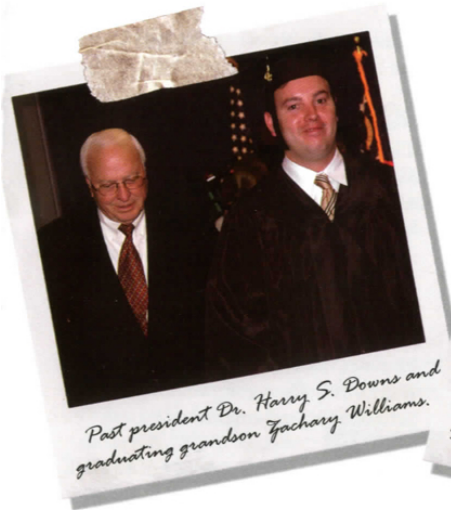
### 1985

**JOAN D. MURPHY**  
(A.A. Business '85)



Murphy, of Lake City, GA, retired earlier this year after almost 15 years of service at Clayton State. Murphy mostly recently worked in the Public Safety Department after starting in the Public Informa-





*Past president Dr. Harry S. Downs and graduating grandson Zachary Williams.*



*Recent grads and soccer friends Todd Denson, Kyle Ramsey and Daniel English.*



*The graduation caps say it all! Evette Johnson and Alycia Allgood.*

tion Office in 1994. Murphy directed Clayton State's successful RideShare program and Clean Air Campaign for several years. She is also a former member of the Alumni Association, serving on the Board of Directors from 1990-97.

## 1987

**BEVERLY CRATON**  
(B.A. History '87)

Craton, of Forest Park, GA, is the curator of the Hapeville Depot Museum in Hapeville, GA.



## 1989

**JUDGE MICHAEL A. BAIRD**  
(B.B.A. Management '89)

Judge Baird of Jonesboro, GA, was the keynote speaker at the 2008 Clayton State commencement ceremonies. He was recently appointed as a federal immigration judge in Dallas, TX, and expects to be sworn in for that position by the end of this year. Baird has been a judge in Clayton County since 1996 and served as the senior judge of the Magis-



trate Court of Clayton County since 2005. He has taught in the School of Business at Clayton State for 13 years.

## 1994

**CHRIS MENARD**  
(B.B.A. Accounting '94)

Menard, of Stockbridge, GA, achieved Microsoft Certified Application Specialist Instructor, which is the highest level of certification possible for the world's leading desktop software - Microsoft Office. He is owner of Triality Business Solutions.



## 1995

**ROXANNE DILBECK**  
(CER Office Administration '95)

Dilbeck, of Rex, GA, has worked at Clayton State for 11 years, working in both Career and Counseling Services. She received the Division of Student Affairs' "Unsung Hero" Staff Award at the Division's awards and recognition program. She also receives a certificate



in Web Page Design from Clayton State's Continuing Education in 2008.

## 1996

**KEITH BUTTS**  
(B.B.A. Accounting '96)

Butts, of Sharpsburg, GA, is employed at AT&T. His son, Brett, a former baseball player at East Coweta High School and Auburn University, was drafted by the Atlanta Braves last year. He reported to his first spring training with the Braves in Orlando, FL, earlier this year.

**JOSH KAMMERER**  
(B.B.A. Management '96)

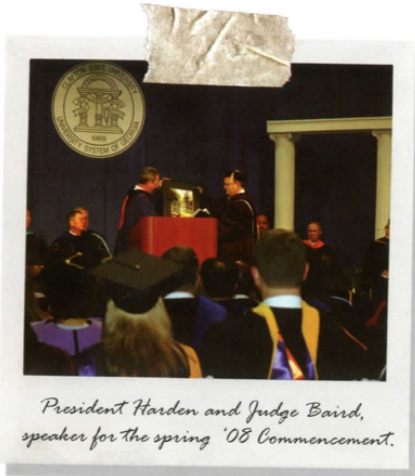
Kammerer, of Jonesboro, GA, recently finished his first year of teaching special needs children at Davis Middle School in Conyers, GA. Kammerer, who played basketball at Clayton State in the early 90s and is married to alumnus Kim (Hamilton), will be an assistant coach for the boys' basketball team. Before entering education, Kammerer worked 10 years with the Kroger Company.

## 1999

**VALERIE AKIN**  
(B.S. Nursing '99)



# Class Notes



*President Harden and Judge Baird, speaker for the spring '08 Commencement.*

Akin, of Fayetteville, GA, is a nurse in the Emergency Department at Piedmont Fayette Hospital.

**SONYA D. BEAM**  
(B.B.A. Marketing '99)

Beam, from Alpharetta, GA, is owner and Marketing Superhero for The P.O.P. Shop in Alpharetta. The P.O.P. Shop is a superhero-themed promotions firm.

**ANGELA BOWERS**  
(B.A.S. Allied Health Administration '99)

Bowers, from Oxford, GA, is a refund specialist with the Newton Medical Center. She is also an active member of the Health Care Financial Management Association (HFMA).

**CONSTANCE A. DIAL**  
(B.S. Nursing '99)

Dial, of McDonough, GA, is a Healthcare Science teacher at Ola High School in McDonough, GA.

**SCOTT LLOYD OVREVIK**  
(B.S. Nursing '99)

Ovrevik, of Atlanta, is an Intensive Care Unit Nurse at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta.

## 2000

**DEREK FAVORS**  
(B.A.S. Technology Management '00)

Favors, of Rex, GA, is a former men's basketball player from 1996-99. After receiving his bachelor's from Clayton

State, he earned his Master of Applied Science in General Administration from Central Michigan University in 2002. Favors is celebrating his ninth anniversary at AT&T, employed as a network technician. He was married in April of 2008 and his wedding was attended by past professor and friend Dr. Michael Deis. Favors is also active with the Clayton State basketball programs by officiating the middle school and high school summer camps each year in June.

## 2001

**NATALIE (TRIPLETT) FARMER**  
(B.S. Nursing '01)

Farmer, of McDonough, GA, is a staff nurse at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston. As a student, she was a member of the Student Nurses Association, a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honors Society and graduate magna cum laude.

## 2002

**GEORGE CREWS**  
(B.I.T. '02)

Author George Crews, of Jonesboro, GA, has released a new book entitled, "The Cleanup Man," which is an urban drama. He is owner of Crews Publishing and also the author of an educational book for kids in grades K-4th, "Ellen G. Goes Fishing."



**CHARLIE FRAZIER**  
(B.A. Middle Grades Education '02)

Frazier, of Ellenwood, GA, was recently named the head basketball coach at Jasper County High School in Monticello, GA. Prior to his new position, he coached and taught at Adamson Middle School. In 2007-08, he was named Adamson's Teacher of the Year for



the second time. Frazier was a four-year letterwinner and captain of Clayton State's first Peach Belt Conference Championship team in 2002. Frazier and his wife, Larika, have a son,

Cameron Jacob, who was born within the last year.

## 2003

**NATHAN AKINS**  
(B.A.S. Administrative Management '03)

Akins of Dallas, GA, currently works as a full-time accounting instructor at Chattahoochee Technical College in Marietta, GA. After graduating from Clayton State, Akins earned an MBA in Global Management from the University of Phoenix and an MBA in Accounting from DeVry University's Keller Graduate School of Management.

**M. NANETTE (HOLCOMBE) CHASTINE**  
(B.S. Biology '03)

Chastine, of Dillon, MT, is an assistant professor of Equine Studies at the University of Montana Western. She received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from the University of Georgia in 2007. In addition, she is the faculty advisor for the Horseman's Club, and the UMW Horse Judging Team. Chastine is pursuing a Master of Science in Veterinary Medical Science with a concentration in Forensic Toxicology from the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.

**ISABELLA (LENTINI) HUNT**  
(B.A. Communication & Media Studies, '03)

Hunt was in the first class to receive Clayton State's Bachelor of Arts in Communication & Media Studies. She married Dan Hunt in 2004. She presently works as a senior account manager at Argus Benefits in Atlanta, a benefits and management consulting boutique. An employee at Argus since her 2003 graduation, Hunt handles new and existing business for the company.



## 2004

**SHAWN AYTON**  
(A.A.S. Computer Networking Technology '04)

Ayton, of Alpharetta, GA, is a Network Manager at Ipswitch, Inc. He has been married to Shakela Ayton since March



of 1998 and has two children, Briunna and Kayla.

**HEATHER B. (BEDELL) COMSTOCK** (A.A. Teacher Education '04)

Comstock, who now resides in Maryland, is the Assistant Executive Director at the Correctional Education Association in Elkridge, MD.

**LAUREN ASHLEY (BAKER) GRAVES** (B.A. Communication & Media Studies '04)

Graves and her husband, Levi, welcomed their first child, Logan Alexander Graves (7 lbs; 19 inches) on January 17, 2008. Graves works in Clayton State's Office of University Relations where her primary responsibilities include designing campus print publications (including "The Laker Connection" magazine) and writing press releases.



**TARIQ BIN HENDI** (B.B.A. Management '04)

Hendi returned to Dubai after graduation and began his post-college career with the Sovereign Wealth Fund. In the spring of 2006, he moved to New York and is still working with the fund while pursuing a MBA at Columbia University.

**RICKY HOLLINGSWORTH** (B.S. Psychology & Human Services '04)



Hollingsworth, of Atlanta, is the Social Services Case Manager at the Clayton County Department of Family & Children Services.

**ALICIA MICHELE (WALKER) KELLEY** (B.S. Psychology and Human Services, '04)

Kelley, of Smyrna, GA, graduated cum laude from Clayton State and received her master's degree in Interrelated Special Education in fall 2007 from the University of West Georgia. She married Robert Franklin Kelley on July 22, 2007, and the couple welcomed their first child, Lucas Preston Kelley (6 lbs, 6.2 oz; 19 inches), on June 17, 2008. Kelley has taught special education for the Clayton County Public School System since 2004.



**AMANDA (BUCKNER) KIECK** (B.A. Psychology and Human Services '04)

Buckner, of Mableton, GA, married shortly after college graduation in 2004 and, in the summer of 2005, had a little boy. She is currently a stay-at-home mom. Buckner is a former member of the Clayton State cheerleading squad.

**LEAH (PHARR) MCCLURE** (B.B.A. General Business '04)

McClure and husband, Jeremy, moved to Charleston, SC, for his residency at the Medical University of South Carolina. McClure was a four-year letterwinner in women's soccer for the Lakers.

**ZULYNETTE OLIVO** (B.S. Healthcare Management '04)

Olivo is currently working in the mortgage business but hopes to return to the health industry. A four-year letterwinner on the women's soccer team, she continues to play soccer. She is planning her wedding this August in Miami, FL.

**ANDY PIPPIN** (B.A. Communication & Media Studies '04)

Pippin, of Atlanta is the Business Development Officer and a Loan Officer at First National Bank of Griffin. He has

offices in Hampton and McDonough, GA. He is single with no children and says, "It's awesome."

**DENISE B. (BURNLEY) SAMPLES** (B.B.A. Accounting '04)

Samples, of Locust Grove, GA, is the Executive Director of Resource Management at the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in Atlanta.

**SHEILA M. (VARNER) WILSON** (B.B.A. Management '04)

Wilson, of Lithonia, GA, recently completed her MBA in International Business from Nova Southeastern University. She is an Independent Software Consultant for McKesson Corporation and is the founder of The Ruth Foundation, Inc., 2008 Youth Domestic Violence Prevention Workshop.



## 2005

**MICHELE (PALAN) BLOCH** (B.A. Communication & Media Studies '05)

Bloch, of Lilburn, GA, is the Director of Marketing for the Children's Dental Center of Atlanta, the largest pediatric dental practice in the country. She is married to alum Andy Bloch (B.B.A. '02).

**MARLON S. ELLIS** (B.A.S. Technology Management '05)

Ellis, of Villa Rica, GA, is owner of Ellis Heating and Air.

**ADRIENNE LEIGH GAUTHIER** (B.A. Communication & Media Studies '05)

Gauthier, from Jonesboro, GA, completed her Master of Arts in Teaching Secondary English from Agnes Scott University in May 2008. Gauthier has accepted position teaching 4th grade at Kilpatrick Elementary.

**SANDRA L. MCGILL** (B.S. Biology '05)

After graduating from Clayton State, McGill held a position as a post-baccalaureate genetics research intern at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak



## Class Notes

Ridge, TN, for almost two years. This experience enabled her entrance into graduate school in 2007 at prestigious Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX, where she is studying in the Interdepartmental Program in Cell and Molecular Biology. Along with continuing medical research, particularly in the field of craniofacial disorders, she plans to teach at the university level after earning her degree.

**STACEY Y. RIVERS**  
(B.A.S. Technology Management '05)

Rivers, of McDonough, GA, was recently named to the Clayton State university Alumni Association Board of Directors. After serving as Network Manager for TBS Broadcast Operations since 2005, she began an assignment in February as Manager of Broadcast Operations for Turner Studios where she will act as a logistical liaison between Turner Studios and Network Operations. Rivers was named the 2007 Clayton State Outstanding Alumna from the College of Professional Studies.



*Shawn Nelson, Alumni Association president, addresses new alumni at spring '08 graduation.*

**SHA-RON ROSIGNON**  
(B.A.S. Management, '05)

Rosignon, of Jonesboro, GA, is pursuing her MHA at Clayton State. She is a volunteer at the Southwest Christian Center in Union City, GA.

**CHRIS G. THOMPSON**  
(B.A.S. Administrative Management '05)  
Thompson, of Harlan, KY, is the Youth Career Advisor at the Harlan Community Action Agency. Chris, in conjunction with his church, has opened "The Fusion Center," a teen center for area youth.

**CHARLES L. YARRI**  
(B.I.T. '05 Networking)  
Yarri, of Newnan, GA, is an Operations Analyst at Delta Technology, Inc.

**NATHALIA (COLLANTES) YARRI**  
(B.I.T. '05 Networking)  
Yarri, of Newnan, GA, is the IT Coordinator at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. A former All-American tennis player at Clayton State, she is married to Clayton State grad Chip Yarri.

**2006**  
**VANESSA AUSTIN**  
(B.A.S. Administrative Management '06)

Austin, of Smyrna, GA, is the I.S. Business Coordinator at Piedmont Healthcare in Atlanta. She is a member of the International Association of Administrative Professionals.

**NANCY J. CAPPONI**  
(B.S. Nursing '06)  
Capponi, of Oxford, GA, is a RN at Rockdale Medical Center. She has been active in the Georgia Emergency Nurses Association and is a student in Clayton State's MSN program. She is also a member of the Sigma Theta Tau.



Student Tiffany Whidby contacts Clayton State alumni.

### Alumni Relations and Alumni Association partner for phonathon "40-in-40" campaign

The phones of many Clayton State alums were ringing when the Office of Alumni Relations and the Alumni Association conducted a four-week phonathon this spring.

Alums contacted in the phonathon were invited to participate in the "40-in-40" campaign and asked for a \$40 gift in celebration of the University's 40th anniversary coming in 2009. The phonathon will continue this fall and also next year.

"We've had an awesome response so far," said Shawn Nelson, president of the Alumni Association. "We received hundreds of pledges and even more alums requesting additional information."

The Phonathon is also beneficial in updating records and informing grads on exciting developments, including the new graduate programs and building projects.

To give in the "40-in-40" campaign, contact Gid Rowell at gidrowell@clayton.edu or by phone at (678) 466-4477.



KIMIKO P. SMITH

(B.A. Communication & Media Studies '06)

Smith, of College Park, GA, completed her Master of Public Administration with a dual focus in Public and Non-Profit Management from Troy University in December 2007. Smith was promoted to head of communications for the Preventive Health Partnership Collaboration which is an unprecedented partnership between the American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association and American Heart Association; the three largest non-profits in the world. She was also recently engaged and is planning a November wedding in Nassau, Bahamas.



LIZ WELLINGTON

(B.B.A. Management '06)

Wellington has been working as the Graduation Evaluator & Coordinator for Clayton State since February 2007. She is also enrolled in the first cohort of the Master of Business Administration at Clayton State and is looking forward to a spring 2009 graduation.



## 2007

EBONY CORMIER

(B.A. Integrative Studies '07)

Cormier, from Union City, GA, recently joined the Georgia Lottery Corporation as a communications specialist.

LUCINDA EARNEST

(B.S. Nursing '07)

Earnest of Stone Mountain, GA, was recently promoted to nurse manager of Outpatient Surgery after receiving her BSN from Clayton State.

SHERRIE L. (DEMOND) EOFF

(B.S. Integrated Studies '01 & B.B.A. Management '07)

Eoff, of Morrow, GA, recently accepted a position as Business Development Coordinator at Jacobson Companies in

Forest Park, GA. While obtaining her first degree, Eoff was Honors Program president, Student Government Association president, SGA vice president, a Student Orientation leader and served as Student Vice President of the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council. She also served on the Clayton State University Alumni Board of Directors for four years. She is currently a member of the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals and working on an MBA in supply chain/logistics at Clayton State.

KIMBERLY (HIETT) LASSITER

(B.A. Education '07)

Lassiter, of Hampton, GA, is a teacher in the Newton County school system.

LARON LEWTON

(B.A.S. Technology Management '07)

Lewton recently moved to Seattle, WA, to advance his career at Costco Wholesale. He has been employed by Costco for eight years and is an analyst for the company's website, Costco.com.

KEISHA B. PRENTISS

(B.B.A. Accounting '07)

Prentiss, of Atlanta, works for RBS Lynk in Atlanta and serves as a Cash Analyst.

NIKKI T. (WETTER) SAWYER

(B.S. Biology '07)

Sawyer, of Atlanta, is currently a graduate student at Emory, pursuing a Ph.D. in the Neuroscience Program. Sawyer was named the University System of Georgia's Chancellor's Award winner and received the O.C. Lam Award for Excellence in Biological Sciences. She was also a member of the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society.

## 2008

GENNER A. (FENDALL) HUNTER

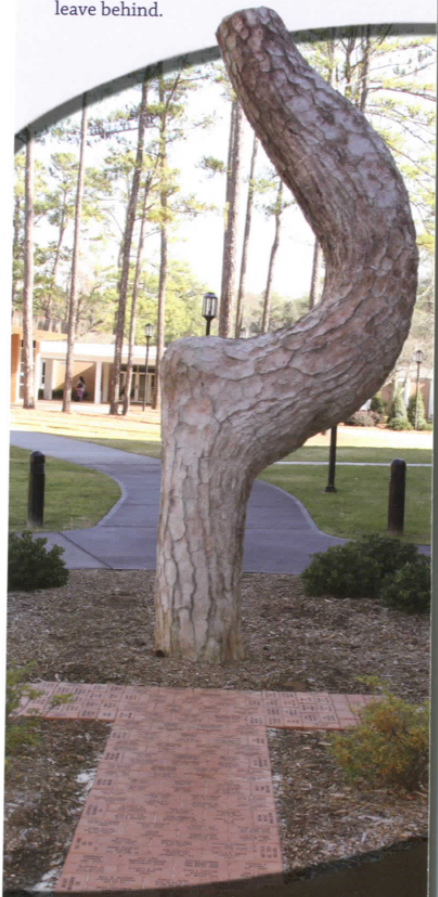
(B.S. Nursing '08) — Hunter, of Hampton, GA, is a RN at Emory's Crawford Long Hospital in Atlanta.

# Legacy Court Commemorative Brick Campaign

The Clayton State Alumni Association is accepting orders for its fourth set of Commemorative Bricks in the Legacy Court-yard at the Bent Tree.

Clayton State graduates, students, faculty, staff and community members have the opportunity to celebrate accomplishments and recognize individuals by purchasing a brick.

A gift of \$50 or more means that a brick presenting the name of an honoree will guide the way for tomorrow's students, as they walk the paths that today's students leave behind.



## Order Now

To place an order and be included in the upcoming order, contact Gid Rowell, Director of Alumni Relations at (678) 466-4477.





*Clayton State in fall*



2000 Clayton State Boulevard  
Morrow, GA 30260-0285

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ATLANTA GA  
PERMIT #4444