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THE LAKER CONNECTION

Department of Music

&
Spivey Hall

Enhance lives
through
fine music

Phillip DePoy's
The King James Conspiracy

Clayton State Opera
Opera is life and education

Spivey Hall
Young People's Concerts

Alan Xie
Art meets digital technology

Brigitte Byrd
A poet in the arts



Letter from the president

The history of the world is marked by hard times followed by prosperity, and recently we have been

faced with especially difficult crises. In such times we often fall back on the arts to inspire the human spirit and to enhance our lives. This edition of our campus magazine focuses on the different reflections, applications and interpretations of the arts at Clayton State University.

Our premier venue for the performing arts is Spivey Hall, which is one of the nation's most outstanding halls for classical, jazz and world music. Each season Spivey Hall presents dozens of the world's leading musical artists to the Atlanta area to perform in near-perfect acoustics. Spivey Hall also brings tens of thousands of school children to campus each year to experience music they may otherwise not be in a position to enjoy.

The performing arts at Clayton State feature our Department of Music, our theatre productions, and the Clayton State Opera. Creativity is alive and well in the visual arts, where students learn drawing, design, painting, and other outlets of expression. All of these, added to poetry and prose, provide students at Clayton State University with a rare opportunity to explore the world of art.

In this edition you will also find information about energy efficiency, athletics and other points of interest.

Please enjoy.

Thomas K. Harden
President



Spivey Hall



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UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

PRESIDENT

Dr. Thomas K. Harden

THE LAKER CONNECTION STAFF

EDITORIAL STAFF

John Shiffert, *Managing Editor*

Lauren Graves, '04, *Editor*

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Kelly Adams

Amber Joy Dimkoff

Samuel C. Dixon

Erin Fender, '05

Ciji Fox, '09

Lauren Graves, '04

Gid Rowell

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Lauren Graves, '04

LEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

Erin Fender, '05

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Stanley Leary

Gid Rowell

Guy Welch/Studio Burns

Christopher White

Submitted photographs

PRINTER

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Spivey Hall

Enhancing the lives of millions through fine music

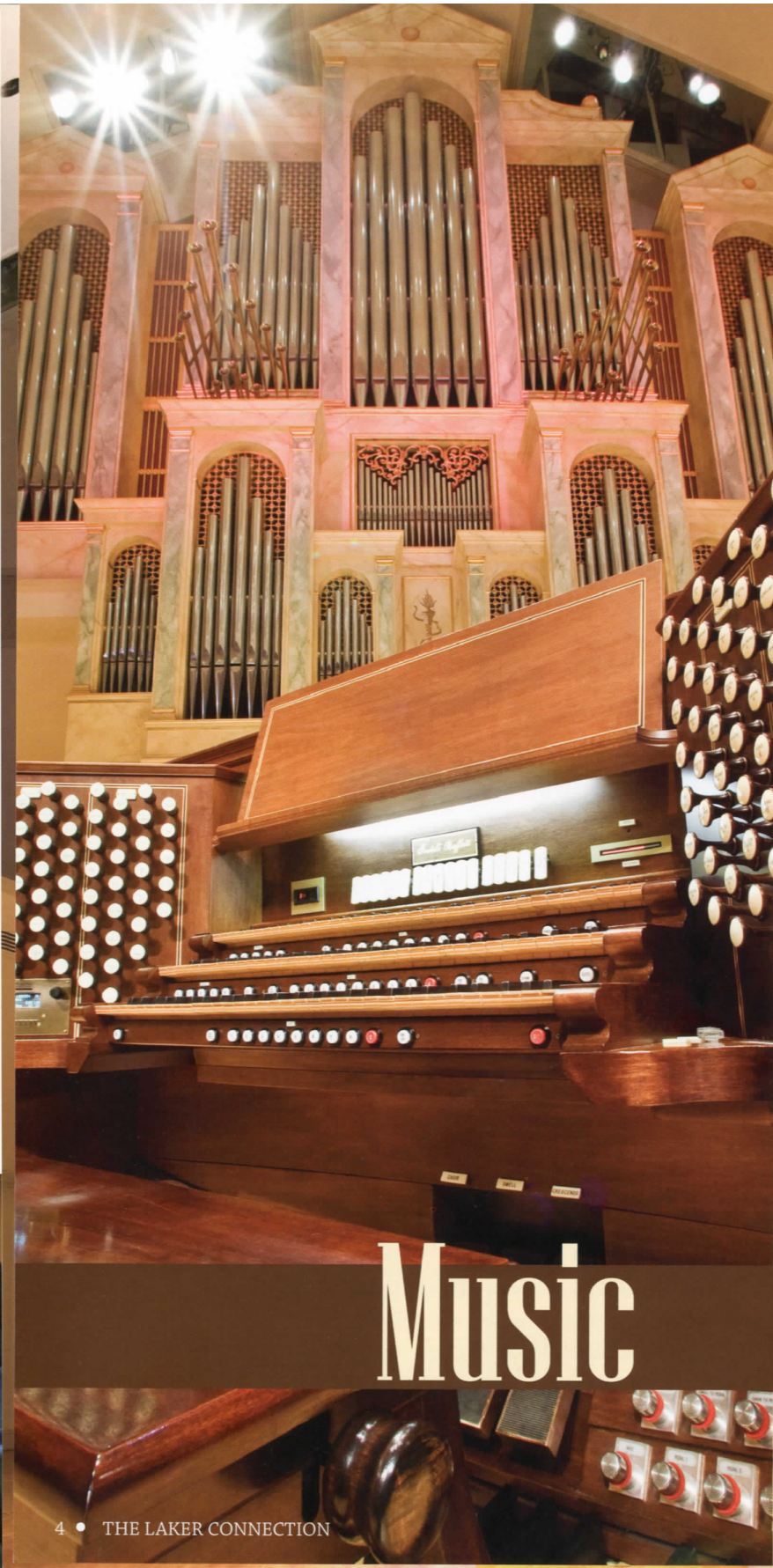
Emilie Parmalee Spivey had a dream.

She envisioned a beautiful place where she could welcome people to hear fine music. A highly accomplished professional organist, she understood what matters most to musicians and cared deeply about artistic excellence. She wanted to create an intimate, elegant recital hall, designed by artists for artists.

With her husband, Dr. Walter Boone Spivey, Emilie had successfully developed Clayton County's Lake Jodeco and Lake Spivey residential areas. Long-time residents of Jonesboro, civic leaders and philanthropists, they wished to give back to their community, which historically had been underserved by the fine arts.

The Spiveys were drawn to the cultural programs of Clayton State, as well as to the lakes and trees of the campus. There they found a leader who shared their dream: the founding president of what was then Clayton Junior College, Dr. Harry S. Downs. With Dr. Downs, Emilie planned to build a recital hall to her exact specifications, which upon completion would be given to the University System of Georgia.

Neither might have fully imagined that this small recital hall in Morrow, GA, would have an impact so extraordinary and far-reaching – on the campus, the school, the community and the region.



REALIZING THE DREAM

From its very first concert in January 1991, Spivey Hall inspired musicians and audiences alike. Its superb, highly sensitive acoustics were a revelation. Good acoustics make a critical difference to classical musicians, who, upon hearing Spivey Hall, readily ranked it among world's best halls. Audiences, too, were delighted. The clear, immediate sound that is easily appreciated from all seats, combined with good sight lines and close proximity to the artists on stage, creates a wonderfully satisfying experience.

In 1992, the crowning glory and centerpiece of Spivey Hall – the Albert Schweitzer Memorial Organ built by Fratelli Ruffatti of Padua, Italy, funded by an additional \$1 million from The Spivey Foundation – was installed with dedicatory performances by British organist Gillian Weir and the Robert Shaw Chamber Singers. “What a precious and perceptive gift the Spiveys have given all of Atlanta,” praised legendary conductor Robert Shaw in his dedication statement, making the memorable analogy, “Spivey Hall is to music what light is to painting.”

High-profile events drew widespread attention to Spivey Hall. Georgia Public Television broadcast the opening concerts of Perlman and Watts, and later Architects of Sound, a documentary on the creation, transportation and installation of the Albert Schweitzer Memorial



Music

Organ. National Public Radio visited for *The Spirit of '96*, a week of live international broadcasts during the 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics, followed by the Cultural Paralympiad featuring German baritone Thomas Quasthoff. In 1998 and 2000, Spivey Hall proudly hosted the North American Selection Rounds of the prestigious Royal Bank of Calgary International Organ Competition. Commercial recordings made at Spivey Hall by such artists as legendary choral conductor Robert Shaw, mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves and violinist Mark O'Connor also raised awareness and appreciation of the Hall.

A PLACE FOR MUSIC LOVERS OF ALL AGES

The "body" of Spivey Hall – the structure itself and its physical properties – is truly magnificent, but what gives Spivey Hall its beautiful "soul" is its programming.

In its primary concert series dating from 1991, Spivey Hall has presented more than 800 solo musicians or ensembles from around the world, chosen

for their extraordinary artistry that has significantly enriched the life of the campus and the cultural wealth of the region.

Word of Spivey Hall spread quickly through the music industry and helped attract the best classical, jazz and world musicians for its annual concert series. With a strong sense of purpose and an unwavering commitment to quality, founding executive and artistic director Sherryl L. Nelson presented renowned stars as well as the most promising new musicians and ensembles. Having firmly established Spivey Hall's international reputation for artistic excellence, she retired after 15 seasons in 2006.

Nelson also recognized the imperative to develop future generations of music-lovers, and understood the role Spivey Hall could play to support music education in Georgia. With noted music educator Jay Wucher as chairman, the Spivey Hall Education Committee was formed in 1993 to identify ways in which Spivey Hall could respond most effectively to these needs.

The results have been impressive. An extensive series of annual Young People's Concerts brings some 15,000 children and senior citizens from throughout metro Atlanta to Spivey Hall each year, introducing them to many types of music as well as the Clayton State University campus. Initiated by revered conductor Robert Shaw, a long-time music director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, annual Spivey Hall choral workshops provide unique instructional and performance opportunities for middle- and high-school students under the tutelage of distinguished guest conductors. Similar chamber-orchestra and jazz-ensemble workshops for students that culminate in performances are also held each year. Master classes by Spivey Series artists provide one-on-one training for aspiring musicians in the presence of an audience, thereby imparting technical and musical understanding gained from long professional experience from one generation to the next. Professional development classes in the summer offer opportunities for teachers to increase their musical knowledge and skills to enhance their own classroom instruction.

Perhaps the most joyous of Spivey Hall's education programs has been the Spivey Hall Children's Choir, founded in 1994 under the inspired leadership of Dr. Martha Shaw. With some 170 singers in three choirs, the Children's Choir Program is dedicated to excellence, provides exceptional musical training and performance opportunities, and helps the students to develop self-reliance, personal integrity, responsibility, compassion and confidence in their abilities. The choirs perform regularly at Spivey Hall in December and May concerts, and have been featured in national public televi-



sion and radio broadcasts. The 50 most advanced singers comprise the Spivey Hall Tour Choir, which has released three commercial recordings and proudly represents Spivey Hall, Clayton State and Georgia to the world wherever it performs – throughout Georgia and the Southeast, as well as regionally in Southern California and the Pacific Northwest, and beyond to Scandinavia, the UK, Austria, the Czech Republic and, this summer, in Beijing and Shanghai, China.

From its inception, Spivey Hall has also served as the performance home of Clayton State’s Department of Music, supporting the rehearsal and performance needs of its faculty, students, ensembles, guest artists and audiences, with free admission to all concerts and reduced-price tickets for the annual Clayton State Opera.

Spivey Hall is also an important resource for regional ensembles, including the Atlanta Singers, the Atlanta Chamber Players, the Georgian Chamber Players, the Southern Crescent Symphony, and the Southern Crescent Chorale. Each summer Spivey Hall hosts the Georgia summer conference of the American Choral Directors Association (Georgia ACDA) as well as Sacred Harp traditional shape-note singing events. A highlight of every season is the Southeast Regional Finals of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, when aspiring opera stars from four states compete at Spivey Hall for the opportunity to advance to the finals on the Met Opera’s stage in New York.

“A PLACE WHERE MAGIC CAN HAPPEN”

Spivey Hall continues to win accolades from artists, audiences and critics. In the words of jazz patriarch Ellis Marsalis, “Spivey Hall is the best little performance space I have played, ever.” Celebrated American violinist Hilary Hahn concurs: “Spivey Hall is a place where magic can happen.” According to the

Atlanta Journal-Constitution (Sept. 20, 2008), “Better than any space around Atlanta – maybe better than anywhere south of Philadelphia and Washington – Spivey Hall achieves what it sets out to do and does it almost perfectly. . . .No pretensions, few frills, just excellent art.”

Two seasons ago, the introduction of a “\$10 or less” ticket policy for Clayton State students saw student attendance at Spivey Hall con-

certs more than double in less than a year. Last season’s new policy of offering free admission to music appreciation students (in addition to music majors and music faculty) has created even greater access and attendance. Faculty, staff and non-Clayton State students enjoy a 50 percent discount.

In less than 20 years, Spivey Hall has unquestionably become the Southeast’s leading recital hall,



Artists

VIOLINISTS

Joshua Bell
Hilary Hahn
Midori
Itzhak Perlman
Gidon Kremer
Gil Shaham
Christian Tetzlaff
Maxim Vengerov

PIANISTS

Emanuel Ax
Daniel Barenboim
Alfred Brendel
Alicia de Larrocha
Angela Hewitt
Evgeny Kissin
Lang Lang
Radu Lupu
Murray Perahia
Maria João Pires
András Schiff
Arcadi Volodos
Mitsuko Uchida
André Watts
Krystian Zimerman

VOCALISTS

Renée Fleming, soprano
Deborah Voigt, soprano
Karita Mattila, soprano
Dawn Upshaw, soprano
Olga Borodina, mezzo-soprano
Susan Graham, mezzo-soprano
Denyce Graves, mezzo-soprano
Anne-Sofie von Otter,
mezzo-soprano

David Daniels, countertenor
Ian Bostridge, tenor
Ben Heppner, tenor
Rolando Villazón, tenor
Thomas Hampson, baritone
Dmitri Hvorostovsky, baritone
Thomas Quasthoff, baritone
Bryn Terfel, baritone
Samuel Ramey, bass

VOCAL ENSEMBLES

Anonymous 4
Chanticleer
Hilliard Ensemble
The King's Singers
RIAS Kammerchor Berlin
The Robert Shaw Chamber Singers
The Sixteen
The Tallis Scholars

STRING QUARTETS

Borodin Quartet
Brentano String Quartet
Cleveland Quartet
Guarneri String Quartet
Emerson String Quartet
Juilliard String Quartet
Kronos Quartet
St. Lawrence String Quartet
Takacs Quartet
Tokyo String Quartet

GUITARISTS

Manuel Barrueco
Sharon Isbin
Los Angeles Guitar Quartet
Christopher Parkening

The Romeros
Pepe Romero
Paco Peña
John Williams

INSTRUMENTAL SOLOISTS & ENSEMBLES

Academy of Ancient Music / Richard Egarr
Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Octet
Beaux Arts Trio
Eroica Trio
Evelyn Glennie, percussion
Lynn Harrell, cello
Hesperion XX / Jordi Savall
Yolanda Kondonassis, harp
Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century /
Frans Brueggen
Michala Petri, recorder
Musica Antiqua Köln / Reinhart Goebel
Jean-Pierre Rampal, flute
Richard Stoltzman, clarinet
Tafelmusik / Jeanne Lamon

ORGANISTS

Paul Jacobs
Joyce Jones
Olivier Latry
Richard Morris
Alan Morrison
Hector Oliveira
Jane Parker-Smith
Pierre Pincemaille
Simon Preston
John Weaver
Dame Gillian Weir

JAZZ ARTISTS

Kenny Barron

Terence Blanchard
Betty Carter
Freddy Cole
Harry Connick, Jr.
Nnenna Freelon
Joe Henderson
Gene Harris
Cleo Laine & John
Dankworth
Joe Lovano
Ellis Marsalis
Pat Martino
Marion McPartland
Brad Mehldau
Nicholas Payton
Preservation Hall Jazz Band
Joshua Redmon
Dianne Reeves
Marcus Roberts
Sonny Rollins
Diane Schuur
Billy Taylor

WORLD MUSICIANS

Anúna
Boys of the Lough
Bela Fleck
Inti-Illimani
Ahmad Jamal
Ladysmith Black Mambazo
Mark O'Connor
Bonnie Rideout
Sapien
Ronan Tynan
Tlen-Huicani

touching the lives of millions through its concert presentations and education programs, and serving a diverse and extensive community of music-lovers, while sustaining its international reputation for artistic excellence.

The Spiveys' philanthropy at Clayton State University did not end with Spivey Hall. For years, The Spivey Foundation has also provided the Department of Music student scholarships – and, more recently, funds for

the campus's new amphitheater, dedicated in honor of another Southside civic leader and Spivey Foundation trustee, Judge Eugene E. Lawson. The idea and initial funds for the amphitheater came from the family of an avid Spivey Hall concert-goer, the late L. Jerry Eskew, in whose memory the amphitheater stage is named.

In these and countless other ways, Walter and Emilie Spivey have had an enduring and beneficial influence on

Clayton State University, and their dream lives on.

By Samuel C. Dixon

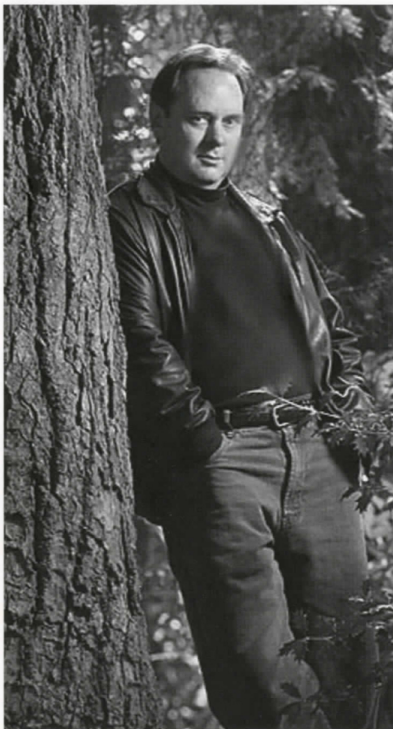
(Samuel C. Dixon is executive & artistic director of Spivey Hall.)



Left: A fan snaps a photo of Phillip DePoy at the Majestic Diner in Atlanta. **Opposite:** DePoy performs with his wife, Lee Nowell. **Opposite Below:** DePoy takes notes during a rehearsal in the Clayton State Theatre.

Phillip DePoy canonizes *The King James Conspiracy*

By Lauren Graves



It has an air of history about it. There are the truths: the historical figure of King James I; his 1604 commission of the retranslation of ancient biblical texts; the translators charged with creating a translation to end all translations.

Then, juxtaposed amongst the facts penned in history books, we find a translator, murdered and disfigured. A mysterious quote is found in his mouth. And history gives pause to fiction as Brother Timon, a memory expert sent to infiltrate the translation on behalf of Rome, breaks his alliance with the Catholic Church not only to help stop the killer, but also to save the translation and clarify his own faith.

Phillip DePoy's *The King James Conspiracy* (St. Martin's Press), due in bookstores and Amazon.com in May 2009, melds history with imagination in a book that DePoy calls "a little more

consciously literary than most books in the thriller genre."

DePoy's twelfth novel and the first to stand alone from a series, *The King James Conspiracy* is the culmination of 30 years of the author's intrigue with the bible and the ancient texts from which it was compiled.

"When I was a child, I wanted to be an Episcopal priest," shares DePoy. "I distinctly remember the enthusiasm my mentor, Father Coleman, had following the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. He was so excited, and he was saying 'Now we get to see what the bible really says.'"

The thought that there could be more text than currently canonized bewitched DePoy. Although career aspirations of the priesthood transmuted into a career in theatre and the arts, his curiosity in the excluded texts never abated. After decades of personal re-

search and two years of steady writing, DePoy paired fact with writer's whimsy and *The King James Conspiracy* was conceived.

"My intention was to write a good book that people can learn from," says DePoy, who would consider it amazingly high praise if *The King James Conspiracy* was ranked with Umberto Eco's historical whodunit, *The Name of the Rose*. "Compared to my other novels, there was much more research involved; it's more complex."

Decades of sifting through findings about ancient Essene and Gnostic texts became inspiration for *The King James Conspiracy*, but incorporating elements of nonfiction in fiction is not new to DePoy's work. His five-book Fever Devilin series, also published through St. Martin's Press, is peppered with Appalachian folklore and has been praised by Kirkus Review for its "Southern accent." DePoy's Fever Devilin series has also been reviewed as "some of the best regional fiction being written in America today."

Kirkus also calls DePoy "a master of Southern story telling," so it was fitting that Marietta's Theatre in the Square commissioned DePoy to bring the candor of the late *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* columnist Celestine Sibley, herself a renown storyteller, to the stage. His two most recent commissioned plays, *Turned Funny* and *Christmas at Sweet Apple*, bring Sibley's Southern style to life and show DePoy's heart for tradition and nostalgia. Incidentally, *Christmas at Sweet Apple* was remounted by Theatre in the Square for the 2008 holiday season.

Writing plays and novels built on a foundation of research comes as no surprise when readers learn DePoy holds an undergraduate degree in English/Folklore and a graduate degree in Performance Art from Georgia State University.

In addition to writing books and theatre, DePoy is an accomplished composer and director, having directed, composed music, written plays, or even performed for most theatres in Atlanta and throughout the region for the past 25 years. He has held positions such as composer in residence at the Academy Theatre and artistic director of Theatrical Outfit.

A brief nod towards DePoy's critical applause: his play *Easy* won an Edgar award in New York for best mystery play in the country, and his Flap Tucker novel, *Too Easy*, was a Shamus Award finalist.

As if a career of thrilling readers with conspiracy and intrigue and amusing audiences with witty recollections from another era does not prove DePoy is a busy individual, it might come as a shock that the whole freelance novel and playwriting gig (with some composing thrown in for good measure...) is his side job. DePoy is currently in his fifth year at Clayton State University where he serves as director of the Clayton State Theatre.

In addition to directing Clayton

State's theatre productions, DePoy has also been the impetus behind the University's Theatre program, which he developed and continues to lead. As part of the Clayton State faculty, DePoy teaches most of the theatre courses offered, spends time collaborating with professional theatres in pursuit of student internship opportunities, and helps students develop new theatre works.

DePoy and his wife, Lee Nowell – herself a writer, director and playwright – are residents of Atlanta.





By John Shiffert

The Clayton State Opera – The shortening that holds the cake together

“Opera is life writ large.”

A passionate message, a statement, a truism, if you will, from Dr. Kurt-Alexander Zeller, the Clayton State Music Department’s director of Opera and Vocal Studies. In an educational institution renown for its advocacy of the arts, no one is a better advocate for his art than Zeller... an art form that typifies Clayton State’s dedication to providing an outstanding education to students of all ages, backgrounds and

types. Speaking with an infectious energy and enthusiasm, the director of the Clayton State Opera explains how opera is both life and education.

“Opera connects to everything. It is the classic Liberal Arts form of music that touches everything else,” he says. “It discusses ideas. It is music about something. It ties in to all the other academic fields. Opera sits in the middle of the Liberal Arts and draws them all in. You can interact with everything

that’s going on in academia.

“It’s a great place for students to see that everything they study matters. We’re the shortening that holds the cake together. Opera is the center of the whole educational enterprise.”

In addition to directing the Clayton State Opera for the past six years, Zeller is a tenor of both artistic and academic accomplishment, holding the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of

Music and performing in opera, oratorio, recitals, early music and drama throughout the United States. He has also appeared on German television, and toured Austria in a revue of the music of Kurt Weill. For two seasons, he was a member of the company of the Tony Award-winning Oregon Shakespeare Festival, where he also directed a sold-out production of Monteverdi's chamber opera, *Il combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda*. Zeller has also created roles in several world premieres, including Mercury in John Peel's *Voces Vergilianae* and Summit Cash in *The Saturday Market Sunday Opera*, a project of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Acclaimed throughout the United States and Europe as a soloist in medieval, Renaissance, Baroque and Classical era music, and as a writer and translator in the field of early music, Zeller has also been president of the Atlanta Early Music Alliance and has been named to the elite ACME listing by the international professional fraternity for women and men in the field of music, Mu Phi Epsilon.

Zeller's coming (March 27 and March 28, 2009 in Spivey Hall) production of the Clayton State Opera, Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, bears out his assertions on the relevance of



opera to all of education. For instance, to assist his students in understanding Britten's version of a medieval Chester Miracle Play, Zeller asked retired Clayton State English professor Dr. William Pasch to lecture on medieval drama.

Although Zeller is all about using the Clayton State Opera to educate Clayton State students, he is equally cognizant of the wider appeal of opera and the role it plays in the University's community outreach efforts.

"Opera is one way the University presents a public face to the community," he says. "Where else can people go to an opera in this region... on the south side of Atlanta?"

"Community engagement is a key part of this year's Clayton State Opera."

As a result, it's not just Zeller's Clayton State students who will benefit from *Noye's Fludde*. A total of 45 students from Jonesboro's J.W. Arnold Elementary School will form a choir that will take part in the opera, an opportunity that Zeller says will benefit both the younger and older singers.

"Bringing elementary school children here and having them work collaboratively with Clayton State students gives them the idea about going to college. It's a chance for them

Opposite: A trio of tableaux from the Clayton State Opera's English translation/adaptation of Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais' play *The Marriage of Figaro*. **Above:** The ensemble gathers in song. **Below Left:** Director of Opera and Vocal Studies Dr. Kurt-Alexander Zeller

to say, 'I could be a college student,'" he says. "Part of our job is opening people's eyes that there's more out there. And that's true for students on all levels, from elementary school to Clayton State students.

"I guarantee that there will be something in the Clayton State Opera in every student's span here that speaks directly to every student. There aren't many other experiences that are such a resource for anyone studying the human condition."

That's especially true for this year's production, the Biblical story of Noah's Ark with its rainbow ending, which Zeller says has the ability to put in front of both the audience and the performers a sense of possibility.

"A lot of operatic works, especially this one, end this way," he says. "It's an important message for all of our performers. At the end it comes down to, what are we going to make of our lives?"



Reflections on Spivey Hall's Young People's Concerts

By Amber Joy Dimkoff
Spivey Hall Education Manager

"Oh, I've been here before!" "Is this really a college?" "This is beautiful."

These are the first comments and questions I hear from children as they walk inside Clayton State University's Spivey Hall before their teachers have the opportunity to shush them. Filled with joyous anticipation, children from all walks of life find harmony — figuratively and literally — inside our doors. Upon first glance, the children and their chaperones see the beauty of a fine recital hall decorated with mar-

ble floors and furniture from Emilie Spivey's home, a staircase with lyres as balustrades, and floor-to-ceiling windows which showcase Swan Lake, the campus' 12-acre body of water which boasts waterfowl and wildlife. While this is a lovely start to the children's morning, their experience in Spivey Hall has only just begun.

Traveling from up to 12 public school systems, school children of all grade levels attend Young People's Concerts (YPCs) at Spivey Hall as a school

field trip. Established in 1994, YPCs enable children to hear excellent music of many traditions, enhancing their learning in a wealth of subjects. The genres range from musical theatre and opera to world music for elementary school children, and, for middle and high school students, from choral music to jazz and string programs.

Designed specifically with the students in mind, YPCs are approximately 45 minutes in length and contain a healthy mix of information, perform-

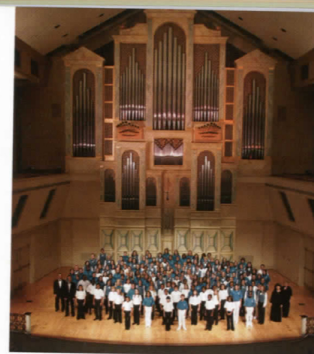
ance and audience participation. Many of the YPCs include a study guide and/or question-and-answer session to reinforce the material demonstrated in the concert. Whether students see a delightful children's opera, find out that a pipe organ is really just a "musical computer," or clap their hands to the beat of an African drum, they learn about music, history, cultures and respect.

The artists giving YPCs are all outstanding musicians with a strong belief in music education. Some are local or regional artists; others are international guests on the Spivey Series. Together they make up a roster of approximately 45 YPCs each year, which run from the end of October through March. In addition to public school students, which made up 65 percent of the audience in 2007/08, private school students, home school families, day care centers and senior

citizens attend daytime YPCs as well. Registration is required in advance; the price to attend is \$1 per person, regardless of age.

Certainly I enjoy watching the students' jaws drop when they first enter Spivey Hall, but I particularly take pleasure in watching their faces when they are engaged in a performance. And while it is nice to hear students' reactions when they enter Spivey Hall, it is the comments they make as they leave the building that let me know I have done my job well. Sometimes it's a shy "thank you." Sometimes it's children whistling or humming the last tune they heard. Sometimes it's feeling two little arms wrapped around my legs in a hug. And sometimes it's, "Ms. Amber, that was the best concert I've ever seen!"

Opposite: Spivey Hall Education Manager Amber Joy Dimkoff and a group of home school students pose for a photo after discussing *Little Red's Most Unusual Day* by Opera Carolina. **Right:** Luca Segala participates in an interactive demonstration, learning how to hold a lap harp and pluck the strings. **Below:** Elementary school students enjoy one of the approximately 45 YPCs offered annually in Spivey Hall. **Above Right:** The Spivey Hall Children's Choir.



About Spivey Hall's Educational Programs

Spivey Hall welcomed more than 15,000 individuals to its Young People's Concerts in 2007/08, the highest number since 1999. An early learning program has been added in 2008/09 for very young children. For more information or to be placed on the YPC mailing list, please email educationmanager@spiveyhall.org.

Spivey Hall's educational programs are some of the most comprehensive in the Southeast. In 2003, the Dana Foundation, in collaboration with the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., recognized Spivey Hall in its published report *Acts of Achievement: The Role of Performing Arts Centers in Education*, a national survey profiling performing arts centers' outstanding service in educational programs. Spivey Hall, the only venue selected in Georgia, was praised for its diverse programs that "build bridges between individuals and the world of music by reaching area school students and their parents, some of whom have never heard quality music in a world-class facility before."

Spivey Hall offers seven educational programs to individuals of all ages: Young People's Concerts, the Spivey Hall Choral Workshops, the Spivey Hall Chamber Orchestra Workshop, Spivey Jam (Jazz Workshop), the Spivey Hall Children's Choir Program, Master Classes and Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers.



Alan Xie:

By Erin Fender

A dialogue between art and digital technology

The concept of capturing contemporary life in art is not new, but Alan Xie takes it to a very different level. Xie's work mingles the blinking of an eye or flicker of a television with the digital world and the naked eye on canvas.

"My art focus is generally on digital technology and how it impacts the art world. I want to create a dialogue between the two mediums. My inspiration comes from computer or TV screens, movie images, contemporary life, and even my students," says Xie, assistant professor of Art in Clayton State's College of Arts & Sciences.

In October 2008, Xie was a part of a group exhibition in Shanghai, China at the Doulun Museum of Modern Art. The exhibition titled "Digital Media Painting" was a breakthrough in modern mainstream art in China.

"Our work representing the fleeting and digital media is an important concept not typically shown in China. Most art usually reflects a political theme and our work did not. Being able to show this in China is a breakthrough in the art world, and it was an honor to be a part of this show," says Xie.

He was also featured in a solo exhibition

in 2008 at the Ethan Cohen Fine Arts Gallery in New York. Xie's show titled "Chiliocosm" is a Buddhist concept that translated means "great thousand world."

"It might be said that the universe is filled with chiliocosms, each one corresponding more or less to a hierarchy with its own integral system of worlds, regions, or divisions, each division again being subdivided to form the vast complexity of universal nature we see around us. Further, each such hierarchy from another standpoint consists of divine, spiritual, intellectual, astral,

or astral-physical divisions running from the higher downwards to the lowest," expresses Xie.

"These paintings are based on this perception of the universe and individual spirit. The redundant is the very important strategy in my painting. Each of the individual elements in my painting carries a distinct appearance," he says.

A painting by Xie, *Still Image 24-Andrea*, was on display in the National Portrait Gallery, housed in the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C., in 2007. He responded to a call for entries by the Gallery's Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition and was selected out of 51

finalists as one of seven artists to have their work displayed in the gallery.

Aside from creating art, Xie has a passion for teaching and inspiring art. He credits his middle school art teacher as his inspiration.

"Very early in my childhood, in elementary school, I dreamed of becoming an artist and an astronaut. It was in middle school, that my art teacher was a huge source of encouragement," says Xie.

He began teaching at Clayton State in 2003 and teaches foundational art courses, as well as courses in painting, drawing, sculpting, and digital art. His teaching philosophy centers on the theme that observing life is the key to

creative thinking.

"Teaching art is important because you shape a person's life. I enjoy working with students, because they offer different perspectives through their personal life and educational background and goals. They bring new ideas and inspiration to me and other students," says Xie.

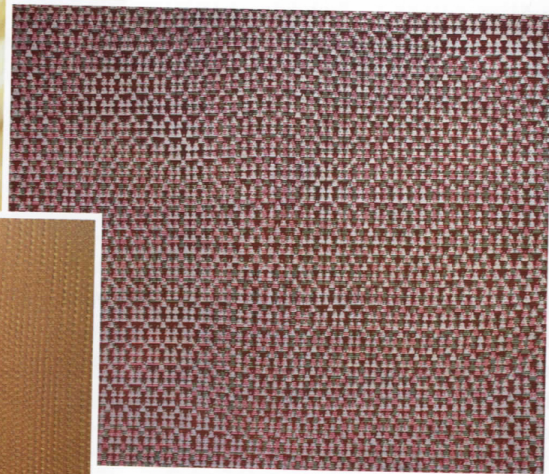
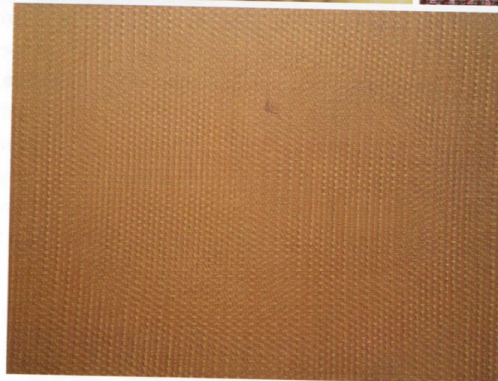
Since the first issue in 2004, Xie has served as the art editor for *Cygnets*, Clayton State's literary arts magazine featuring current student artists and writers.

Xie, born in Shanghai, has exhibited his work in Jacksonville, FL; Savannah, GA; New York; Amsterdam; and Tel Aviv. A working artist in the United States since 1999, he holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in sculpting from the China National Academy of Fine Arts and a Master of Fine Arts in painting from the Savannah College of Art & Design.

"I try to encourage the students and inspire them to love and appreciate art. To find interests in art in contemporary and everyday life," he says.



Above: Alan Xie instructs an art student in his Clayton State University classroom in the Arts & Sciences building. **Far Right:** Xie's *Still Image 141*, an oil on canvas painting. **Right:** Xie's *Thousand BuddhaFull Moon* painting. Like *Still Image 141*, *Thousand Beautiful Moon* masterfully expresses the redundancy that is key in the Buddhist concept of chiliocosm.





Far Right: Dr. Brigitte Byrd reads her poetry at Java Monkey in Decatur, GA. **Above:** Clayton State student Levi Jelks takes the mic at Java Monkey. **Right:** Frances Adame reads her poetry aloud.



A poet in the arts

By John Shiffert

Creativity manifests itself in many ways, be it a classic piece of music, an eye-catching painting, a stage performance, an arresting photograph, or any well-written composition. Clayton State University certainly has its share of creative people, but few have the breadth of skills to have excelled in two different artistic venues.

Dr. Brigitte Byrd is an assistant

professor of English in the Language and Literature Department of the College of Arts & Sciences, a teacher of Creative Writing. And creative she is... Byrd has had two books of her poetry published since she came to Clayton State in 2005, with a third collection of her work due out in the fall of 2009.

While known for her poetry over the past half dozen years – she has also

had her poems appear more than 30 times in anthologies, literary magazines and online journals – Byrd is one of those rare people with two different creative careers. Trained as a dancer in her native France since the age of five, she spent two years as a member of La Compagnie Dorlann modern dance company in Paris before coming to the United States to study and eventually

teach Creative Writing.

A dramatic career change? A difficult choice between two art forms? Not really, she says.

"I did not really choose between dance and poetry. I started with dance, which I had practiced since I was five. A career in dance is usually short, so things worked out well for me as I moved to the States after touring with a company for a couple of years," she explains. "I went back to graduate school here in the States to study English, decided on a Ph.D. in English/Creative Writing, and voila!

"In a way, things fell in place. I always had a tendency to write and be creative."

Byrd makes it sound simple, but, like any creative endeavor, her success in her second field took time and effort. She earned her BA in English in 1997 from the University of West Florida, an MA in English with concentration in Creative Writing in 1999 from West Florida, and her Ph.D. in Creative Writing, with concentrations in Poetry as a Genre and Theory, in 2003 from Florida State University.

Her creative dissertation for her Ph.D., *Fence above the Sea*, also became her first book of prose poems, published in 2005 by Ahsahta Press. *Fence Above the Sea* was followed in 2008 with *The Dazzling Land* (Black Zinnias Press).

"*The Dazzling Land* is a work about schisms and departures," she says. "What I mean here is that this collection of poems relates the fracture that contributes to the distance between my old and new identities, landscapes, languages, relationships, and

even between writing forms."

The collection is framed by two crowns of sonnets written in Alexandrines, a line of poetic meter common in German and French poetry, while the rest of the collection fluctuates between prose poems and free verse.

Byrd takes obvious pleasure in giving her students (and others) opportunities for exposure to the creative process. Arguably her most notable contribution has been coordinating the University's Visiting Writers Reading Series since the fall of 2005, an effort that has brought, among others, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Robert Olen Butler to read at Clayton State. Byrd is also the senior and managing editor for *Cygnets*, the College of Arts & Sciences journal of arts and literature. In the classroom, or maybe out of the classroom, she also provides her undergraduate Creative Writing students with the chance to read to the public, having recently taken students to read at the Java Monkey in Decatur and the Callanwolde Art Center.

On the graduate level, she is currently working with MALS student



Anna King on a creative writing graduate thesis in poetry.

Having recently finished more than two years of work on the manuscript for her third poetry collection, *Song of a Living Room*, another book of prose poems that Ahsahta Press will be publishing, Byrd took some time out from her writing and teaching to talk with the Oranges & Sardines website (www.orangessardines.com) about her creative process and the effect another art form – painting – has on her poetry.

"It's all about imagination and creativity," she said. "I usually write at home where many paintings hang on the walls along with photographs. There is a lot of red. There is a lot of yellow. There is music. There are animals napping by my side. At times, my eyes stop on a painting, and something from it ends into a poem."



Above: Dr. Brigitte Byrd **Left:** Clayton State student Tim Hand speaks at Java Monkey. In addition to his interest in poetry, Hand has directed several Clayton State Theatre productions under the guidance of theatre director Phillip DePoy.

Campus Update

Stephens named VP of External Relations

Clayton State University President Dr. Thomas K. Harden named Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert L. "Steve" Stephens vice president of External Relations for the University.



Stephens

Stephens had been serving as Interim Vice President of External Relations since September 2006. His appointment as vice president was effective Nov. 1, 2008. He is responsible for Clayton State's Development, Alumni Relations, Image and Communications, and University Relations functions.

Born in Welch, W.V., Stephens majored in English and Social Studies at West Virginia State College (WVSC), a historically black college in Charleston. While attending WVSC (now West Virginia State University), he served in the Reserve Officers Training Corps, playing a role in leading the largest Corps of Cadets in the history of WVSC.



Laker Hall at Clayton State University

Homecoming 2008 Flapjacks, spirit and soccer

The President flipped flapjacks with the best of them. The HUB won the Spirit Trophy for the third straight year. And soccer won a doubleheader.

Altogether, it was a successful Homecoming Day 2008 at Clayton State.

Homecoming Saturday, Oct. 18, once again began with a long-standing favorite, the Alumni Pancake Breakfast. Following the breakfast, the School of Nursing held its first reunion in the Downs Center while the student help desk – The HUB -- was once again cooking out in the parking lot by the SAC before parading over to Laker Field to accept their third straight Department/School Spirit Trophy from Director of Alumni Relations Gid Rowell.

Then came the soccer doubleheader against Peach Belt rival Georgia Southwestern State. In the opener, the Clayton State men pulled out a thrilling 1-0 double-overtime victory. In the second game, the Laker women's soccer team won their first game of the year, spearheaded by two goals from Rebekah Cook in a decisive 3-0 shutout over Georgia Southwestern.

Homecoming 2008 also had a new event, the Golf Cart Parade. Held on Thursday afternoon prior to the Pep Rally, the Golf Cart Parade featured entries from: The Hub; Teacher Education Club; School of Nursing; Psi Chi Psychology Honors Society, the Clayton State Cheerleaders and External Relations/President's Office.



Clayton State dedicates Laker Hall to "benefit the students"

Dedicating Clayton State University's first on-campus housing, President Dr. Thomas K. Harden promised that Laker Hall would "benefit the students of Clayton State University."

Harden spoke to some 200 assembled dignitaries, elected officials, faculty, staff and students in an Aug. 12 ceremony on the sidewalk in front of Laker Hall, the 451-bed, 178,000 square foot student housing facility located on the north side of Clayton State Boulevard, just inside the entrance to the campus. The grand opening, hosted by Harden and the CSU Foundation Real Estate I LLC, was followed by a reception and tours.



President Harden

Momayezi named dean of College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Nasser Momayezi was named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences this past summer.

Momayezi comes to Clayton State from Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) located in Laredo, Tx. He began teaching at TAMIU in 1995 as an associate professor of political science. While at TAMIU, Momayezi held positions as the department chair, associate dean and was promoted to dean for the College of Arts and Sciences in 2002.



Momayezi

"Moving to a new city and starting a new job can be quite stressful," says Momayezi, "But people here at Clayton State, especially my colleagues in the College of Arts and Sciences, have made us feel at home. We truly appreciate this wonderful Southern hospitality. I am very excited about my new job, and I foresee a wonderful bright future for this college and university."

Momayezi received his Ph.D. in political science from Texas Tech University. In 2003, he also earned a University Management Development Program (MDP) certificate from the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University.

Cummings named interim VP of Business and Operations

Corlis P. Cummings, special assistant to the president/executive in residence at Clayton State University, and formerly the interim chancellor of the University System of Georgia (USG), has been named interim vice president of Business and Operations for Clayton State by President Dr. Thomas K. Harden. Her appointment took effect on Sept. 1, 2008.

Cummings arrived at Clayton State in October 2007.

Since joining the University, Cummings has assisted in the establishment of the Office of Legal Affairs, served as interim director of Human Resources, and managed various projects on behalf of the president.



Cummings

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia appointed Cummings to serve as the USG's interim chancellor in August 2005. She took office on Oct. 1, 2005 and remained in that position until present Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr., assumed his duties on Feb. 6, 2006.

Clayton State dedicates Student Activities Center on a "great day"

"It's a great day for Clayton State University."

Thus spoke Clayton State President Dr.

Thomas K. Harden, CSU Foundation Real Estate I, LLC Chairman Leonard A. Moreland, and just about everyone else who attended the Sept. 18 dedication and ribbon cutting for the Student Activities Center (SAC).

Gathered in the ballroom of the \$17 million recreation center/student center/activity center/office building were some 200 Clayton State administrators, faculty, staff and students plus members of the Clayton State University Foundation, friends of the University and elected officials. Appropriately



The Student Activities Center

enough, while Harden was conducting the ceremonies to officially open the SAC, less than 25 yards away Clayton State students were playing basketball, running on treadmills, working out on Cybex machines or just relaxing in the SAC's café area.

"I'm very proud of this building," said Harden. "It is very important that our students have a place to exercise, recreate and gather.

"We needed this building. It helps in the retention and success of our students, and we are acutely interested in their success."

Campus Update

Clayton State adds Dr. Lila Roberts, Dean of the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences

Clayton State University welcomed Dr. Lila F. Roberts, dean of the University's College of Information and Mathematical Sciences (CIMS) at the start of the fall 2008 semester.

"The organizational structure of the CIMS is unique in the University System, and this organization presents both exciting potential and interesting challenges," she says. "I [am] impressed with the talent and potential in both departments, the prospect of expanding and developing



Roberts

new programs and the enthusiasm and supportive nature of this administration."

A native of rural western North Carolina, Roberts holds a B.S. in Mathematics Education from North Carolina State University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Computational and Applied Mathematics from Old Dominion University. Prior to her appointment as dean of the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences, Roberts served as chair of the Department of Mathematics at Georgia College & State University from 2003 to 2008.

Clayton State University adds computer science degree

Clayton State University's proposal to add a Bachelor of Science with a Major in Computer Science degree was approved on Oct. 15, 2008, by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

"The proposal was developed over a three or four year period by faculty members in consultation with an external program reviewer, administrators, and program review personnel at the office of University System," says Dr. Lila Roberts, dean of the University's College of Information and Mathematical

Sciences. "It was submitted in early fall 2008 and approved at the October Board of Regents' meeting in Atlanta.

"I had the opportunity to attend the BOR Committee on Academic Affairs meeting and was pleased that the regents who serve on that committee did not have any reservations or questions about the program."

Roberts notes that the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, which will admit its first students for the fall 2009 semester, is different from the University's existing Bachelor's of Information Technology degree in that it emphasizes mathematical and theoretical foundations of computing and applications of these foundations in areas such as software and algorithm development, computer architecture, computer gaming, robotics, mobile computing and networking.



The School of Business' new home

School of Business building dedicated

Although ribbon-cutting has been booming on the Clayton State campus since mid-August with the addition of the University's first on-campus student residence, Laker Hall, and the Student Activities Center, the Oct. 1 ceremony for the School of Business was special in its own way. The University officially inaugurated the first new entirely academic building since the Music Education Building opened eight years ago, at the start of the fall 2000 semester.

"We're making a habit of cutting ribbons," noted M. Allan Vigil, former chair of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

Clayton State student body named “most diverse” for the sixth time

For the sixth time since 2001, the student body at Clayton State University has topped the Racial Diversity rankings in U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges edition.

Although Clayton State currently has four active master’s programs, the 2009 edition of America’s Best Colleges, which is based upon the 2007/2008 academic year, ranks the University’s student population as the most racially diverse among baccalaureate colleges in the southern United States.

Clayton State’s 57 percent African-American student



body was a significant factor in the U.S. News ranking, but not the only factor. As the magazine notes, “to identify colleges where students are most likely to encounter undergraduates different from themselves, U.S. News factors in the proportion of minority students – leaving out international students – and the

overall mix of groups in each institution’s 2007-2008 student body.”

and current trustee of the Clayton State University Foundation. Vigil was an especially appropriate speaker at the dedication ceremony, since he is also one of the Southern Crescent’s pre-eminent businessmen – the president and owner of Allan Vigil Ford. “Clayton State is a jewel of Clayton County. We’ve come a long way and there’s still a lot we can do.”

“I have a great feeling of pride realizing there has been so much work accomplished,” said Clayton State President Dr. Thomas K. Harden, echoing Vigil’s comments at the dedication,

Clayton State names new director for Recruitment and Admissions

Clayton State has named Betty Momayezi as its new director for the Office of Recruitment and Admissions.

Momayezi most recently held the position of associate vice president of Student Affairs at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU). During her tenure at TAMIU, she held the positions of director of student recruiting, director of enrollment management and school relations, and executive director of student life.



Momayezi

“Clayton State has a beautiful campus with new buildings, and it is in close proximity to a city. All of this made relocating from Texas to Georgia an exciting move,” says Momayezi, “I have missed recruiting and admissions and am excited to be doing this work again.”

The Office of Admissions has not only welcomed a new director, but also welcomed a name change: Office of Recruitment and Admissions.



(L to R): Bill Flynn, M. Allan Vigil, Dr. Thomas Harden, Dr. Sharon Hoffman and Dr. Jacob Chacko

which was directed by Dr. Jacob Chacko, dean of the School of Business.

Clayton State adds MAT in English and mathematics

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia recently approved Clayton State University's proposal to add a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) graduate program in English and Mathematics.

"The MAT program is designed to allow individuals who already have undergraduate degrees in English and Math to become certified to teach in grades six to 12 while enhancing their experiences in those content areas and obtaining a master's de-

gree," says Dr. David Messer, assistant professor of Teacher Education.

The first classes for the MAT program will begin with the summer 2009 term. The program will also offer evening courses for individuals needing to begin the program part time.

Anna Cox is Clayton State's first master's graduate

It is, in a way, a coming of age for Clayton State University. Some 39 years after the University was founded as Clayton Junior College, and just over two years since the now-Clayton State University started its first graduate program, Clayton State conferred its first master's degree on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008.



Cox

Anna Cox received the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) from Clayton State President Dr. Thomas K. Harden during the 4 p.m. ceremony in the University's Athletics and Fitness Center.

According to Dr. Wendy A. Burns-Ardolino, assistant professor and director of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, Cox successfully presented and defended her thesis, "The Critical Reception of Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*," on Thursday, Nov. 20.

The HUB wins USG Silver Award for customer service

Clayton State's Client Support Service Help Desk, better known as "the HUB," won the Silver Award in the Call Center/Service Desk/Help Desk category of the 2008 Chancellor's Outstanding Customer Service Excellence Award, presented by the University System of Georgia (USG).

Noting that, this year, "The Focus is on You," the USG Office in September notified Debye Baird, Clayton State director of Client Support Services, that the HUB was the Silver Award winner in customer service program established by USG Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr.

"The beauty of this recognition is in the fact that our initiative was business as usual," says Baird. "Since 2000, the HUB has made customer service a focus of our staff development. Each year our Client Support Services staff plans, develops and facilitates customer centric training for our student staff in an effort to ensure that technology enhances the educational experience of Clayton State students."

County probate judge. A resident of Jonesboro, Ga., and a longtime community leader in Clayton County, he received his Juris Doctor degree from the Woodrow Wilson College of Law in Atlanta in 1970.

The late L. Jerry Eskew retired as director of transportation and logistics for the Coca-Cola Company in April 2000, after a 33-year career. In recognition of his spending many hours on the Clayton State campus, and his love of concerts in Spivey Hall, his family and friends chose to honor his memory by creating an outdoor performance venue near the Hall.



Guests gather for the University's fourth dedication of the year.

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Guests gather for the University's fourth dedication of the year.



Energy efficiency at Clayton State University

By Kelly Adams
Operations & Planning

Clayton State University takes an active role in increasing energy efficiency our campus, but this requires the participation of the hard-working individuals employed by our various departments, such as: Facilities Management, Public Safety and Auxiliary Services.

Facilities Management has perhaps the greatest impact on efficiency, as they work with equipment on a daily basis that directly affects energy consumption. For example, this past summer they opted not to run the 300-ton centrifugal chiller, cooling tower, or pumps for the 178,000 square foot

James M. Baker University Center due to a more viable option: they adjusted temperature settings utilizing the campus' Energy Management System. This saved both electricity and water. Additionally, they have replaced all aerators on plumbing fixtures to low flow aerators, and this has reduced water consumption.

They also have a thorough Preventative Maintenance program that keeps equipment running at maximum efficiency. In addition to preventing problems, managers and supervisors walk the buildings monthly to seek ways to maximize energy output. One

example is that the Student Center had been using a natural gas boiler for domestic water and for a kitchen. However, the kitchen was moved to the University Center, therefore, they replaced the boiler with a water heater and shut down the superfluous boiler to save gas. The Facilities Management staff also ensures that all outside air economizers work efficiently, and this lowers the cost to run chillers and boilers.

Public Safety has also stepped forward with simple yet effective means to increase efficiency. In addition to being responsible for the Cam-



pus Rideshare program, all patrolling officers are required to equally split their time between occupying a vehicle and monitoring the campus on foot or by bicycle. This drastically reduces gas consumption, therefore saving money and lessening the environmental footprint left by automobiles.

Auxiliary Services chose wisely when deciding upon appliances for Laker Hall's laundry facilities. Mac-Gray Laundry Systems' washers and dryers bear the Department of Energy's "Energy Star" seal and use less water and electricity than traditional top-loading machines.

Auxiliary Services also eliminated the need to wash trays in the dining halls. This "trayless" dining experience drastically reduces the amount of water used when washing dishes and also significantly reduces food waste. How is this accomplished? Consider this: when you shop for groceries with a shopping cart, you are more likely to fill the cart with items not on your grocery list simply because it's so easy to toss items in the cart. However, if you shop with a hand-held basket or carry your groceries in your arms, you will only purchase what you need because you can't carry more than that. The same line of thinking applies to "trayless" dining. Students will choose the food they need as opposed to piling additional

snacks on top of their meal, and this reduces food waste as well as packaging.

The campus also participates in a recycling program and has paper picked up weekly by American Office Paper Recycling. Naturally, a college campus uses an inordinate amount of paper, but recycling paper significantly reduces waste that goes to landfills. Most offices around campus send information electronically, therefore eliminating the need to use paper at all. For every fax that is not sent, at least two pages of paper are not used -- the fax cover sheet and the confirmation page. For every piece of paper that is used, however, there is the possibility that the back of the page can also be utilized. In some cases this is not feasible, but in many cases both sides can be used for maximum efficiency.

Offices around campus also pay more attention to turning lights off when they

Opposite: Sgt. Finley monitors the campus on a bike, saving money on fuel for police cars and the fuel's adverse effects on the environment.

Above: Trayless dining conserves water and reduces food waste.

Right: Clayton State uses rain water runoff that collects in the University's retention ponds for campus irrigation. Clayton State uses no city or county water for irrigation purposes.

exit a room, setting their computers to "sleep" or "hibernate" when away from their desks, turning their monitors off completely before leaving for the day, and keeping other appliances and electronics unplugged when not in use. Electronics generate energy when plugged in, even if they are turned off, so unplugging subtly reduces energy consumption. When multiplied by the numerous offices and buildings on campus, the energy and monetary savings truly add up.

An additional measure taken by Clayton State University is to include regular articles for the University's *Campus Review* newsletter providing tips and tricks on saving energy and reducing waste. Employees and students are encouraged to read the newsletter online, reducing the need to print numerous hard copies.

Clayton State University shall continue to do its part in conserving energy and — with the cooperation of its faculty and staff — hopes to drastically reduce and improve energy consumption in the years ahead.





Left: Allison Kreutzer, winning one of her 16 cross country races during her Clayton State career. **Above:** Will Clayton State's Will Wilcox be putting for dough some day soon? **Opposite [Wilcox]:** Keep that left arm straight. **Opposite [Kreutzer]:** Twice a cross country All-American, Allison Kreutzer also holds all the Clayton State women's track records from 1500 meters to 10,000 meters.

Wilcox and Kreutzer: the greatest

By John Shiffert

One of the great things about sports are the debates generated, especially those that revolve around the word "greatest." The greatest basketball player ever (Wilt Chamberlain? Michael Jordan?) The greatest baseball team ever (The 1927 Yankees? The 1929 Athletics?) The greatest single feat (Bob Beamon's long jump? Secretariat's Triple Crown?) After almost 20 years, the athletic programs at Clayton State have reached a point wherein such debates can begin.

However, when you're talking about men's golf or women's running, there can be no debate as to who the finest performers are in Laker history.

That would be two exceptional athletes who are concluding their Clayton State careers during the 2008/09 academic year. That would be Will Wilcox and Allison Kreutzer who together have enough "firsts," records and honors in their respective sports to make clear their status as the "greatest."

As Wilcox prepares for his final spring season on the links, his Clayton State resume looks a little like a rewrite of the Clayton State record book. In addition to earning Ping Division II first team All-American honors, plus Division II All-Southeast Region and All-Peach Belt Conference honors as a junior during the 2007/08 season,

Wilcox won four tournaments, becoming Clayton State's first Peach Belt Conference individual champion and set both Clayton State and Peach Belt Conference records with a 71.1 scoring average combined for the spring and fall. The Pell City, Al., native also set Clayton State records for best tournament score for a single round (a 66), 36 holes and 54 holes, leading up to his participation in the NCAA Division II National Championship, where his 281 (which included that 66) placed him eighth overall and marked the second-best 72-hole tournament score in Clayton State history.

Is he ready to try the PGA Tour? Coach Barry Harwell, a former tour pro

himself, thinks it's a possibility, although he also recognizes some other important aspects of Wilcox and his game.

"I do not think there is any question that Will has professional aspirations," he says. "He certainly has the physical ability. I think the upcoming spring season will most likely determine his immediate path. Playing professional golf, especially at the top levels, is extremely difficult, but he has some of the tools needed to have that opportunity.

"Will's impact on the golf program was immediate as soon as he arrived in the spring of 2007 and he has been the catalyst for our team's improvement, including playing in the NCAA National Championships in 2008, over the past two seasons. He can only get better as a golfer and our program will continue to benefit from his contributions each year forward. The thing that I am most proud of Will is his new level of maturity and his overall growth as a person."



When Wilcox transferred to Clayton State from Alabama-Birmingham, he was already known as a fine golfer. When Allison Kreutzer came to Clayton State in the fall of 2004 from Providence Christian Academy in Lilburn, Ga., she was a good high school runner at a small private school. She concluded her Clayton State career following the 2008 cross country season as a four-time All-American.

"It's been an honor coaching Allison these last four years," says Coach Mike Mead, who has coached Kreutzer in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track. "She thrives on the competition and loves to run. She has set many records here at Clayton State that may stand for some time. She has many accomplishments that I hope the next generation of Clayton State runners will try to emulate. She will be hard to replace.

"She is one of those rare athletes that come along once or twice in a coach's career."

Having taken part in the NCAA Division II National Championships in all three running venues, Kreutzer earned All-American honors twice in cross country (finishing second in the National Championships



Allison Kreutzer



Will Wilcox

as a freshman) as well as single honors in the outdoor 10,000 meters (third place) and 5,000 meters (fourth place). She holds the Laker records for every distance on the track from 1,500 meters to 10,000 meters as well as the indoor mile and 5,000 meter marks. In her distinguished career, she won 16 races, including the 2008 NCAA Division II Southeast Regional Championship, earning her the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Division II Southeast Region Athlete of the Year award.

Indeed, a rare athlete, Clayton State's greatest distance runner, Allison Kreutzer.



Dr. Doug Wheeler

For the love of music

By Ciji Fox

faculty profile

Dr. Douglas Wheeler, the department head of Music in the College of Arts & Sciences, has shared six accomplished years with Clayton State University. In 2003, Wheeler accepted the position at the University as the Department Head. Previously, he taught and served as chair of the Department of Music at Delta State University in Mississippi. Growing up in West Chester, Pa., Wheeler began practicing music in the second grade.

"I remember at that time I was in public school and sometimes my mother would pick me up early to take me to my piano lesson," he says. "That was exciting!"

Wheeler continued to study music throughout his education, eventually earning two degrees from his hometown West Chester State University. He was also the first person to receive a Doctor of Arts degree in percussion performance from the University of Northern Colorado.

"I worked hard as a student; things didn't come easy to me," Wheeler says. "It's interesting, the further up I went with my master's, and eventually my doctorate, the better I did. I think part of it is that, as the degree becomes more focused, you're doing more in your field, and I loved it."

As an active percussionist, Wheeler continues to love his art,

performing recitals for percussion instruments in Spivey Hall, including programs featuring instruments from around the world written by a wide range of composers and music with international connections. On one occasion, Wheeler was joined on stage by a skilled amateur percussionist, Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Harden.

In the classroom Wheeler, a strong advocate for music in education, teaches courses in music history and studio percussion.

"Music is universal," he says. "Everyone loves music. It is such an important part of everyday life, which is why we offer music appreciation courses for non majors."

Wheeler has performed as section leader of the United States Air Force Academy Band, and principal percussionist and timpanist of the Colorado Springs Symphony. In addition, he has performed as percussionist and/or timpanist with the Greeley Philharmonic, the University of Northern Colorado Wind Ensemble under Eugene Corporon, the Tupelo Symphony, the Mississippi Symphony, the Tupelo Symphonic Winds, and the Delta Symphony.

He has done research into the acoustic properties of percussion instruments and has had numerous articles on acoustics and percussion performance published in journals

and magazines.

Many factors influenced Wheeler's decision to come to Clayton State University.

"There were a number of things that they wanted the music program to do. The first was to get national accreditation for The National Association Schools of Music. The second was to get the instrumental program moving, and the third was to get a Music Education degree approved," Wheeler explains. "Since Clayton State University wanted to move forward in the areas that happened to be my strengths, it was a great match!"

Wheeler looks forward to attracting outstanding students to the program, although there have been some challenges.

"Recruiting students can be challenging," he says. "We are working really hard in that area, because there is a lot of competition within the state."

Wheeler's most rewarding moment was gaining national accreditation; and, despite a few obstacles, he has enjoyed his experience at the University.

"It has been very pleasant," he says. "I really enjoy my time here. We've been successful in all three areas, and I feel like I have made a contribution."



Jeff Jacobs

Leading Clayton State's housing initiative

By Ciji Fox

staff profile

Clayton State University's Division of Student Affairs named Jeff Jacobs associate dean for Housing, Residential Life and Student Conduct on July 1, 2008. Jacobs has contributed 14 years to Clayton State holding positions that include: assistant director of Student Activities and director of Student Life and Orientation.

"I have served in a variety of positions here at the University, and I am fortunate that those experiences have prepared me for helping to lead our housing initiative," he says. "While I have enjoyed taking on new challenges, I continue to be rewarded in my work through supporting students, helping to resolve their issues and concerns, and challenging them to grow as individuals and give their best."

A native of Pittsburgh, Jacobs holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, and an M.A. in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He joined the Clayton State staff in September 1994 as assistant director of Student Life, serving under the man Jacobs refers to as his mentor, then-Director of Student Life Rob Taylor. When Taylor retired in July 1996, Jacobs was promoted to the director's position.

Nine years later, in 2005, Jacobs was honored by his peers as the win-

ner of Clayton State's annual Alice Smith Staff Award, presented to the faculty member and staff member ranked most outstanding as determined by committees of their peers. The two, \$1000 awards were established by local philanthropist Joseph Smith in honor of his wife, Alice.

As the years have passed, Jacobs' Student Life responsibilities have grown. He is now responsible for the oversight of on-campus housing management, operations, and residence life, as well as administration of student judicial affairs. With the new position Jacobs has had to face some challenges.

"One of the bigger challenges with this initiative was to get students and parents to understand the value of an on-campus experience related to a student's learning, development, and ultimate success," he notes.

Jacobs encourages students to live on campus and reinforces the benefits to their parents.

"The very fact that students will live on the campus will help them more easily integrate with the University, but students still must make an effort to take advantage of all that is offered," he points out. "It is critically important for students to get involved to further develop skills that will augment what they are learning in the classroom. As a result, they will be quite marketable as

they search for that first career job, and likely, too, they will be more successful in a position.

"Parental involvement also is very important to the success of the student. Parents who encourage open communication and provide a balance of support and autonomy tend to have the best results for their student to have the very best college experience."

Jacobs looks forward to the future of Clayton State University.

"Beyond ensuring we provide students with a quality residential experience, we are quickly focusing on having additional housing for students beyond the freshman year. This will complement and allow us to expand our current residential program," he says. "I've worked at Clayton State for many years, and on-campus housing was one component that was missing which could give students the opportunity to have the richest, most transforming college experience possible. I feel fortunate to be a part of this initiative, and continue to be excited about future opportunities for students as a result of having residential facilities."



Ernie Coward

Earning an MBA at age 74

By Ciji Fox

student profile

Ernie Coward will graduate in the spring of 2009 in the first cohort of Clayton State's Master of Business Administration (MBA). Common to most graduate students, earning a master's degree while balancing a busy work schedule, family, and a social life can be a challenge. Having to overcome the usual obstacles, Coward proves to be extraordinary. At the age of 74, he will be the oldest student at the University to earn an MBA.

Coward's history with Clayton State University goes back to when the University was still a junior college, when he took courses in computer programming through continuing education.

"I've been coming here for years taking community courses," Coward says.

After going to school for three years and also studying chemistry in Alabama, Coward decided to go into the service as the Korean War was ending, but he promised his mother that he would go back to college.

"I got patriotic one weekend, and joined the Navy flight school," he says. "I spent four years flying helicopters, and after I came out I joined the Air Force Reserve and flew for 12 years."

Coward then continued his journey as a manufacturer, producing things like cosmetics, lingerie and

gloves. After 38 years he retired in 2000.

"After I retired and did all the things I wanted to do, played all the golf I wanted to play, I decided that I needed to do something constructive," he says. "Seven months after I retired, I called Clayton State University to ask about the possibility of me returning to school. The lady on the phone replied, if you get me your transcripts you can start in two weeks!"

As result, Coward did not have time to back out. Initially Coward wanted to pursue a chemistry degree, however, he learned that the University did not offer that degree.

"Between Dr. Jacob Chacko, dean of School of Business, and Dr. Michael Deis, director of the MBA program, and my personal instructor, I decided Clayton State University was the place to be," he says.

Coward admits that he was apprehensive about returning to school in the beginning.

"All these people will be my grandchildren's age," he says. "And I'll be the old guy."

Coward was surprised in how everyone migrated towards him, and how interested they were in his past experiences.

"So many of them wanted to hear about how things were many years ago, because I graduated from

high school in 1952," he says. "As you can see, I am no spring chicken."

Other factors also contributed to the challenge of returning to school.

"Getting back into the gear of things was challenging, since I had been out of school for almost 40 years," Coward says. "Refreshing my memory, managing study time, and being ready for a test, those are still somewhat challenging."

However, since Coward has managed to keep up with technology, the University's laptop requirement hasn't held him back.

"I grew up with computers. I came up during the time when you had to write your own software," he says. "I challenged myself to learn how to work a computer."

Many of these factors could have discouraged Coward, yet he is still enthusiastic about school and a strong advocate of the University.

"This campus and these professors are great. The School of Business is unbelievable!" He exclaims. "The University is full of professors who have world and academic experience. You get Ivy League schooling for an economical price.

"The most memorable moment for me is how I have been accepted. If Clayton State University offered a doctorate, I would keep going."



Bruce Gant

Committed community supporter

By Erin Fender

trustee profile

Bruce Gant, a life long resident of Georgia and important community leader in Clayton County, has been a member of the Clayton State University Board of Trustees since 1997.

"I am very proud and honored to be a Foundation Trustee. It has been an enriching experience to be a part of the growth of Clayton State University, not only the past, the present, but also the future. This university has given so much to us, and I am committed to return to it in any way that I can," expresses Gant.

Returning from Vietnam where he served as a Senior Corpsman (medic) with a Marine rifle company, Gant made the transition from saving lives on the battlefield to helping others protect their investments on the home front.

He began his career in the insurance business in 1974 as an agent for Liberty National Life Insurance Company where he received numerous recognitions. Now Gant is an agent for State Farm Insurance and his agency is one of the largest in Georgia. Located in Morrow since his appointment to State Farm in 1980, Gant's agency currently handles 11,500 policies and is ranked in the top 50 of the more than 18,000 agencies nationwide. Gant himself has been named to State Farm's President's Club.

"As a local business owner, I see

Clayton State as the first choice and best choice for my clients and the residents of the Atlanta area to obtain a degree or to continue education. I have always felt that Clayton State is an outstanding asset to our community in many respects - from the world renown Spivey Hall to one of our latest gems, the James M. Baker University Center," he says.

As part of his commitment to a community that Gant says "has given me so much," Gant has served as chairman of the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce, chaired the Chamber's Pacesetters Committee, and is serving on the Military Affairs Committee. The Clayton Chamber honored his business in 1999 with the Small Business of the Year Award. He was also selected as a finalist in 2007.

His dedication to his community and education expanded globally last year when he returned to Vietnam with other veterans and families of casualties of the Vietnam War to build a kindergarten where he once did battle.

"I am involved in building another kindergarten to be dedicated in March 2009. This new facility will provide the initial education for two villages with both schools named in honor of fallen Marines. I cannot describe the overwhelming emotions that these experiences have been. To

be with those young children and to know that I helped to start an education for them where previously this was denied is one of my proudest moments," he says.

Bruce is a decorated veteran who received numerous medals including a Purple Heart and the Navy Achievement Medal. He actively supports the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association.

When he isn't attending trustee meetings or helping his clients, Gant can be found on the golf course. He has been fortunate to not only play across the United States, but also abroad in Scotland, Ireland, England, Wales and Spain. He also intertwines his love of golf and Clayton State by supporting and playing in the annual Clayton State University Town and Gown Golf Tournament.

"Over the years with the expansion of our programs, degrees, and enrollment at Clayton State, it is exciting to see the new buildings and the remodel of other buildings. I know that not only the addition of new facilities, but also our program growth impacts our current students and will attract potential students. I am excited about not only what our present university is, but what our future will be," states Gant.



Shane Bell

Colonial America, the space race and medieval Europe

By John Shiffert

alumni profile

Want to know about that experimental government those rebels constituted in 1787? Ask Shane Bell.

Want to know how Wernher von Braun oversaw the development of the Saturn V moon rocket? Ask Shane Bell.

Want to talk about Europe 700 years ago? Call the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Southeast Regional Archives and ask for Shane Bell.

Want to know who Shane Bell is? He's a 2007 graduate of Clayton State University who holds a Bachelor of Arts in History. He's also a student in the University's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) program, and an archives technician for NARA's Southeast Regional Archives, located adjacent to the Clayton State campus. A 1993 graduate of Mount Zion High School, Bell is one of the outstanding success stories of the on-going relationship between Clayton State's History Department and both the National and Georgia Archives. And, yes, his interests extend to an eclectic combination of subjects, including colonial America, NASA and the space race, and medieval Europe.

"We are excited to have Shane as the advocate for the Southeast Region!" exclaims James McSweeney, regional administrator for NARA's Southeast Region. "In fact, working

with Mary Evelyn Tomlin, Shane developed a finding aid for the African Slave Trade records in our holdings.

"Shane is an excellent writer and has the unique ability to review complicated Federal records and laws, particularly from the U.S. District Courts, and to distill their essence and significance into brief descriptive narratives. Shane has also applied these same skills to his work with our holdings from the Marshall Space Flight Center."

While attending Georgia Perimeter College, Bell became interested in history and transferred to Clayton State to earn his B.A. in History, taking advantage of both the University's outstanding History Department and its partnership with NARA and the Georgia Archives. In fact, during his final semester as an undergraduate, Bell worked as an intern at NARA, researching federal slave trade laws and compiled the finding aid for the slave trade. Upon graduation, he was hired as a student employee with NARA, serving as an archives technician and working extensively with court records from the antebellum period and NASA records from Marshall Space Flight Center relating to von Braun. He has also assisted visiting scholars and authors working on various research projects.

"I was offered a student position during the internship and began

work last summer after graduation," he says of his NARA position. "It's rare for a history major to actually get a job 'doing' history, so I feel very lucky. A day doesn't go by that I'm not thinking about some historical issue or researching something. I am frequently stationed in the Research Room, so this requires a little bit of knowledge about a lot of things. Working in there makes you realize how much you don't know about the world."

While "doing" history with NARA, Bell is also doing history in the MALS program, working towards his master's with a concentration in History.

"The breadth of the MALS program appealed to me from the start," he says. "I liked the idea of a broad grounding in the liberal arts, especially in this era of almost extreme academic specialization. The kind of scope offered by the program will give me room to explore and find the right topic for my master's."

Bell, who hopes to enter a Ph.D. program after earning his master's, credits current Clayton State professors Dr. Adam Tate, Dr. Marko Maunula, Dr. Christopher Ward and Dr. Gregory McNamara and retired professors Dr. Eugene Hatfield, Dr. Robert Welborn and Dr. William Pasch for their influence.



Antavarius Thompson & Melissa Tyson (center) were crowned '08 Homecoming King and Queen.



The Clayton State men's soccer prevailed 1-0 in overtime for a Homecoming victory.



Dr. Deis and President Harden flip flapjacks at the Annual Alumni Pancake Breakfast.

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. We look forward to hearing from you!

1977

GAIL BUCKNER
(A.A. Education '77)



Buckner, of Jonesboro, was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 2008 elections, representing District 44. She served 16 years as a State Representative (District 76) and was the Democratic nominee for Secretary of State in 2006. Buckner was named Clayton State's Alumnus of the Year in 2002.

1990

THOMAS A. GEORGE
(B.B.A. Management '90)



George, of Cumming, GA, was named in October the Director of Human Resources for Employment & Compensation at Georgia Perimeter College in Decatur, GA. Before his position at GPC, he was the Deputy Regional HR Manager at the Georgia Department of Human Resources. George is a former recipient of the prestigious Alice Smith Staff Award at Clayton State and was also named the Alumni Association's Most Outstanding Alumnus in 2006.

1991

MILES E. NEVILLE
(B.B.A. Management '91)

Neville, of Griffin, GA, is the Director of Human Resources for the City of Griffin.

1992

JOHN McCAMPBILL
(B.B.A. Management '92)

McCampbill, of Long Island, NY, is an Area Manager of Networking Operations for Verizon. He has been married for 14 years and has four children.

1993

WAKITA RUCKER BRADFORD
(B.S. Nursing '93, A.S. Nursing '92)

Bradford, of Decatur, GA, is the Nurse Clinical Practice Laboratory Coordinator at Georgia Perimeter College's Lawrenceville Campus.

ROBIN MARIE STANTON
(A.A. Nursing '93)



Stanton, of Locust Grove, GA, is Chief Financial Officer of Sacred Journey Hospice, which she founded in 2002 with three other RNs and a PA. Sacred Journey Hospice provides care for home hospice patients in their homes, assisted

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living and nursing facilities, as well as operating a 12 bed inpatient hospice facility. She has obtained certifications in Oncology (OCN) and Palliative Care (CHPN) Nursing. Stanton is a member of National Hospice Palliative Care Organization and Georgia Hospice Organization. She currently serves on the board of the North Georgia Hospice Nurses Association.

1994

MICHAEL DAVID MARLER
(B.B.A. Management '94)

Marler, of LaGrange, GA, is the Director of Marketing at West Georgia Technical College in LaGrange, GA. Marler joined the WGTC staff in July 2001 as an instructor and has served in various instructional and administrative roles.

1995

VIBHA SINGLA
(B.B.A. Accounting '95)

Singla, of Jonesboro, GA, had a ribbon-cutting this fall for her new office located at 671 Forest Parkway in Forest Park, GA. She has been a C.P.A. in the south metro area since 1997.

1996

CHRIS PARKER
(B.B.A. Management '96)

Parker, of Atlanta, is a Financial Center Manager at Wachovia Bank. He recently



earned his MBA from Mercer University in 2006.

1997

LINDA (CASTELL) SEVIGNY
(B.A. Middle Grades Education '97)

Sevigny, of Covington, GA, was recently appointed the new director of Professional Learning for the Rockdale County Public School System in Conyers, GA.

BARBARA D. TANNER-TORRES
(BSN '97, A.S., Nursing '95)

Tanner-Torres, of Tijeras, NM, started a new job in July at the University of New Mexico Hospital as a nurse in the neurosurgery intensive care unit. Barbara is a Certified Neurosurgeon RN.

RICK JEFFARES

(B.A.S. Technology Management '97)

Jeffares was elected to the Henry County Board of Commissioners in the 2008 elections, representing District 2. A former recipient of the School of Technology's Outstanding Alumnus award in 2005, he served as the City Manager of Locust Grove from 2001 to 2008.



1998

SHERDONNA M. (DAUGHERTY) DENHOLM
(B.M. Music Performance '98)

Denholm, of St. Louis, MO, is the Assistant Middle School Director at Central Presbyterian Church in Clayton, MO. A versatile freelance musician, she is an accomplished singer, songwriter, guitarist, pianist and clarinetist.

JACQUELINE M. (JOHNSON) SMITH
(B.S. Nursing '98, B.B.A. COIS '92, A.A. Business Administration '91)

Smith, of Ellenwood, GA is the Human Resources manager at Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Inc.

1999

MISTY L. STONE
(B.A. Computer Information Systems '99)
Stone, of Atlanta, is Training Specialist at AT&T Mobility in Atlanta.

2000

MELISHA RUCKER
(B.A.S. Allied Health Administration '00)
Rucker, of Decatur, GA, is a Tax Technician for the Internal Revenue Service and works out of Chamblee-Tucker.

PERRY SLAUGHTER
(B.A.S. Technology Management '00)

Slaughter, of Forsyth, GA, is owner of Run-Fit Sports, a retail store that specializes in running and fitness merchandise. Along with a store in Macon, GA, he recently opened a second store in Warner Robins, GA. He also was the cross country coach at Wesleyan College in Macon before his business expanded. Slaughter is a former cross country and track student-athlete in the late 1990s.

BAIDY A. SOW

(B.B.A. Computer Information Systems '00)
Sow, of Snellville, GA, was accepted to the Concord Law School. He currently works at Interface Global in Newnan, GA, as a Test Architect/SQA Analyst.

ANDREA M. WHITMIRE
(B.S. Nursing '00)

Whitmire is a registered nurse at the U.S. Army Garrison, Ansbach, Germany.

2001

LETICIA C. HENSON
(B.M. Vocal Performance '01)

Henson, of Atlanta, is an Elementary Music Specialist in the Atlanta Public Schools. She was selected this year to record the lead vocals on the APS's theme song for the convocation, "I can" written by Scott King. She has been a professional member of the Atlanta Opera Chorus since 2005, and in 2008, traveled to France and Spain in the production of *Porgy and Bess*. In December 2007, she went to Italy as part of the Mark Norwood Spiritual Ensemble, and in 2004, she received the Edward Meehan Stage Presence Award from the ProMozart Society of Atlanta.

LATOYA HUBBARD
(B.B.A. Management '01)

Hubbard, of Shaker Heights, OH, is an



Agency Sales Manager with Nationwide Insurance. She recently was elected to become a board member of the Education Programs through the Insurance Women of Cleveland. Hubbard was recognized as the School of Business Outstanding Alumnus in 2008.



BRIAN MAGILL
(B.I.T. Information Technology '01, A.A. Business Administration '99)

Magill, of Savannah, GA, recently won first place for the second straight year in the Professional Category at the City of Savannah's 2nd Annual Employee Art Contest sponsored by the National Arts Program. Magill is a firefighter for the City of Savannah, and he makes Christian-based missions films for organizations abroad in his spare time.

2002

JOSH GRENIER
(B.I.T. Networking Plan, Design & Management '02)

Grenier, of Hooksett NH, recently completed an eight-year professional soccer career, where he starred in Koblenz, Germany. A NCAA Division II All-American at Clayton State, Grenier was an integral part of the team's central defense. His wife,



Alycia, is expecting a daughter in early 2009.

SARAH A. (ERNEST) JUAREZ
(B.B.A. Marketing '02)

Juarez, of Hampton, GA, is an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher in the Clayton County Public School System. She is married to 2001 Clayton State alumnus Manny Juarez, who teaches in the Henry County school system.

MADELINE C. (SPAUGH) LOWERY
(B.S. Integrative Studies '02)

Lowery, of Ames, IA, is a veterinarian. A team captain, Spaugh played for the women's soccer team from 1999-00.

FARHAN MUMTAZ
(A.A.S. Networking '02)

After graduation, Mumtaz got married and has two daughters. Mumtaz started his own Information Technology business in Kuwait.

KRISTY K. (ADAMS) SULLIVAN
(B.M. Composition '02)

Sullivan, of Murfreesboro, TN, is a Web Systems Developer for Acuity Marketing Communications in Franklin, TN. She earned a M.A. in Composition from Middle Tennessee State University in 2004. Sullivan is a professional composer and arranger in the Nashville, TN area, and has worked for Belle Aire Baptist Church orchestra in this capacity since 2004. She is married to Dewayne Sullivan and has two stepchildren, Alex and Madison Kate.

2003

JAY GIBBONS
(B.S. Integrative Studies '03)

Gibbons, of Savannah, GA, is in his second season as an assistant basketball coach at NCAA Division I Savannah State University. After leading Clayton State to a Peach Belt Conference championship in 2001, Gibbons coached at Georgia Southwestern State University for two years.



2004

JEFFERY EARL MULLEN
(B.B.A. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION '04)

Mullen, of Atlanta, GA, graduated in April 2008 from Strayer University with an MBA in Finance. He currently is employed by the United State Postal Service.

STEVE A. SOGUNRO
(B.I.T. Network Management '04)

Sogunro, of Atlanta, GA, is a Telecom Systems Administrator for InterCall in West Point, GA.

KATHRYN (HATCH) THAXTON
(B.A. Communication and Media Studies, '04)

Thaxton and her husband, Carson (B.A. Music Composition '01), welcomed their second child, Charlotte Joy, on August 24, 2008. Their eldest daughter, Kara Abigail, is three. Thaxton is enjoying spending time with her children as a stay-at-home mom. The family lives in Newnan, GA.



2005

ELIJAH AJAYI
(B.A.S. Technology Management '05)

Ajayi, of Jonesboro, GA, completed his master's degree in Sport Administration at Georgia State University in the summer of 2008. He started in the fall of 2008 as the Assistant Director of Athletics for Administration at Emory University after interning at the school. He will be getting married in May of 2009. Ajayi is former student-athlete with the Clayton State Track & Field team.

CARLA B. GLEATON
(B.A.S. Technology Management '05)
Gleaton, of Marietta, GA, is a Business Analyst for Aaron Rents, Inc., in Kennewick, WA.

STACEY Y. RIVERS
(B.A.S. Technology Management '05)
Rivers, of McDonough, GA, graduated from Troy University achieving a master's in Management with a concentration in Leadership & Organization

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Effectiveness. In November 2008, she was elected to the Women in Cable Telecommunications (WICT) Board of Directors - Atlanta Chapter for 2009. Rivers is also a member of the Clayton State Alumni Association Board of Directors.



2006

BERNADETTE LONCKE

(B.S. Health Care Management '06)

Loncke, of Hampton, GA, is completing her nursing program and also working to complete her master's in Public Health from Walden University in 2009.

NATHANIEL M. SMITH

(B.A. History '06)

Smith, of Stockbridge, GA, is finishing law school at Washington & Lee University. He expects to graduate in 2009.

VOLCANO I. SHELTON

(B.S. Psychology & Human Services '06)

Shelton, formerly of Stone Mountain, GA, graduated in the fall of 2008 from Wichita



State University in Wichita, KS, with a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from the Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs.

LISA (EARLS) WILKERSON

(B.B.A. Marketing '06)

Wilkerson has been working in pharmaceutical sales since graduation and recently received a promotion that brought her back to Atlanta. She and her husband also recently celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary. Lisa received the School of Business Leadership

award in 2005, the Laker Vision Award in 2006 and was named the Homecoming Queen in 2005. She was also a member of the Society for Advancement of Management (SAM) and the Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society.

ALAN YOUNGBLOOD

(B.S. Criminal Justice '06)

Youngblood, of Locust Grove, GA, is a felony probation officer for the Georgia Department of Corrections. He recently married Lindsey Michelle Carter.

2007

BASIA BUKOWSKA

(B.B.A. Accounting '07)

Bukowska, a native of Lublin, Poland currently living in Fairburn, GA, is in the Clayton State Master of Business Administration program. She and two others in the program earned a significant honor from the Southeastern Chapter of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (SE Informs), receiving the Best Student Paper Award at the organization's 2008 conference. Basia played three seasons on the Clayton State women's basketball team, including its historic 2007 NCAA Division II Final Four squad.



A panel of alumni answer questions at the fall 2008 "Clayton Connect."

"Clayton Connect" series reunites alumni

The Office of Alumni Relations, the Office of Career Services and the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honors Society teamed up in November 2008 to sponsor a Career Networking Series called "Clayton Connect" in the Harry S. Downs Center.

The format of the program featured Clayton State alums returning to campus and relating stories of how they progressed from Clayton State students to graduates and eventually to their current professional positions. Each alumni speaker had an opportunity to describe his or her career path, followed by a Q/A from the audience.

In addition, Angelyn Hayes, Clayton State's director of Career Services, explained some of the services of their department and fielded questions.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for our office to reconnect with graduates, and it is a wonderful resource for our students in their career aspirations," said Gid Rowell, director of Alumni Relations, of the series.

GINA MARIE FINOCCHIARO

(B.A. Communication and Media Studies, '07)

Finocchiario, of Hall County, works for Delta Dental Insurance Company and



was recently promoted from Customer Service to Quality Assurance Coordinator. She and her high school sweetheart, Luis Miguel Cabb, who also attended Clayton State, were

engaged in October 2008. The couple plans to wed in September 2009.

JENNIFER T. FREE

(B.B.A. Accounting '07)

Originally from Three Rivers, MI, Free is currently the CFO of a mid-size business in south metro Atlanta, Tal-Kno Building Products, Inc. and is in the Clayton State Master of Business Administration program. She and two others in the program earned a significant honor from the Southeastern Chapter of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (SE Informs), receiving the Best Student Paper Award at the organization's recent 2008 conference.

SONYA KNIGHT

(B.S. Psychology and Human Services '07)

Knight, of College Park, GA, is a preschool teacher and a singer/songwriter. She released



her first album D'Zin'R Original (www.myspace.com/sonyasings or www.sonyaknightonline.com). She has also been accepted into Luther Rice Seminary for the Master of Arts in Christian Studies program.

PHEBE J. NEAL

(B.I.T. Technology Management '07)

Neal, of Forest Park, GA, is a Project Manager for AT&T in Tucker, GA.

TONY PARTIN

(B.B.A. General Business '07)

Partin earned his private pilot's license in November at a flight school based at DeKalb-Peachtree Airport and trained

primarily in a single-engine Cessna 172. He also recently carried his first passenger on a day trip to Anderson, SC.

2008

CHIQUITA BROADUS

(B.S. Health Care Management '08)

Broadus is pursuing a master's degree in psychology at the University of Phoenix.

JULIE KORNDER

(B.S. Biology '08)

Kornder, of Forest Park, GA, is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine with an emphasis in small animal internal medicine from the University of Georgia. Kornder graduated Summa Cum Laude from Clayton State and was the Chancellor's Award recipient. She was also a member of the Science Association, Honors Association and the Golden Key Honor Society.



JULIE "JEWELS" MORGAN

(B.S. Biology '08)

Morgan and her husband currently reside in Snellville, GA. She plans on attending graduate school in 2009 to pursue a Ph.D. in Molecular/Cellular Biology. She graduated Cum Laude from Clayton State and received the O.C. Lam III award from the Department of Natural Sciences. She was also heavily involved with many different organizations on campus including: Ambassadors, Clayton State Science Association, P.A.T.H. Peer Mentoring and Golden Key. Morgan also worked in the Center for Academic Success as a peer tutor.

TARANNUM S. (LAKHANI) RUPANI

(B.S. Nursing '08)

Rupani, of Tucker, GA, is an RN at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta.

MARK A. SNYDER

(B.S. Integrative Studies '08)

Snyder, of Stone Mountain, GA, is the Call Center Supervisor for the City of Atlanta Watershed Management.

Legacy Court Commemorative Brick Campaign

The Clayton State Alumni Association is accepting orders for its fourth set of Commemorative Bricks in the Legacy Courtyard 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 UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION



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Experience the joy of giving

The Clayton State University Foundation provides a way for you to "build a legacy of opportunity." Now is a great time to consider a planned gift. Planned Giving helps you design your charitable giving to Clayton State University both now and in the future so that you also fulfill your personal philanthropic and financial goals. There are several types of planned gifts, but the simplest type is a bequest as part of your will.

While many may think philanthropy is reserved for a select few, the truth is that every endowment to Clayton State University has an impact throughout history. Through a will or bequest, your legacy will create opportunities for scholarships for students, faculty scholarship with continuous faculty development opportunities, and will have a lasting impact on untold individuals and families.

With your gift to the Clayton State University Foundation, you not only help students and the people directly involved at the University, you also are helping to build a stronger community through education. With your partnership, creating and maintaining excellence is truly possible.

Please contact Reda Rowell at (678) 466-4474 to discuss possibilities through gift planning.



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