

THE LAKER CONNECTION

HYNES SIGHT

Clayton State Welcomes
President Tim Hynes

Career Services
Launching careers

Disability Resource Center
Empowering students

Counseling &
Psychological Services
Supporting collegiate mental health



Letter from the Editor

Welcome to Clayton State University's magazine, *The Laker Connection*, which is dedicated to all of our 16,000+

alumni, plus the University's current students, faculty, staff and friends of the University.

This issue of *The Laker Connection* focuses on our students - specifically, the services that the University provides for the 6,500+ plus individuals enrolled in Clayton State's undergraduate and graduate programs. First and foremost among service providers for our students is Clayton State's fourth president, Dr. Thomas J. "Tim" Hynes, Jr. Previously Clayton State's interim president since May 18, 2009, Hynes was officially and permanently appointed to the position of president by the University System of Georgia on Feb. 9, 2010, or just after the previous edition of *The Laker Connection* went into circulation. Thus, this issue is, for many of our readers, the first chance to get to know the president.

In keeping with the "Student Services" theme, we're featuring three offices on campus that excel in this area, so much so that, unlike President Hynes, it's likely that most of our alumni readers are already somewhat familiar with the Office of Career Services, the Disability Resource Center and the Office of Counseling and Psychological Services.

Also in this issue is a look at the new athletic logo that the Athletic Department recently unveiled. (Get your new look - or is it new Loch -- gear at the University Bookstore.) We'll also profile the 2010 winners of Clayton State's most prestigious faculty and staff awards, the Alice Smith Awards; go over the news from Clayton State from the past six months (in the Campus Update section); and help our alumni keep in touch with each other in the Class Notes section.

As for the future, keep an eye out this fall for a special edition of *The Laker Connection* that will cover the Oct. 1 inauguration of Dr. Hynes as Clayton State's fourth president.

John Shiffert
Director of University Relations



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Visit us online at www.clayton.edu.







By Lauren Graves

hynes

Sight

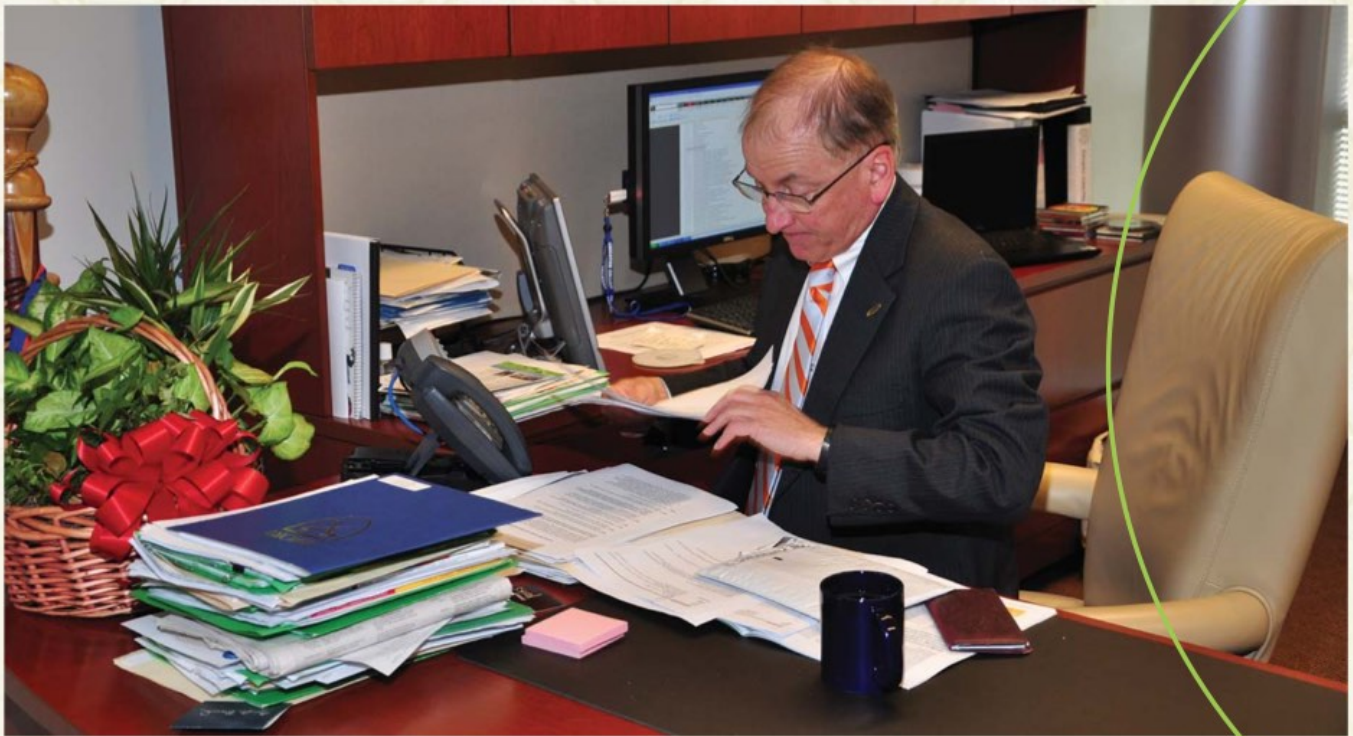
A look at Clayton State University's fourth president **Dr. Tim Hynes**

It wasn't the meeting I wanted to attend. Budget talk. Money, or the lack there of. The "F" word ... Furloughs. But as I sat amongst other faculty and staff members and we collectively faced a disconcerting future, the room took on a tone that acknowledged the subject's weight and still found room to breathe.

Tim Hynes isn't the kind of guy to stand behind a podium. He's out there with the rest of us. No disrespect to leadership who chooses a more formal approach, but, in my opinion, no one would have left a Doomsday budget presentation with a shred of optimism unless they had witnessed the interplay between a very serious

matter and a person who doesn't take himself too seriously.

"I take the work of creating conditions for supporting learning very seriously, even if I don't take myself too seriously," Hynes shares. "We may not be able to change the economy, but what we can do is create con-



Transparency, strategic thinking and collaboration represent the foundation of Hynes' approach to his post.

ditions in which we are transparent, there is a chance for shared understanding of what we do with resources, and we effectively use the resources we do have.”

Transparency, strategic thinking and collaboration represent the foundation of Hynes' approach to his post. And to take the helm of an institution in a less than ideal economic climate seems to be a challenge Hynes is ready to face.

“One of the neat jobs of being president is interacting with everyone at one point or another. I get to be the representative of Clayton State to the community, the state, the Board of Regents and beyond. I enjoy attempting to fulfill the responsibility of every day representing the face and voice of a proud, good and constantly improving University.”

Meet Dr. Hynes

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia appointed Dr. Thomas J. (Tim) Hynes, Jr. as Clayton State University's fourth president on February 9, 2010.

Prior to coming to Clayton State University as interim president June 1, 2009, Hynes held the position of provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of West Georgia,

for all but two years since 1996. During the 1999/2000 and 2006/2007 academic years, Hynes served as acting president of the University of West Georgia (UWG) when President Beheruz N. Sethna was called to the University System Office to act as senior vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Hynes previously served as interim dean of Arts & Sciences at the University of Louisville from 1990 to 1996. Before that, he was associate dean of the college from 1988 to 1990 and had been a member of the University of Louisville faculty since 1978. He directed the university debate program, which won the National Debate Tournament in 1982, and was second in 1984. He has also served on the faculty at Baylor University, the University of Massachusetts (UM) and the University of North Carolina (UNC). During his tenure at UWG, he taught at least one course each year at the undergraduate level.

“I never left the classroom,” says Hynes, who has already taught undergraduate introduction to college and mass communication courses since coming to Clayton State. “I've been involved in higher education administration since the 1980s, but I don't think a year has gone by that I didn't teach. Fulfilling the faculty function at a university is part of the identity I carry around with me every day.”

ON EDUCATION > I am learning centered.

Learning centered is the **largest number** of people whose primary focus of learning is **students**, and it is the work of an institution to create the **conditions** for **continuous learning**.



Hynes and students

Like many Clayton State students, Hynes was a first generation college student. He began his undergrad degree in mathematics at the University of Massachusetts. Hynes paid his tuition by working a variety of jobs, including a cook in a boys camp, an assistant in a machine shop, a roof maintenance person, and a work study student running copiers, to name a few. After earning his bachelor's, he went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in speech from the University of North Carolina and returned to the University of Massachusetts for a Ph.D. in Communications Studies.

In an interview with the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, Hynes shared, "I was the first in my family to graduate from college. Now, you'll make mistakes if you assume you know what's going on in someone's head, but higher education was seen by my family as a way to get better opportunities than what the previous generation had. Higher education is very much seen by our students as that same opportunity. And I must say; I do love these kids."

Just observe Hynes walk from point A on the campus to

point B, and you know – as he stops along the way to talk to the students he passes – he does care for our students. As an educator, Hynes encourages Clayton State's students to not only learn their lessons in the classroom, but to also learn an important life lesson during their years at Clayton State: Ask questions.

"When I was younger, I thought to ask a question meant you were stupid or unable to find the answer on your own. But I learned that asking questions demonstrates respect for [a per-

Opposite: Hynes prepares for his day in his office. **Above Left:** Hynes attends the groundbreaking ceremony for Clayton State's BHS Annex, Mar. 19, 2010. **Above:** Hynes, current president, with Clayton State's founding president Dr. Harry S. Downs. Downs received an honorary doctorate from the University at the spring 2010 Commencement Ceremonies. **Above:** Hynes speaks at the spring 2010 Commencement.

son's] knowledge and their ability to give guidance. Sometimes good answers lead to better questions. Don't be reluctant to ask – get intellectually curious and people will respond to you favorably.”

Hynes on Clayton State

When asked Clayton State's greatest strength, Hynes doesn't hesitate to answer: Clayton State's strength is its people. With the excitement of a person who really has a passion for learning, he explains:

“We have faculty and staff who recognize our students for their hard work. Our faculty and staff create the conditions for profound differences for students. Our students truly believe that education can make a real difference in their lives and families. The combination of faculty and staff who create conditions for differences and students who work hard for those differences is the extraordinary strength of our institution. It makes it fun for me to come to work every day.”

Hynes credits the Clayton State faculty and staff for working time and time again to translate the basic units of their disciplines to help students gain a sophisticated understanding of how that knowledge works outside of the University. He cited the nursing program and the School of Business' efforts in the emerging field of logistics and supply chain management as examples, but is quick to acknowledge that the University community as a whole contributes to the success of our institution and – beyond that – the success of society.

“I really believe, and I am an example of this, that higher education is an investment of the state, region and of a people and not just a one-time expenditure. And not just something that benefits people with degrees, but benefits society as a whole when a lot of people have degrees and are usually more open to the possibilities for themselves and the community. The record of return of investment for Clayton

Below: Hynes speaks at the New Student Convocation, a program designed to inspire, motivate and welcome new students to Clayton State University.



ON LEARNING > I want to communicate my own sense of the joy of learning. I get excited about learning something new every day. I want to help develop a greater feeling of that throughout the institution.

Q&A WITH DR. HYNES >

What are your objectives as you begin your presidency?

I want to create a climate of transparency, and a belief in collaboration and shared values. We may not always agree, but there are many places where we begin in great agreement, and that creates a great place to start. I also want to create a habit of thinking strategically: who we are, where are we going and the best options to get there.

What has been your biggest challenge thus far?

Resources – the obvious elephant in the room – but aside from that,

getting to know, in a relatively short time, everything I can know about the University and its community to facilitate learning. The president is a steward of place, and I am learning about our locale, our community, our neighbors and our place as a comprehensive metropolitan public university.

What advice do you have for Clayton State students?

Students today face a complex political and social environment. It's a far more complex world than what I faced as an undergraduate student in the 1970s. Although a lot has changed with college in the internet and contemporary age since when I was an undergrad, this stays



Above: Hynes, a marathoner, makes a pass around the University's largest lake, Swan Lake.

State University has been good for 40 years, and I look forward to seeing that investment grow dramatically in the coming years.”

One on one

Since Hynes first came as an interim president, the campus community has had the opportunity to see him in action, whether that be teaching, attending campus events, performing administrative duties, just walking through the buildings, or even running around Swan Lake (he’s an avid runner).

He’s already practicing what he preaches – transparency, in the form of keeping the entire campus informed of economic events and strategic and long-range planning initiatives; strategic thinking, in the form of town hall meetings; and collaboration,

in the form of attending division meetings and getting to know faculty and staff on a first name basis.

It doesn’t take long to realize he has a gregarious personality - the kind that never meets a stranger - and this, coupled with his passion for learning and background in higher education, should prove a winning combination for Clayton State University and our internal and external community.

He is a person who has worked his way from the first in his family to graduate, through the faculty ranks, all the way to president. So the next time you’re at a Clayton State, look for our newest president and make him feel welcome. But chances are - he’ll find you first.

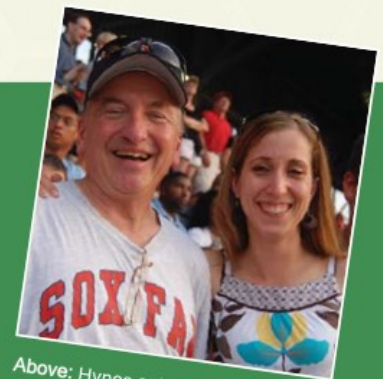
the same: If you study hard and connect with other bright students, you have a better chance for success. Also, find a faculty member. There is a real ability to find people here who can help you succeed.

You seem to really enjoy your job. Do you?

There is a lot of joy to be found in life, and I am fortunate to have found a lot of it. I enjoy being a part of all this; I really like being at this University. My job is to help create conditions in which students can learn, and I enjoy giving support to all areas of the institution – all of whom make contributions in their own ways to assist in student learning.

What are your hobbies or areas of interest?

I am a Boston Red Sox fan – old school, when they were horrible. I am a runner, and I run because I like to eat and cook. I also like to travel and attend sporting events.



Above: Hynes enjoys a Braves game during Clayton State Night at Turner Field. Pictured with Hynes is Clayton State Alumni Association past president Shawn Nelson.



Left: The Business Etiquette Luncheon, led here by Audrey Baird, is one of several events Career Services holds to help Clayton State students and graduates make a positive impression on employers. **Below:** The Career Services staff (L to R): Assistant Director Ryan Whitfield, Associate Director Bridgette McDonald, Director Angelyn Hayes and Administrative Specialist Tomeka Mayo.



Career Services

Opportunities discovered. Professionalism developed. Careers launched!

By John Shiffert

The vision statement says it all... Opportunities Discovered. Professionalism Developed. Careers Launched!

The Clayton State Office of Career Services helps both students and alumni discover opportunities, develop professionalism and launch careers. And, they provide an invaluable service to employers as well.

That sounds like a lot of ground to cover, especially since Clayton State has 6,500 students and 16,000 alumni, but, as Director of Career Services Dr. Angelyn Hayes points out, her office succeeds because, like much of the University, they are educators.

"We are educators. As we fulfill our vision we are educating students, educating alumni, educating employers,"

she says. "We are first and foremost educators."

Career Services notably educates students and alumni on career management, a lifelong process whether you're a freshman, a senior, a recent graduate, or a graduate of Clayton Junior College. As Hayes says, "we are serving you for life."

The first part of the Career Services mission statement says it this way, "...to assist students in developing the skills, knowledge, and abilities that prepare them to manage their careers now and after graduation."

Among the ways they provide services for life are: online job and internship postings, resume critiques, mock interviews, on-campus interviews and re-

cruiting, internship and co-op assistance, workshops and club presentations, job fairs (notably the annual Career Expo for students and alumni), job search assistance, career coaching, and providing graduate school information.

A lot of their work is what might be called behind the scenes - done on a one-on-one basis with students and alumni. Naturally, this being Clayton State, a lot of opportunities are also available online through the website, <http://admisservices.clayton.edu/career/>.

However, Career Services also sponsors a variety of high-profile events. For example, in the spring 2010 semester alone, the office was involved in several major events, including a

week-long Career Boot Camp, the Career Expo, Practice Interview Day, and the College to Career Fair.

In addition, the university-wide internship program is managed by Career Services. It's a program that works with faculty to develop opportunities for every major, assist students in identifying internships, maintain internship learning agreements, and manage the process of obtaining evaluations from all internship supervisors. Approximately 300 students per semester participate in internships throughout the metro area, bringing the vision statement's promises to reality. The internship program also provides an opportunity for Clayton State alumni to complete the circle, in Hayes' phrase.

"Many of our alumni are now in the position to have an intern in their businesses," she notes. "It's just another way of bringing them [the alumni] back in."

Although best known for educating students and alumni, Career Services also serves employers, providing connections between the job market and an excellent work force.

"Career Services provides mutually beneficial linkages between the University and the employment community, assisting organizations in identifying and hiring qualified candidates and connecting students to student work, internship, and career employment opportunities," is how Hayes describes this service, which includes, registering and posting jobs through the Laker Zone Career website (<https://clayton-csm.simplicity.com/employers>), on-campus interviews and recruiting, and the aforementioned special programs and job fairs... the proverbial win-win for prospective employees and employers.

The Office of Career Services at Clayton State has been in existence since the 1980s. Currently staffed with four professionals (Hayes, Associate Director Bridgette McDonald, Assistant Di-

rector Ryan Whitfield, and Administrative Specialist Tomeka Mayo), the office has seen student participation significantly increase in the past year -- student visits to the office have increased 33 percent and workshop attendance has increased 75 percent. Plus, in the fall of 2009, Career Services provided individualized assistance to twice as many alumni as in the fall of 2008.

While increased participation shows that students and alumni are "getting it," the best proof of the success of Career Services lies in final results... Clayton State students consistently win recognition as statewide Experiential Learning

Students of the Year in the categories of arts and sciences, business, education, and engineering/technology.

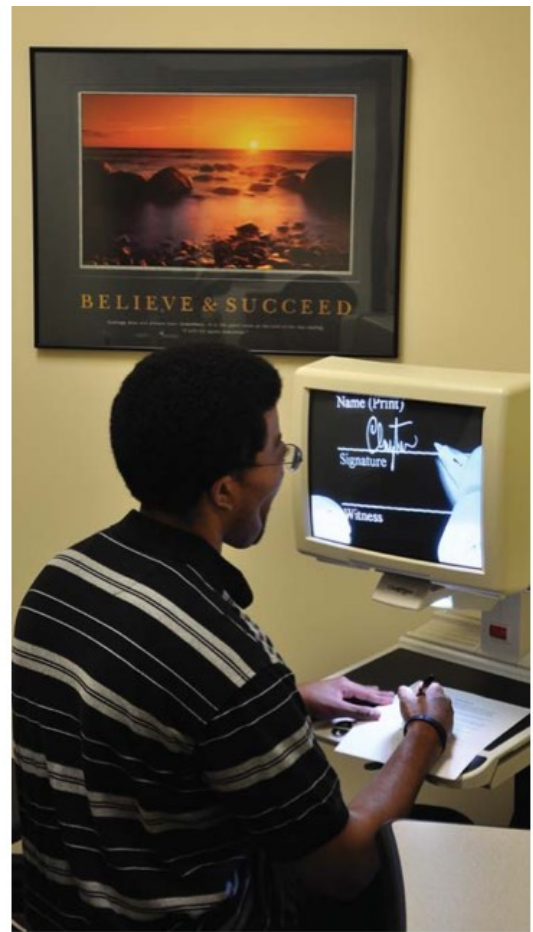
"Most students attend Clayton State University with the expectation of pursuing a career after graduation," says Hayes. "The Office of Career Services is the critical department for helping them realize their professional and career goals. In addition, the relationships that Career Services develops with the employment community help not only students and graduates, but also the University as a whole."



Above: At the annual Career Expo, Liberty Mutual employee and Clayton State alumna Shawn Nelson gives a Clayton State student information about employment opportunities. **Left:** Bridgette McDonald leads a workshop titled "How to Work a Career Fair" to prepare students and graduates for meeting recruiters at the Career Expo.



Above: Business major Dennis Brown, who served 24 years in the U.S. Army before retiring, represents one of many veterans who utilize DRC. Here, Brown discusses his academic goals with DRC Assistant Director Tameeka Hunter and Support Services Coordinator Karen Blackburn. **Right:** Student Clayton Beatty uses the CCTV to magnify his paper for easier reading and writing.



By Lauren Graves

Disability Resource Center

Empowering Clayton State students

Federal law mandates the existence of Clayton State University's Disability Resource Center, but it's not the letter of the law that inspires Director Louise Bedrossian and the DRC staff - it's the center's role in empowering students.

At DRC, empowerment comes in many forms. For student Clayton Beatty, it comes in the form of a closed circuit television (CCTV), a video magnifier that assists people with low vision.

"I am legally blind. When I first came to Clayton State, I was told DRC offers programs that could assist me. DRC has been very helpful," shares Beatty. In addition to a CCTV, Beatty has additional

testing time, a private room for testing, a note-taker for his classes, and the use of another assistive technology - a voice recorder - arranged through DRC.

Beatty enjoyed his experience with DRC so much, he is now a student worker in the center. His personal story helps him encourage others to utilize DRC's resources. And more students come to DRC every semester.

"We have had a 24 percent growth in students using the center and a 40 percent jump in the number of tests administered from spring 2009 to spring 2010," says Bedrossian, who has worked as DRC's director for nearly

three years. "We are pushing to become more visible and help raise awareness."

Part of the way DRC is becoming more visible on campus is through involvement with building projects. For example, DRC is working with the new BHS Annex architects regarding implementing Universal Design in the building's construction and features.

"Universal Design is a concept that means environments are designed to be easy for everyone to use," says Bedrossian, noting things like ramps and accessible entrance signage. "We have been fortunate to have input on the new biology labs and help raise aware-



L to R: The Disability Resource Center staff: Director Louise Bedrossian, Ed.S., LPC; Assistant Director Tameeka Hunter, M.S., CRC; and Support Services Coordinator Karen Blackburn.

ness of this need. It is critical to create a welcoming environment for all, and our University has been very supportive of this theme."

But Universal Design isn't limited to construction and signage; it can also be programmatic. Bedrossian shares that University materials ranging from tests to the student newspaper and everything in between can be made available through DRC in the format that best fits

Below: A sign language interpreter translates the commencement ceremony into sign language for hearing impaired attendees. **Below Right:** New Clayton State alum and Disability Resource Center student Marteace Lockhart poses for a photo with Bedrossian following the spring 2010 commencement ceremony.

the needs of students with disabilities. Students with physical disabilities can receive priority registration to ensure their classes are offered in the most accessible locations, and students with hidden disabilities can receive the help they need to succeed.

"About 70 to 75 percent of the students served here have hidden disabilities - things like chronic illness, arthritis, cognitive disabilities, ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, and so forth," explains Bedrossian. "Veterans are also a growing population. We've had many with post-traumatic stress disorder as well as several with brain injuries sustained through events such as succes-

sive concussions from explosions."

One of the veterans utilizing DRC is also one of its biggest promoters among the student veteran community - retired Army Master Sergeant Dennis Brown. Brown also serves as president of Clayton State's Student Veterans Association.

"I come to the center to concentrate more on tests," says Brown who will graduate in 2011 with a Business Management bachelor's degree. "Before I take a test, I come in to the center and stretch. It helps release tension and lowers anxiety. I can think without being around distractions.... If more veteran students - and even students who are not veterans - would come, they would see there are so many benefits."

DRC offers services such as sign language interpreters, referral for low cost cognitive disability testing such as LD and ADHD, referral for services within the community, coaching services geared toward specific disabilities, and referral to other resources including technology, medical, social and employment services, to name a few.

Bedrossian and the DRC staff are committed to helping students succeed in college and beyond.

"I have seen so many 180 degree turnarounds. People who have C's and D's, when supplied appropriate accommodations, go on to make A's and B's," says Bedrossian with a smile. "I have seen people battered emotionally fly and become self-sufficient. Self-esteem improves. Their talents shine. It's really exciting to open the door for someone to become empowered."

Students who are interested in receiving assistance through DRC should visit www.clayton.edu/DRC. DRC is located in the upper level of the Student Center.





Above L to R: The Counseling and Psychological Services staff: (back row) Roxanne Dilbeck, administrative assistant; Dr. Christine Smith, director; Wayne Strother, assistant director; (front row) Shiraz Karaa, associate director; Dr. Jennifer Dean, assistant director for outreach and prevention. **Above Left:** A student unwinds during finals week by petting an Atlanta TheraPaws dog. **Left:** A Safe Space Program meeting discusses how Clayton State can provide a supportive environment for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students, faculty and staff.

Counseling and Psychological Services

Supporting collegiate mental health

By Erin Fender

Each semester, many students seek support and guidance from Counseling & Psychological Services (CPS) here at Clayton State. Though most would assume students are seeking psychological or mental personal support; the staff offers much more to the campus community.

"We offer individual, couples, and group counseling; career counseling; psychiatric consultations; and many outreach and prevention presentations. As counselors, we just battle the time-worn stigma about help seeking. We offer so

many opportunities to support students," says Dr. Christine Smith, director of Counseling & Psychological Services.

A large focus for this office has been to become more visible and known amongst the students. CPS is often present at student events and even offers many outreach presentations. Just this past spring semester, CPS joined the alcohol awareness fair, the spring health fair, and brought in the Atlanta TheraPaws group as a stress reliever for students during final exams.

The predominant function for this of-

fice is personal and career counseling. The staff focuses on the student's personal health and helps them to discover their major or career path. This is partially done through career testing. Their goal is to help students not only discover their "job" but also discover a meaningful career and the rewards of working in that field.

"We are really trying to make our staff and office as approachable as possible. We want students to feel able to speak with us, that we are not scary," says Smith.

“College is a time of increasing one’s self-awareness while developing intellectually, socially and personally. The CPS staff is here to provide information on how to maximize this development in that we get to reduce the stigma about help-seeking, so that students can feel comfortable to come in to talk to a counselor before their problems reach the point of crisis,” says Dr. Jennifer Dean, a licensed psychologist and the assistant director for Outreach and Prevention.

Last spring semester, the CPS staff conducted 26 workshops and presentations for classes, community groups, and student and faculty groups. Topics ranged from alcohol and substance abuse to stress management and conflict resolution.

Managing test anxiety is one of the more popular programs. This presentation is experiential, thus, students are taught techniques that they can put into practice immediately.

“Stress Management is a fun workshop to do, because I get to teach students how to engage in deep relaxation,

which feels great and can help to undo the negative effects of stress and produce physiological changes, such as decreased blood pressure, reduced muscle tension, decreased heart rate and other positive changes,” says Dean.

CPS is staffed by two full-time psychologists and two full-time licensed professional counselors. Also, Dr. Nancy Strauch, a licensed psychiatrist, visits the office for psychiatric evaluations and appropriate referrals to medical professionals and to provide treatment for most psychiatric disorders. Clayton State’s CPS is one of only four counseling centers in the state of Georgia studying collegiate health; this is a ground-breaking study to understand what true data studies show about college students and their mental health.

“When it comes down to it, our major role is to help students, mostly through personal and career counseling. We just want them to function better personally and academically. Whatever reason we can think of we try to get out there to help ease tensions about coming to us,” says Smith.



By Erin Fender

Student Veterans Association

With a pot of coffee, an empty room, and the desire to create a supportive unit for the student veterans on campus, Shiraz Karaa, associate director of Counseling & Psychological Services, started the Student Veterans Association in 2008. Her hard work and dedication has helped the organization flourish and continue to experience further growth.

The SVA joined the Student Veterans of America organization to help keep up-to-date information on benefit and scholarship opportunities available.

Over the past year, the SVA hosted a two-day Veterans Day Celebration and a showcase in honor of military women of Clayton State. Guest speakers have spoken on topics including community responsiveness to troops, veterans and families upon their homecoming, and creating a village stronger than war. The SVA also actively supports the ROTC program at Clayton State.

“The SVA appreciates any and all support for our student veterans. The more our presence is known, hopefully, the more resources we can lobby for to help with our military members’ transition back to civilian life,” says Diana Peters of Jonesboro, SVA secretary and events coordinator.

Information regarding events and resources is available on their website: <http://adminservices.clayton.edu/veterans/Default.htm>



Above: In the final weeks before exams, Dean leads a Stress Management workshop. **Left:** Strouther reviews materials with students during the Alcohol Awareness fair.

Clayton State University Foundation Honors its founding trustees

With Clayton State celebrating its 40th Anniversary during the 2009/2010 Academic Year, it was only fitting that the Clayton State University Foundation take the occasion of the Apr. 17, 2010, President's Gala to honor the Foundation's founding trustees.

Themed, "Better Together," the Gala was a celebration of campus and community, highlighted by special recognition



Founding Trustees

for six of the original signers of the Foundation's articles of incorporation in 1974... Harmon Born, H.M. "Mit" Bradford, S. Truett Cathy, Dr. Harry S. Downs, G. Robert "Bob" Oliver, and

James "Jim" Wood, Jr. Also recognized for their legacy in the history of Clayton State were the three original signers who have since passed on; Charles S. Conklin, Dr. Ernest Dunbar, and Claude Whaley.

The evening also included remarks by Foundation Chair Starr Helms, Clayton State President Dr. Tim Hynes, and scholarship recipient Christina Phillips, and featured a video presentation on Clayton State student and faculty community engagement.

Theatre majors earn "A" in first Clayton Tour Team presentation

On Feb. 10, four Clayton State Theatre majors earned a virtual "A" from Clayton State Theatre Director Phillip DePoy after their first presentation as the Clayton Tour Team.

Appearing at the Clayton County Performing Arts Center, theatre majors Bryan Meadows, Kalani Fraser, Tiffany McClanahan and Tierra Canup performed *Sure Thing*, a short play by David Ives, for approximately 85 Clayton County high school students.

Clayton State theatre majors recently joined together to create the Clayton Tour Team as a means of introducing the Clayton State Theatre to local high school students.

Clayton State celebrates the Conclusion of its 40th Anniversary year

Clayton State University celebrated the official conclusion of its 40th Anniversary year on Saturday, May 8, 2010, with the Spring 2010 Commencement. The dual ceremonies, the first for Dr. Thomas J. "Tim" Hynes, Jr., as the University's fourth president, featured a record 509 graduates taking part, and two singular honors.

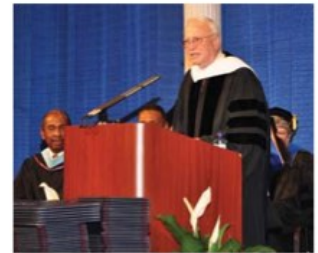
Clayton State, which first opened its doors to students on Sept. 30, 1969, marked the occasion of its 40th Anniversary Commencement to bestow a special honor on Dr. Harry S. Downs, the University's first and founding president, who received an honorary Doctorate of Arts and Letters.

Downs - once referred to by former Clayton State president Dr. Rick Skinner as the "father of Clayton State" - also had the opportunity to address the graduates.

"I praise you for your wisdom in choosing this great institution of higher education," he said. "I will be honestly celebrating every name that is read today."

In addition to Downs' honorary doctorate, the University also presented a posthumous Bachelor of Arts degree to Sergeant First Class (SFC) John C. Beale. A Clayton State history major and an employee of the Clayton County Water Authority, SFC Beale was one of three Georgia Army National Guardsmen killed in action in Kapisa Province in northeast Afghanistan on Thursday, June 4, 2009. Accepting his degree was his wife, Crystal Beale.

The two ceremonies, held before capacity crowds in the University's Athletics & Fitness Center, featured C.D. Moody, Jr., founder and owner of C.D. Moody Construction Co., and Dr. Jamil Zainaldin, president of the Georgia Humanities Council, as the Commencement speakers.



Dr. Harry S. Downs



Hynes presents Crystal Beale with SFC John C. Beale's posthumous bachelor's degree.

Endowed scholarship fund Established in memory of Dr. Buddy Nail

A February reception was held at Clayton State in honor of the endowment of the Dr. Billy R. "Buddy" Nail fund.

Nail, a resident of McDonough who passed away on June 30, 2009, retired from Clayton State in 1995. He was a former dean and professor of mathematics. Nail was born in Roby, Tex., the son of the late Helen Juanita Parker and Radney Harmon Nail. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Hardin Simmons University; his M.A., and Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1962 and 1967.

The generous gifts of his wife, Glenda Nail, family, friends and colleagues are being used to create an endowed student award and scholarship fund in his honor and memory.

The Endowed Fund will be used to provide a student award for outstanding students in mathematics as determined by the faculty of the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences and/or to financially assist students who are enrolled at Clayton State University.



Dr. Buddy Nail

Clayton State rolls out Master of Science in Psychology

Clayton State University's eighth graduate program, the Master of Science in Psychology, officially starts this fall.

The Clayton State Department of Psychology will offer two distinct tracks of study. The Applied Development Psychology track is the first of its type in the State of Georgia and begins this fall; the Clinical Psychology track is slated to begin accepting students for fall 2011. Both tracks lead to professional master's degrees designed to serve community needs and therefore include field experiences in the form of internships or clinical supervision, preparing graduates for employment.

For more information on the M.S. in Psychology, visit <http://a-s.clayton.edu/MSP/>. The website includes application information, degree requirements, courses, payment information, academic policies, important dates, class schedules, contact information and FAQs.

Dean Chacko's final day includes American Concrete Institute Award

On Mar. 9, 2010, Dr. Jacob M. Chacko, dean of the Clayton State University School of Business since Jan. 1, 2008, started his final day at Clayton State by taking part in a ceremony that

honored one of the highlights of his 11-year tenure in Morrow - the School of Business Building.

The School of Business Building received the First Place Award in the Low-Rise Category in the Georgia Chapter of the American Concrete Institute's (ACI) annual awards competition. Flynn Fenderup Architects presented Chacko and Clayton State President Dr. Tim Hynes with a plaque.

Chacko first came to the Clayton State School of Business as associate dean in 1999, and succeeded Dean Ernest "Bud" Miller upon the latter's retirement at the conclusion of 2007. Following Chacko's last day at Clayton State, he assumed the position of dean of Business at Abu Dhabi University in the United Arab Emirates.

"You're always excited when your home receives accolades from others," said Chacko during the ceremony. "This is my last day at Clayton State and I'd like to say how grateful I am to have a part in the process."



Clayton State signs memorandum With Georgia American University

In a ceremony on Monday, Dec. 28, 2009, Clayton State President Dr. Tim Hynes; John Parkerson, director of International Programs; and Kenneth A. Cutshaw, vice president of Georgian American University (GAU); signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that promises a cooperative relationship between the two universities.

GAU is located in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia. The MOU provides the framework for Clayton State and GAU to engage in international exchanges of faculty, attendance of students between the institutions, collaboration in special programs and exchanges of academic materials.

Clayton State selects its First Presidential Scholars

Clayton State University has named its first round of Presidential Scholars.

This new program consists of six, four-year presidential scholarships that continue annually so that in four years Clayton State will have 24 honors students on presidential scholarships. The Presidential Scholars will supplement the existing University Honors Program.

Each applicant submitted an original essay on the subject, "What I Wish to Accomplish with My College Education." The first six recipients of Clayton State Presidential Scholarships are as follows:

Tawan Holmes, Westlake High School, Atlanta
Sotheavy Vann, Riverdale High School, College Park
Angelique Green, John S. Davidson Fine Arts School, Augusta
Kathleen Barbosa, Chattahoochee High School, Alpharetta
Kirk Muse, Whitewater High School, Fayetteville
Khalea Crowe, Miller Grove High School, Lithonia

As Presidential Scholars for the 2010-2011 Academic Year (encompassing the fall and spring semesters), each student will receive: an annual university grant, a housing and meal plan grant and a bookstore award, for a total annual value of approximately \$12,000. These scholarship awards are in addition to any HOPE Scholarship funds for which the students would be eligible.

Accounting students provide 20th year Of free tax preparation services

Clayton State's accounting students provided free volunteer tax preparation assistance again in 2010 as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). This service was offered at the Clayton State School of Business on all Saturdays in February, and on Mar. 20 and Mar. 27.

Clayton State is proud to be the only university in the state of Georgia that has successfully participated in the VITA program for 20 years running. On average, the student volunteers provide assistance to at least 100 people each year, and they look forward to helping many more.

Clayton State couldn't wait to Break ground for BHS Annex



On Friday, Mar. 19, Clayton State University officially broke ground for an annex to the University's Business and Health Sciences (BHS) Building.

Although, as both Clayton State President Dr. Thomas J. "Tim" Hynes, Jr., and Interim Provost Dr. Micheal Crafton pointed out at the ceremony, groundbreakings are typically held before construction starts, work on the BHS Annex had already begun before the ceremonial shovels were lifted. In both a literal and a symbolic sense, Clayton State was moving ahead with the on-going growth of higher education in south metro Atlanta.

Speaking first, Hynes claimed that the University's faculty, staff and students couldn't wait to get started with the building... and couldn't wait for the administration to hold the groundbreaking.

"There has been a need created by students who are eager to learn," he said, noting that students' demand for science courses was the driving force in the construction of the BHS Annex.

At present, Clayton State has just seven labs for its 6,600 students. The BHS Annex is scheduled to be completed in October 2010, move-in is scheduled for November 2010 and use of the annex will begin by the start of spring semester in January 2011. The BHS Annex is being built in front of the existing Arts & Sciences Building and is part of the long-planned (and needed) renovation of the BHS Building.

Azerbaijani news team learns about U.S. higher education at Clayton State

A news team from Khazar-TV in the Eurasian nation of Azerbaijan spent most of Tuesday, Apr. 6, on the Clayton State campus, shooting footage for a documentary on U.S. education and democracy, and learning about such Clayton State staples as the use of technology in education and the diversity of the Clayton State student body.

Producer Vamig Nasirov, cameraman Ramin Latifli and interpreter Aybeniz Ganjaliyeva were accompanied by Kevin P. Krug, media producer for the Office of Broadcast Services for the U.S. Department of State; John Parkerson, Clayton State's director of International Programs and the honorary consul in the Southeast United States for the nation



of Hungary; and Parkerson's assistant, Cele Blair, as they interviewed Clayton State administrators and students, and toured the campus. Their visit to Clayton State was initially arranged by Beth Day, vice president of the Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education (ARCHE).

The Khazar-TV documentary, which will also include footage from the team's visits to the University of Maryland, Georgia Tech, and Morehouse College,

has a focus on the minority student experience in college. The final version is expected to be shown on Khazar-TV sometime in the fall of this year.

MLK event concludes with dramatic showcase

Clayton State University's 10th Annual Martin Luther King Commemorative Event reached its conclusion on Jan. 21 in Spivey Hall. Although the previous nine events provided the Clayton State campus and the public with many dramatic moments and many dramatic speakers - like the Rev. Joseph Lowery, Ambassador Andrew Young, and Julian Bond - the 2010 event brought new meaning to the term "dramatic."

The University's Martin Luther King, Jr., Planning Committee, under the direction of its founding, first and only chair, Deborah H. Dupree, created a totally new keynote for the evening. It was Dupree's inspiration that the MLK event for 2010 would not be highlighted by a speaker, but a formal showcase of reflections and impressions through music, the spoken word, and shared experiences that honored the King legacy. Drawing on talent from the Clayton State faculty, staff and students, and including Dupree taking part as a narrator, the Showcase presented eight acts that spoke to this year's theme, "Dr. King's Legacy: Where are We Now? Where are We Going?"

Of course, when you're talking about "drama" at Clayton State, you're talking about the Clayton State Theatre. And the organizer of the performances, Clayton State Assistant Pro-

fessor of Theatre Shontelle Thrash, did not disappoint the audience. In addition to providing an excellent all-around event featuring Clayton State students (notably the University Gospel Choir) and staff (information services librarian Yalonda Carson and OITS' Bruce Ingram), Thrash saved the best for last: her closing performances as Lula Belle Johnson, the mother of a 14-year old who had been lynched during the early days of the Civil Rights movement, and a monologue entitled *The Journey Continues* that asked some pointed questions in regards to King's legacy, where we are now, and where we are going.

Eagle's Landing High School wins Clayton State Student Business Competition

Eagle's Landing High School, Henry County, won the first annual High School Student Business Competition hosted by the School of Business at Clayton State University on Apr. 30 and May 1. Sandy Creek High School from Fayette County placed second.



The theme of the competition was "Strategic Management in a Competitive Environment." The high school teams, from Eagle's Landing, Forest Park, Morrow, and Sandy Creek high schools, each managed a manufacturing company in a web-based simulation for a virtual four-year period. The four teams competed for sales, profits and market share, and earned points for financial performance.

The students learned how to plan a business strategy; analyze competition; make decisions on product design, marketing, production and finance; read financial statements; and work effectively as a team.

"We were impressed with the quality of the students. They were totally engaged in the learning and had a lot of fun too," notes Dr. Gary May, project leader and a professor of management in the School of Business.

Spivey Hall launches "Project Jupiter"

Spivey Hall welcomed the Jupiter String Quartet for its Atlanta debut in a pair of Young People's Concerts earlier this year, heralding the beginning of a multi-year relationship that will involve the four musicians in a wide variety of performance, teaching, community outreach and audience development activities collectively named "Project Jupiter."



Primary objectives of Project Jupiter include providing greater access to outstanding string chamber music in Spivey Hall's immediate community, supporting musical achievement by high-school chamber orchestra programs in Clayton, Henry and Fayette counties and developing greater audiences for string chamber music in the Southern Crescent.

Project Jupiter calls for a minimum of two full weeks from the Boston-based musicians each season, with the first week confirmed for November 2010. In each Project Jupiter week, the musicians will visit three high schools in south suburban Atlanta to coach and assist students in their chamber orchestra programs. The three partner schools and their ensemble conductors are: Lovejoy High School, Stephen Lawrence; Union Grove High School, Richard Bell; and Whitewater High School, Darilyn Esterline.

McIlwain named Interim Dean of Clayton State's School of Graduate Studies



Dr. Thomas McIlwain

Dr. Micheal Crafton, Clayton State University interim vice president of Academic Affairs and provost, announced the appointment of Dr. Thomas McIlwain, currently director of Clayton State's Master's in Health Administration program in the School of Business, to the position of interim dean of the University's School of Graduate Studies. His appointment began Feb. 1, 2010.

McIlwain brings to this position a wealth of administrative

experience and graduate education experience at Appalachian State University, the Medical University of South Carolina, the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

He holds a B.S. from the University of Southern Mississippi, an M.P.H. from the University of Tennessee and a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Dr. Lisa Eichelberger publishes Second edition of textbook to make Nursing Theory interactive



Dr. Lisa Eichelberger

Dr. Lisa Eichelberger, dean of Clayton State University's College of Health, recently published the second edition of her textbook entitled *Understanding the Work of Nurse Theorists: A Creative Beginning*. Coauthored with Kathy Sitzman of Utah's Weber State University, the textbook uses art to teach nurses the often daunting task of learning nursing theories. Eichelberger, a resident of Fayette County, and Sitzman open a creative side to nursing theory - one that makes learning a little less intimidating and a lot more innovative.

The second edition expands the number of theorists covered in the first textbook. The authors also contacted all living nursing theorists and had each theorist write a chapter on their life as theorist. Eichelberger also authored a chapter on pioneering a nursing theory website.

Gary May has small business Fundamentals book published



Dr. Gary May

Dr. Gary May, associate professor of management in the Clayton State University School of Business, recently had his book, *Strategic Planning: Fundamentals for Small Business*, published by Business Expert Press (BEP). May decided to write the book while attending a conference.

"I met the publisher, Dave Parker of Business Expert Press, at a conference," May says. "He was soliciting new authors. After some research, we determined there were not many books in the marketplace on the topic of strategy for small business owners and managers. I teach strategy, and I have managed strategic planning projects in the corporate world, and was a second-generation owner of a family business. So there was a nice fit with my experience. On the basis of the research, I drafted a concept proposal and chapter outline."

David Messer authors biography of Noted Native American educator Henry Roe Cloud



Dr. David Messer

Clayton State University's Dr. David Messer, assistant professor in the Department of Teacher Education, recently authored his first book, entitled *Henry Roe Cloud: A Biography*.

"The book is biography of Henry Roe Cloud, a Winnebago Indian born around 1884 in Nebraska," Messer says.

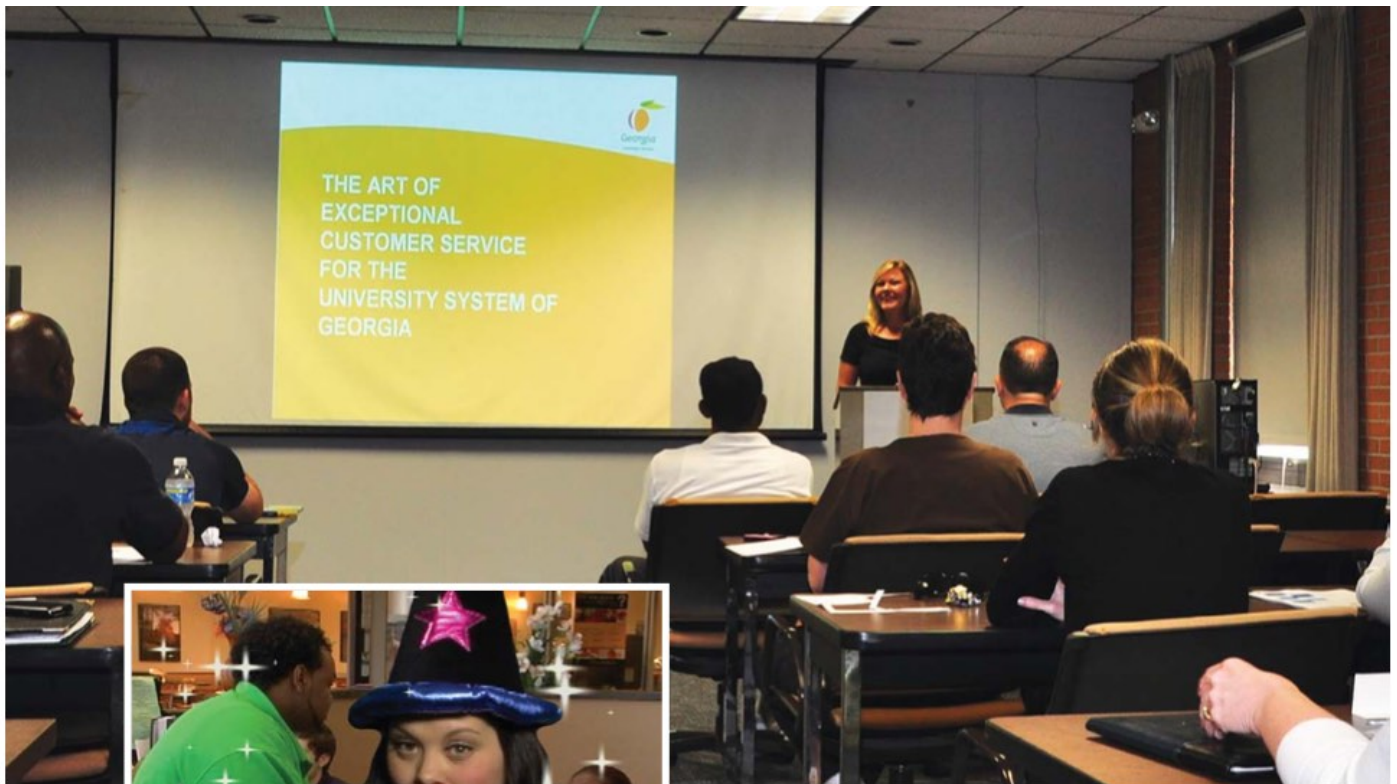
"As a young man he attended government and reservation schools. Eventually he attended Mount Hermon Preparatory School and later was the first Native American to graduate from Yale. He was an ordained Presbyterian minister and started the first high school administered by Native Americans. He held several important governmental offices dealing with Indian affairs during the administrations of different presidents. His life was a mosaic of traditional Indian beliefs and values, reform theology, progressive education theories and political realities."

Students Participate in Alternative Winter Break in Orlando

A dozen Clayton State students participated in the 2009 Alternative Winter Break Program in Orlando, Fla. The Alternative Break Volunteer program is an opportunity for students to engage in community-based service projects during the University's designated winter and spring semester breaks to develop an understanding and appreciation of the issues people across the world encounter daily.

The Department of Campus Life began sponsoring its yearly Alternative Spring Break in 2008 and expanded the program in fall 2009 to offer the Alternative Winter Break.

The group traveled by van to Orlando to volunteer at the Give Kids the World (GKTW) Village. As volunteer "angels" each day, the students were assigned to an area in the Give Kids the World Village theme park.



Above: Amy Poole from the Office of Recruitment and Admissions leads a Customer Service Training class. **Left:** To assist Clayton State's Customer Service Training, the University created in-house videos to demonstrate effective (and non-effective) customer service. Shown here is the Workplace Wizard, played by Dr. Julia Spinolo of University Health Services.

By John Shiffert and Ciji Fox

Customer Service at Clayton State... From improving academic advising to “Ask Me!”

The statewide “Customer Service Improvement Initiative,” initially championed by Governor Sonny Perdue and then adopted by University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll Davis, has no greater supporter on the Clayton State campus than Assistant Vice President for Auxiliary and Administrative Services Carolina Amero, Clayton State’s “customer service champion.”

“The University is on a mission to not only provide great service, but to exceed students’ expectations,” she says.

With the broad goal of improving customer service for students, faculty and staff, Clayton State’s Customer Service Project Team (chaired by Amero) has undertaken numerous projects since 2006. In fact, there have been more proposed projects than there has been time to implement them.

“We have no shortage of great customer service improvement ideas, but we have to prioritize and pick a few projects to work on every year and work hard to do those things well,” she explains.

After improving the academic advising process and reducing registration holds in 2007, the Customer Service Team moved on to student support services customer service training for the University’s primary student support services: Admissions, Financial Aid, the Registrar’s Office, Continuing Education and “The HUB,” in 2008.

The first project started by clearly delineating the important roles played by the Dean of Retention and Student Success, the Director of the Center for



"Ask Me!" volunteers help students get acquainted with the campus.



Amero (far left) and the Green Initiative offer recycling opportunities to campus.

Academic Success, the Director of the Center for Instructional Development, and the academic advisors. The end goal of the Academic Advising Initiative was to improve the process' overall performance so that advising would be faster, friendlier and provide easier access to students.

The training course's purpose was to reinforce what the attendees already know about good customer service and to offer new methods for creating a positive customer service experience for every customer. Both Amero and trainer Joyce Sandusky say that the training did far more than teach customer service.

"We were surprised that a lot of people wanted and appreciated the tips and tools for saying 'no,'" notes Sandusky. "Customer service training teaches you life skills."

"Sometimes, the training helped create an attitude shift when the participants saw the value of the materials and activities. There are a lot of tips and techniques they could take back to their departments," adds Amero. "It was time well-spent."

Shortly after concluding the training, there were two new customer service initiatives to roll out in the summer of 2008, both of which continue to the present. One involves providing information (Ask Me!), and the other looks for customer feedback (Tell Us!).

The "Ask Me!" program is a partnership between the Customer Service Team and Office of Campus Life that helps welcome newcomers to the University in the week before the start of fall and spring semester classes. Featuring welcome tents and student volunteers wearing bright orange T-shirts, "Ask Me!" starts three to four days prior to the start of classes. The success of this ongoing program was recognized in 2009 with a bronze medal by the University System of Georgia in the Improvement Initiative category of the annual Chancellor Customer Service Awards.

"Clayton State University is committed to customer service," says Clayton State Vice President of Business and Operations Corlis Cummings. "It impacts the lives of all of our students, faculty, staff and visitors."

"Tell Us!" is a program that asks for information - a standardized customer service feedback form. Available in 10 to 12 boxes around campus, this program is a tool to measure how successful Customer Service is at Clayton State, and is in keeping with the governor's customer service initiative, which mandates a measurement function in customer service plans.

Also on-going is a broader training program under the heading of the "Art of Exceptional Customer Service," that provides training for any and all inter-

ested Clayton State employees.

In terms of the overall success of the Customer Service program, Amero says that the support of leaders and/or administrators is an important part in the organization's buy-in to customer service.

"When leaders in an organization support this, it sets a great example," she says. "People follow a leader. They see that leaders value customer service, which starts from the top down. It's important all the way through the line."



"Tell Us!" boxes are located throughout campus, and give students, faculty, staff and visitors the opportunity to give the University customer feedback.



CLAYTON STATE LAKERS

The new Loch Clayton State Athletics

By John Shiffert

How do you depict a “Laker?”

It’s a conundrum that has plagued Clayton State’s first and only director of athletics, Mason Barfield, since it was first decided 20 years ago that Clayton State’s athletic teams would be known as the Lakers. According to Barfield, the issue of “what’s a Laker,” was a challenge from the beginning, so much so that Clayton State’s earliest athletic logo was “borrowed” from those other Lakers, the ones who play professional basketball in Los Angeles. Of course, since Clayton State has a 12-acre lake, and Los Angeles isn’t exactly famous for its lakes, Barfield has no cause to apologize.

Twenty years later, there’s still no cause to apologize, especially after



Clayton State’s first mascot, Lucky, was a kinder version of Nessy. Seen here, Lucky greets a child during the Southern Crescent Celebration in 1994.



Following Lucky was this version of Loch, which is now replaced by a new reincarnation of the lake dwelling monster to be unveiled soon.

Barfield, as part of the University's 40th anniversary and the Athletic Department's 20th anniversary, unveiled a new athletic logo that is, quite candidly, a lot better looking than anything Jerry West, Elgin Baylor, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson or Kobe Bryant have played under. And, like most other stories, there's a history involved.

The real history of Clayton State's athletic persona and image dates back to a couple of years after the first Lakers logo, when the dynamic duo of Dean of Students Bo Bolander and Director of Student Life Rob Taylor came up with a personification of a Laker, that is, Loch. The early '90s was a time of a great deal of speculation and searching for the Loch Ness Monster, so Bolander and Taylor dreamed up the Legend of Loch, a grown-up fairy tale that still appears on the Clayton State website at <http://about.clayton.edu/legends.htm>, and begins, and ends, "It's no mystery that Clayton State is home to a diverse setting of students, but deep within the walls of this university a mystery, a secret is hiding, a secret that remains to be solved... So, what is this 'Loch?' Is it a beast? Is it a friend? We may never find out the answers to all of our many questions, but it is worth the risk to find out. Is this the reason why this elusive creature has become the mascot of our university? Many students think it is, and maybe you should as well."

Bolander and Taylor claimed Loch was unearthed when the main lake on campus (now named Swan Lake) was created, thus becoming the Clayton State mascot. Over the years, there were several versions of Loch, however, Barfield wasn't entirely satisfied with his "look."

"It was more of a cartoonish Loch," he says. "It was not a look that translated well into a competitive, college athletics environment."

So, in the mid to late '90s, the Athletic Department started moving towards the "C" logo.



The new display cases in the Athletics & Fitness Center feature the new Loch design.

"A lot of places used that style of logo," Barfield recalls. "It played well for Clayton State Athletics. However, as we went along, I saw what other schools in our conference were doing with their logos."

Thus motivated by other schools in the Peach Belt Conference, Barfield turned to the Conference's licensing agency, which directed him to a couple of creative guys, Brad Bishop and Michael Thurman, operating as Torch Creative, out of Grapevine, Tx., an outfit that had already done some NBA and NHL work. In other words, Barfield heard it through the grapevine that these guys were good.

Good they were. Bishop and Thurman came to the Clayton State campus, and met with representatives of the Athletic Department, External Relations and the student-athletes. Barfield described his vision of Loch to them as a combination of a real creature - a dinosaur - and an imagined creature, a dragon.

"Just like we teach in higher education... a mix of reality and creativity," he explains.

Torch and Clayton State exchanged various sample logos over a period of time, before finally hitting on the new look for Clayton State - an appropriately fierce Loch leaping out of the waters of the lake and forming a "C" in the bargain.

"This is just the first step in creating a mascot," says Barfield. "We're working on trademarking it and there's already gear with the new logo in the University Bookstore."

"We've also used the new Loch in all of our new signage and displays in the Athletics and Fitness Center. The mascot and costume will transform our athletic image even more."

After 20 years, there's a new Loch at Clayton State.



Then



Now



Dr. Todd Janke Faculty Smith Award winner

By John Shiffert

faculty profile

Recognition by one's peers is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed in academia. At Clayton State University, that recognition comes in its highest form in the annual Alice J. Smith Awards.

As part of the Apr. 27 Faculty/Staff Awards Ceremony at Clayton State, Associate Professor of Philosophy Dr. Todd Janke received that special recognition as the winner of the 2010 Alice J. Smith Faculty Award. Although, as he stated from the podium, he makes a living speaking to groups of people, Janke was somewhat at a loss for words to describe how he felt.

"I love teaching and to be acknowledged for doing something you love is a tremendous honor," he finally said.

An associate professor at Clayton State since 2004, Janke is originally from Minnesota, but now calls Georgia home. He received his B.A. from St. Olaf College, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Georgetown University. Janke was also a nominee for the Clayton State College of Arts & Sciences Teacher of the Year Award for the 2009/2010 academic year.

In 2000, Dr. Ron Jackson, at the time the only philosophy professor at the University, began conducting research to see if sufficient interest existed to warrant a philosophy program. With the addition of Janke in 2004, the duo started to formulate their empirical evidence to justify a minor, which

began in the fall semester of 2006 with 25 students enrolled to ponder and discuss the writings of ancient and modern philosophers. That number has grown over the years as Janke, Jackson and Dr. Alexander Hall work to demystify the belief that philosophy is only for scholars. And, their efforts are working, since the University now has a philosophy club as well as a philosophy minor.

In addition to teaching philosophy, Janke also teaches critical thinking (a course focusing on skills essential to effective critical thinking in both academic and general use) and has also taught the University Foundations course that helps new students make a successful transition to Clayton State University and prepares them to meet the challenges of higher level learning and the demands of their chosen field.

When asked about his profession as part of the Smith Award nomination process, Janke said that the most rewarding part of his time at Clayton State is making philosophy come alive for students, and that he enjoys watching students transform each semester and really learn how to grapple with really dense text.

"Philosophy is different from many of the college courses students take, because it invites open discussion. Students not only learn, but also have personal engagement with ideas in a debate atmosphere," he notes.

Although matching wits with classmates and philosophers can seem intimidating, Janke works hard to create an atmosphere where students feel comfortable expressing their thoughts.

"My favorite course to teach is the one I am in at the moment," says Janke. "It doesn't matter the philosopher or the course topic; it's the students that make philosophy fun."

When he's not transforming students, Janke is an avid collector and restorer of antique typewriters.

"It's a real thrill to find an old machine in a thrift shop or antique store, take it apart to see how it works, clean it up, and get it running," he says. "I've passed a couple of machines on to friends, and at the moment I've got 17 or 18 typewriters taking up space in my home.

"The oldest is an Oliver 9 from 1914, and the newest is a Royal Caravan from 1962. My favorite for typing is an Underwood Quiet Tab De Luxe from the mid 50's."

The other finalists for the 2010 Alice Smith Faculty Award were: from the College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Susan Copeland; from the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences, Dr. Kelli Nipper; from the College of Health, Dr. Charlene Romer; and from the School of Business, Dr. Margaret Thompson.



Gid Rowell Staff Smith Award winner

By John Shiffert

staff profile

Clayton State University Director of Alumni Relations Gid Rowell had two reasons to celebrate on Tuesday, Apr. 27. One of the University's most respected staff members, Rowell was recognized during the annual Faculty/Staff Awards Ceremony with a certificate for his 10 years of service to Clayton State.

However, that was just a prelude to a much more significant honor. A three-time nominee for the highest award Clayton State can give to a staff member, Rowell found out that the third time was indeed the charm as he was named the winner of Clayton State's Alice J. Smith Staff Member of the Year Award for 2010.

"I will try to live up to the standard of all of the past Smith Award winners," he said with typical modesty in accepting the award. "Being nominated by your peers is especially rewarding, and I very much appreciate the support that I receive from the University community. Clayton State has and will always be a great place to work because of the people. There has always been a collegial atmosphere on campus, where everyone works together and supports each other."

A native of Bremen, Ga., and a graduate of Bremen High School and the University of West Georgia with a B.A. in Communications, Rowell came to Clayton State from Gordon College, where he served as public relations director from 1998 to 2000. Prior to that,

he was a sports editor for *MainStreet Newspapers* in Jefferson, Ga., from 1994 to 1998. He also served as a staff writer for the *Times-Georgian* in Carrollton, Ga., while attending West Georgia. He also holds a Master of Public Administration degree from West Georgia. Prior to being appointed director of Alumni Relations at Clayton State on Feb. 1, 2006, he spent six years as the University's sports information director.

Rowell's appointment as director of Alumni Relations represented a milestone for the University -- the first time that Clayton State had an individual serving solely as a full-time alumni director. The function of alumni director had, since 1995, been part of a joint development/alumni director position.

In addition to being named a finalist for Clayton State's Alice Smith Award in 2004 and 2005 (when he was sports information director), Rowell has won three awards from the College Sports Information Directors of America for his publications, including taking first place in Division B of the Multi-Guide Publications Contest for the 2003-2004 Clayton State Soccer Guide. As a journalist, he has also won awards from the National Newspaper Association and the Georgia Press Association.

One of the best parts of his current job, he says, is that it connects him to Clayton State alums, and he enjoys hearing all the positive comments former

students have about their university.

"Hearing alums reminisce about how things were when they went to school here is always interesting, and it is most rewarding to hear stories of how Clayton State gave them a start and how a college education has changed their life," he says.

Under Rowell's direction, the Clayton State Alumni Association has become a dynamic, growing organization, now numbering approximately 16,500 individuals. In addition, the demographics of the membership have changed. Henry County now has as many Clayton State alumni as Clayton County, while Fulton and Cobb counties have also shown marked growth in Clayton State alumni. Significant gains have also been made in Spalding and Newton counties.

In addition to his work for the Clayton State Alumni Association, Rowell is a devoted sports fan who remains close to the Clayton State Athletic Department. Currently the president of the Rotary Club of Clayton County, he received the club's "Service Above Self" award in 2008.

The other finalists for the University's 2010 Alice Smith Staff Award were: from University Health Services, Latrice Barlow; from the Center for Academic Success, Dr. Mark Daddona; from the office of Budget and Finance, Sonya Holtzclaw; and from Athletics, Pat Keane.



Lance Mealer

Serving other students

By Ciji Fox

student profile

Lance Mealer, a marketing major with a minor in finance, is enthusiastic about his experiences at Clayton State University.

"I love Clayton State! The faculty and staff here are awesome," he says. "They really care about the students and their success. It doesn't matter what department I've worked with, they have all been focused on the students. Any changes that take place are with the intent of making life easier and better for the students."

Mealer is involved in several activities of campus. One of his greatest responsibilities is being an orientation leader.

"Being an orientation leader has probably been one of the best decisions of my collegiate career," he says. "I've learned how to deal with conflict, different leadership styles and truly understand how to work in groups. I feel like I have become a better leader. I've obtained skills that I can use in all aspects of life and my career."

"Before I was an orientation leader, I had a sense of school pride, however, after becoming an orientation leader, my sense of school pride has increased tremendously! I don't know how anyone can attend Clayton State University and not be excited about all the changes that are going on... and better yet, how they can't be a part of it!"

Mealer admits there are some

challenges to being a student.

"The biggest challenge that I've faced is time management. Being an orientation leader, especially a member of the leadership team this year, you have many responsibilities," Mealer explains. "Couple those responsibilities with being a full-time student, working part-time in the school library, being a student government senator, and serving as the vice president of the GSA, plus family and life in general... you better learn to manage your time wisely! I think that's the biggest challenge that I've had, but I've had great mentors to help me learn how to do just that."

Despite a few challenges Mealer's experience has been rewarding.

"Most rewarding has been the friends that I've made on campus," he says. "It's truly been an honor to meet so many people and to have such a large support structure. That includes faculty, staff and students."

"The most memorable moment, and one that I find truly rewarding, was at an orientation session. It was last summer during our first freshmen two-day. A young man was really excited about attending Clayton State University and was looking forward to living in the new residence hall. However, his parents were having issues about letting their son stay on campus. During a break I spent a good 20 to 30 minutes talking with him and his parents about Clayton State University and what the

University had to offer. I told them about the benefits of living on campus, and how accessible the faculty and staff are. I also assured them that they could visit any time. I honestly didn't think much about it; thought of it as part of my job, so to speak. Imagine my surprise when the young man came up to me on move-in day and thanked me tremendously for talking to his parents. He said that my open discussion with them had truly persuaded them to allow him to move on campus and go to Clayton State University."

Mealer looks forward to the future of the University.

"I'm truly looking forward to the campus expansion, even though I know I only have two years to go," he says.



Tim Crawford

Giving back to his alma mater

By Erin Fender

trustee profile

As an alumnus and long time supporter, Hugh "Tim" Crawford, just recently turned his support into volunteerism with the Clayton State Board of Trustees. Crawford became involved with the Foundation in 2007 and is now serving his second year as board secretary and treasurer.

Currently, he is president and co-owner of Heritage Cadillac Saab in Morrow. Despite his current dedication and interest in the auto industry, this was not always the case. Right out of high school, his mother came to him and said those seven little words most parents utter, "son, you have to get a job." His mother helped place him as a janitor at the dealership where she worked.

"After three years in the auto business, I hated it and enrolled myself in night school at Clayton Junior College. I worked my way through school, so that I could pay for the tuition. Once I was done, my sole intent was to become an accountant. I was getting out of the auto business," laughs Crawford.

He was raised to give 110 percent, and because of his strong work ethic, he received repeated promotions. He has held practically every title one can in the auto business, including spending half of his 33 years in the auto industry as a controller. It was seven years ago that Crawford and his wife became co-owners of Heritage Cadillac Saab.

"I have made it all the way to the top, but I still find myself taking care of the lot, pulling weeds if needed and even cleaning up. I do anything and everything around there. It's important to me to take care of my business and make sure that if anyone comes to our dealership that it is a positive and informative experience," says Crawford.

He also says he is fortunate to share this experience with his wife Sabrina, "she is the best partner one can ask for in business and in life. We enjoy working together and her outgoing and giving spirit makes it a joy."

The family atmosphere does not end there. Daughter Meagan, a 2010 graduate of Clayton State's School of Business, recently joined the dealership full time as a business development manager.

"We have been very fortunate to have great kids; my oldest, Mandy, is a 2009 Clayton State alumna. Then we have Jennifer, who is expecting our first grandchild, and we are just really excited. Our youngest, Clay is a sophomore in high school. They are all passionate, and we all stay active in charity and volunteer work."

Tim and his wife are actively involved in charities that revolve around children. Offering his time back to the community is very important. He is a member and volunteer for many organizations including a board member of the Keith Brooking Children's Founda-

tion. In addition, he and his wife give their time to Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children.

"As someone who has experienced success in many aspects of my life, I consider it a responsibility and a privilege to give back to others who are less fortunate," says Crawford.

"It really means a great deal to be involved with Clayton State. As an alumnus, I really understand that my degree has helped me get where I am in life. I have obtained so many great friendships here, and I have two daughters with solid educations from this University. Any part I can play in helping others achieve an education means a great deal to me," he says.

Heritage Cadillac Saab was recognized as the 2007 Clayton County Business of the Year. A 1984 Clayton State graduate, Crawford was recognized as 2009's Alumnus of the Year.

Tim and his wife reside in Douglasville. They both try to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

"I want to stick around for a few more years and continue to give back. I am just so grateful for what I have achieved in life; it's very important to continue giving back," he says.



Jeff Wilson

A helping hand in Haiti

By Gid Rowell

alumni profile

Clayton State University School of Nursing alumnus Jeff Wilson has been a United States Air Force reservist for 17 years and has participated in missions all over the world, but his latest was his most difficult and likely, his most rewarding.

Wilson, who is the education program manager at Piedmont Fayette Hospital, was part of the U.S. Armed Services Operation United Response, the relief effort in response to the devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake that rocked Haiti on Jan. 12.

A captain with the title of flight nurse, Wilson is a member of the 94th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron that recently served in Iraq before its challenging mission to Haiti.

With just five hours to prepare and pack, Wilson was on his way to Haiti and was joined by a crew of four other medical professionals in an Air Force C-130. Their mission was to pick up three patients and treat them 30,000 feet in the air in the plane's cargo bay on their flight to Florida hospitals.

When the crew arrived in Haiti, 26 patients were waiting.

"I've been on many missions, but this was the most difficult of my career," said Wilson. "The injuries were extensive. There were skull fractures, spinal cord injuries, amputees and burns. We also had in our care one-week-old twins, born 10 weeks premature. All this was exacerbated by the stress of

the flight to the patients. The vibrations, sound, humidity and altitude all played a factor."

To make things even more difficult, Wilson says, "No one spoke English, only French and Haitian Creole. Communicating was a real challenge."

Lt. Col. David E. Rodberg, the medical crew director for the 94th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, echoed Wilson's comments on the difficulty of the mission.

"This particular Aeromedical Evacuation (AE), spanning the evening of Jan. 22 to the morning of Jan. 23, was one of the largest and most complicated ever flown in a C-130. It was the most complex AE that I've ever done.

"Unlike in a combat situation with standard gunshot wounds and blast injuries, we were dealing with crush injuries. On this flight we had depressed-skull fractures, burns, spinal cord injuries, amputations, not to mention neo-natal care."

The transport and care of the premature twins was one of the miracles of the mission. Before being transported by the C-130 to a hospital in Miami, FL, the 10-week premature twins had been in a make-shift hospital in Port-Au-Prince. There they had to be resuscitated and were in suitcase-type contraptions being used as make-shift incubators.

A doctor at the make-shift hospital said, "Yes, I really think it was a miracle that they lived that long. We have ba-

bies who are born 10-weeks prematurely under optimal circumstances in hospitals in the U.S. and even then, we have a really difficult time treating them and keeping them well. These babies survived just on water for eight days, and they were literally living in the rubble."

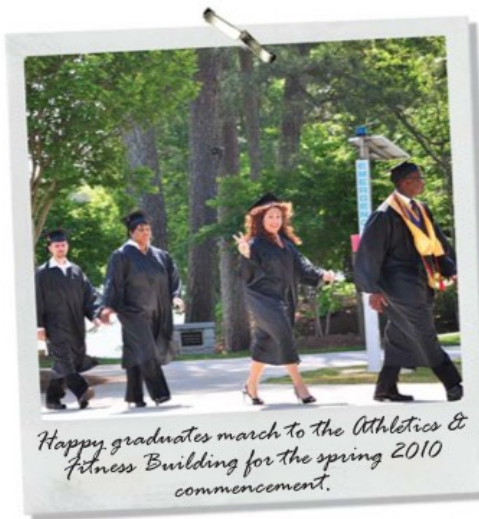
Six hours after the first patient was brought on board the plane in Haiti, four critical-care patients were off loaded at Miami International Airport to awaiting emergency medical teams. The rest of the patients were flown to Fort Lauderdale.

"Probably this flight saved their lives," said Dr. Maggie Brewinski, a pediatrician with the U.S. Agency for International Development, referring to the two infant patients. "I doubt they would have survived."

"It was a difficult mission," said Wilson. "There was a lot going on, on the ground and up in the air, but we remained calm and got these people the care they needed."

As a Haitian woman was being helped down the aircraft ramp she turned toward the crew. "Thank you," she said. "You are angels."

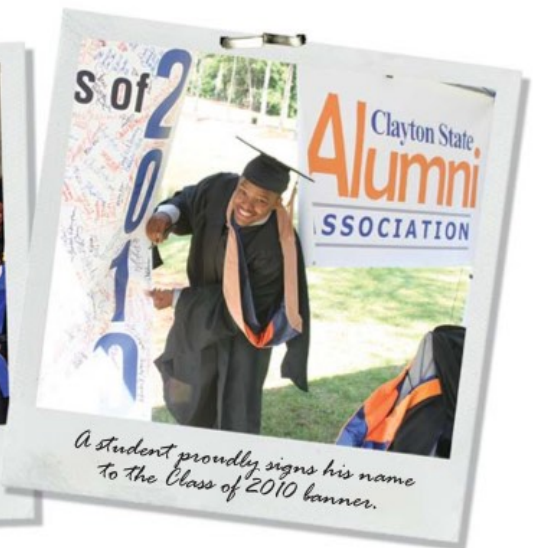
Wilson is a 2002 graduate of Clayton State with a B.S.N. degree. He and his wife, Anne-Marie, live in Jonesboro, Ga., and have three children: Jade, 15; Megan, 6; and Pierson, 2. Wilson was the recipient of the 2008 Clayton State Alumni Association School of Nursing Outstanding Alumnus Award.



Happy graduates march to the Athletics & Fitness Building for the spring 2010 commencement.



Clayton State Psychology & Human Services graduates gather for a photo.



A student proudly signs his name to the Class of '2010 banner.

Clayton State alumni, brag a little...

Clayton State 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!

1973

GORDON BAKER
(A.A. Education '73)

Baker, of McDonough, Ga., was re-elected as chairman of Henry County Library's Board of Trustees earlier this year, marking his seventh year as chairman. Baker is an active member in the librarian community with appointments to Secretary of the Southeastern Library Association (SELA) and to the Chapter Relations Committee of the American Library Association (ALA), in addition to numerous other SELA and ALA affiliations. He is also editor of *The Gait Connection*, the journal of the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology. Baker serves as the dean of the Library for the Clayton State Library after 29 years in the public school systems of Clayton and Henry Counties.



1977

JEANNIE SPRINGFIELD
(A.A. '77)

Springfield was named Clayton State's Overall Outstanding Alumnus for 2010 at the Alumni Association's Annual Dinner. She is the vice president of General Produce, Inc., one of Georgia's top produce companies. It is the largest full line wholesale produce house in the Southeast and is located on the grounds of the Georgia State Farmers Market in Forest Park, Ga. She has been a long-time contributor and past board member of the Good Shepherd Clinic and is also active in the Daughters of the American Revolution. She and her husband, Victor, live in Peachtree City, but remain active at First Baptist Church of Morrow, where she has taught Sunday School for some 25 years and



Class Notes

serves on the Finance Committee. They have two grown children, Rex and Megan.

1979

DONALD A. DECINQUE

(A.A. Business Administration '79)

DeCinque, of McDonough, Ga., was recognized earlier this year by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, as one of the area's top 50 leaders in finance for 2010. DeCinque is the president and CEO of the Atlanta Postal Credit Union, beginning his career there in



1981 as a teller. DeCinque also serves on the boards of Cooperative Services Inc., SWIRL, Credit Union Loan Source, Georgia Credit Union League and the National Council of Postal Credit Unions.

1990

THOMAS A. GEORGE

(B.B.A. Management '90)

George, of Cumming, Ga., is the director of Human Resources for Employment & Compensation at Georgia Perimeter College. His department was recognized with a Customer Service award earlier this year from the governor's office. GPC also recognized his employment and compensation team with the Continuous Improvement and Values Award. George is a former employee of Clayton State and received the Overall Distinguished Alumnus award in 2006 for his long-time service to the Alumni Association.



George is a former employee of Clayton State and received the Overall Distinguished Alumnus award in 2006 for his long-time service to the Alumni Association.

1993

MARGIE K. HUNTER

(B.S. Nursing '93)

Hunter received the Outstanding Alumnus Award for the College of



Clayton State's Annual Alumni Dinner 2010 at the Fox Theatre.

Health at the Alumni Association's 2010 Annual Dinner. Hunter is the director of Women's and Infant Services at DeKalb Medical Center. She is responsible for administrative, clinical, fiscal, quality management and regulatory operations for the Women's Services Division and supervises more than 250.



She was the team leader for the design, planning and construction of the state-of-the-art, free standing, \$55 million, 163,000 square foot DeKalb Women's and Surgical Center. Prior to working at DeKalb, she was the director of Women's Services at Southern Regional Medical Center in Riverdale, Ga. She and her husband, Bob, live in Atlanta.

1994

JENNIE (VANDIVER) JENNINGS

(A.S. Psychology '94)

Jennings and her husband, Eric, live in Hanahan, S.C. She is an executive assistant for Apogee Partners, LLC, in Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

TAMI L. PETTY

(B.A. Music Performance '94)

Petty, of New York, N.Y., was awarded the inaugural Michel Sorel Charitable Organization's Emerging Artist Award earlier this year. As the recipient of Sorel's Emerging Artist

Award, soprano Petty made her Lincoln Center debut with Voices of Ascension in Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* on Mar. 22. The performance in the Center's Alice Tully Hall drew great acclaim, as The *New York Times* praised her "powerful soprano" and Harry Rolnick from



The Classical Music Network wrote, "such a beauty and purity of tone is so rare that I could only listen in ethereal pleasure."

1995

NATALIE JEAN (GUNNIN) SIBLEY

(B.A. Middle Grades Education '95)

Sibley, of Sharpsburg, Ga., was a finalist for the 2010 Teacher of the Year in the Coweta County School system. Sibley teaches fifth grade math and language at Willis Road Elementary. She received a master's in education from Graceland University. She also has a specialist degree in Brain-Based Learning from Nova Southeastern University.



VIBHA SINGLA

(B.B.A. Accounting '95)

Singla operates her own CPA firm in Forest Park and Hampton, Ga. She practices general accounting work, bookkeeping and tax returns, etc. The firm specializes in nonprofit organizations and small businesses tax planning, organizational structure and tax returns. She recently



had a ribbon-cutting for her new office in Hampton located at 3175 Highway 81 West. Singla is president-elect of the Lake Spivey Rotary Club this year.

She and her husband, Diwan, live in Jonesboro.

1996

PHYLLIS K. PRUIKSMA
(B.S. Nursing '96)

Pruikmsa, of Fayetteville, Ga., and her daughter Melaine Davis, who is a nursing student at Clayton State, both took part in the Clayton State School of Nursing's mission trip to Guatemala. The mother/daughter nursing team shared the experience along with other Clayton State nurses in the jungle of Rio Dulce.

1997

DINA M. SWEARNGIN
(A.S.N. '94, B.S.N. '97 & M.S.N. '09)

Swearngin, of Tyrone, Ga., was honored for her work at DeKalb Medical Center by the AJC in their Celebrating Nursing ... Nursing Excellence Awards. Only 300 nurses state-wide out of over 100,000 were recognized with the honor. A part-time nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, she teaches full-time at Clayton State. She is also president of the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society and vice-president of the Clayton State Alumni Association.



1998

RICHARD M. JEFFARES
(B.A.S. Technology Management '98)

Jeffares has announced that he will be running for the state Senate District 17 seat. Jeffares had served as a Henry County Commissioner in 2008. A former recipient of the Clayton State School of Technology's Outstanding Alumnus award in 2005, he served as the city manager of Locust Grove from 2001 to 2008. Jeffares owns J&T Environmental Services, a small business



that provides operations and management of water and wastewater treatment plants, water distribution and collection systems. He and his wife, Leslie, live in Henry County. He has four daughters and one grandchild. He attends Sharon Baptist Church.

1999

FREDRICK D. HICKS
(B.A. Integrative Studies '99)

Hicks, of Tallahassee, Fla., received the Outstanding Alumnus Award for the College of Arts & Sciences at the Alumni Association's 2010 Annual Dinner. Hicks is the founder of the Hicks Evaluation Group (HEG) which has led 12 successful political campaigns since its creation in 2006. He is responsible for the successful Atlanta City Council President campaign for Ceasar Mitchell in 2009 and he will also run the re-election campaign of Fulton County Commission Chairman John Eaves. Hicks was active as a student in the Honors Program and served as SGA president from 1998-99.



2003

GORDON C. HALL
(B.I.T. Information Technology '03)

Hall, of Conyers, Ga., established The Gordon Hall Law Firm, P.C., in 2009.



KENDALL S. ELLIS
(B.B.A. Marketing '03)
Ellis, of Cumming, Ga.,

received the Outstanding Alumnus Award for the School of Business at the Alumni Association's 2010 Annual Dinner. He currently is employed by the Oracle Corporation in Alpharetta, Ga., as a systems design engineer and has been recognized by both Oracle and Sun Microsystems for his work. While at Clayton



Dr. Mike Deis congratulates an MBA grad during their hooding ceremony.



State, he was a member of Delta Epsilon Chi and won state and national awards representing the organization. He and his wife, Charmain, have two daughters, Kari and Erin.

LINDA M. PHILLIPS
(B.B.A. Business Management '03)

Phillips of Ellenwood, Ga., is owner of Phillips & Associates Realty which opened in 2003. She recently received her MBA from Strayer University and graduated with honors.

FARRAH F. PULLIN
(B.A. Integrative Studies '03)

Pullin, of Fairburn, Ga., is a professional assistant with the Fulton County Board of Education in College Park, Ga.

LEANNE (SCOTT) BRADBERRY
(B.I.T. Information Technology '03)

Bradberry, of Senoia, Ga., and her husband, Scotty, welcomed their first child, Jacob Scott Bradberry, on Jan. 25, 2010 (6 pounds, 15 ounces; 19.5 inches). Bradberry is currently the Web Support Specialist at Clayton State.



Class Notes

2004

NELSON A. BURKE
(B.B.A. '04)

Burke, of Atlanta, performed with the William Baker Festival Singers in a concert at Spivey Hall earlier this year. He and the rest of the Singers presented *The Passion According to St. John* by J. S. Bach. Burke is the owner of a business in Hapeville called The Engineer Guy (www.theengineerguy.com).

THOMAS L. MARSHALL
(B.I.T. Database Management '04)



Marshall, of Jonesboro, Ga., received the Outstanding Alumnus Award for the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences at the Alumni Association's 2010 Annual Dinner. He is currently the director of Administrative Systems for the Office of Information and Technology Services at Clayton State. He is the proud father of a young son and daughter. His wife, Mila, is enrolled in the Master of Science in Nursing program at Clayton State.



ANDREW D. PIPPIN
(B.A. Media & Communications Studies '04)
Pippin, of Hampton, Ga., was recently appointed city manager of Hampton. Pippin started the position in January after previously working at the Hampton branch of the First National Bank of Griffin.

2005

SANDRA HILL
(B.A. Media & Communications Studies '05)
Hill, of Riverdale, Ga., is a security analyst with IBM.

2006

SARAH (ERNEST) JUAREZ & MANNY JUAREZ
Sarah and Manny Juarez announce the birth of their first child, Carmen. She was born on Dec. 11, 2009 at Fayette Piedmont Hospital. She weighed eight lbs., 10.5 oz. and was 20.5 inches long. Sarah (B.B.A. '02), who played basketball at Clayton State, teaches in Clayton County Schools, while Manny (B.I.T. '01), who ran cross country and track, teaches in the Henry County Schools.



BRIAN CALL
(B.B.A. General Business '06)
Call, of Jonesboro, Ga., graduated

last spring from an MBA program with a concentration in logistics from Troy University.

BERNADETTE S. LONCKE
(B.S. Health Care Management '06)
Loncke, of Hampton, Ga., is a nurse with Lafayette Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. She is pursuing her doctorate at Walden University in their Public Health program specializing in Community Health. Her son, Kevin, graduated from Clayton State in 2008 and is pursuing a master's degree in Criminal Justice, while her other son is a new enlist in the U.S. Marines.

ELIZABETH (WELLINGTON) & THOMAS ZAHAROPOULOS
Liz and Tom were married in an intimate ceremony in Golden, Colo., earlier this year. They now call Bettendorf, Iowa home, as the couple relocated due to Liz's job at Rock Island Arsenal in Rock Island, Ill. Liz holds three degrees from Clayton State (M.B.A. '09, B.B.A. '06 and A.A. '00), while Tom also graduated from Clayton State with a B.B.A. in 2006.

2007

MICHAEL G. BOWERS
(B.B.A. Management '07)
Bowers, of Oxford, Ga., is the general manager for Bowers Fabrication Service, Inc., one of the largest manufacturers of paving components in the Southern U.S. As a writer and speaker, he is deeply involved with family, church and community life. He is the founder of The Character-Quest Project, a movement dedicated to teaching and upholding the values of honesty, integrity and discipline in our communities, our organizations and in ourselves.

AKSHAYA GUPTA
(B.S. Integrative Studies '07)
Gupta, of Morrow, Ga., has launched two more websites, Jujubradio.com

under Jujub India Private Limited and Gojub.com under Vinayak Web Solutions Private Limited.



Jujubradio.com consists of music, news, horoscopes and games, while Gojub.com consists of domains, products "buy/sell," hosting, SSL certificates and business solutions.

KEISHA (JENNINGS) & DOMINIC SAMUELS

Keisha and Dominic were married last year and the couple has a two-year old son. Keisha (B.A. '07) is currently working at Lake City Elementary in the Special Education Department, while Dominic (B.B.A. '06) is serving in the United States Navy and is stationed in California.

SHAMECQUA (ROSS) THOMPSON (B.A. Integrative Studies '07)

Thompson married her first love, Marcus Thompson, on Feb. 14, 2010, and they recently bought their first home in Ellenwood, Ga. The couple's first child, Marcus Thompson Jr., was due to arrive July 17, 2010. Shamecqua just completed her second year of teaching and will be teaching again next year



at Forest Park Middle School. She is a member of Nu Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and still participates in activities. She plans to start her master's in Speech and Language Pathology in this fall at Nova Southeastern University.

VICTORIA L. WILLIAMS (B.B.A. Accounting '07)

Williams, of Atlanta, was recently promoted to senior assistant financial examiner with the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance. She graduated with Distinction from

Liberty University with a Master's in Accounting.

2008

DEBBIE S. BALL

(B.S. Health Care Management '08)
Ball, of Houston, Tex., is enlisted with the United States Navy and her position is in the Navy Health Service Colleague.

JERMERIAH L. CARR

(B.B.A. Management '08)
Carr, of Smyrna, Ga., recently received a promotion to teller operations specialist with the Bank of America in Atlanta. She is also a director on the Clayton State Alumni Association Board of Directors.

ANNA W. COX

(M.A. Liberal Studies '08)
Cox, of Jonesboro, Ga., was named the 2009-10 STAR Teacher at Jonesboro High School. Cox was Clayton State's first master's level graduate.

JULIE J. KORNDER

(B.S. Biology '08)
Kornder is a junior at the University of Georgia in the College of Veterinary Medicine. She is the Hill's Pet Food Student Representative and spent her summer working at Banfield, The Pet Hospital. She will graduate as a DVM in 2012.

PAULINE (WOODARDS) RESPRESS (B.A.S. Administrative Management '08)

Respress, of Ellenwood, recently received her M.Ed. in Information Technology from Georgia State University and is also pursuing her Ed.S. in Educational Leadership, expecting to graduate in 2011.

MARK A. SNYDER

(B.S. Integrative Studies '08)
Snyder, of Stone Mountain, Ga., recently completed his master's degree from Ashford University in Organizational Management. He was also promoted to customer serv-

ice & special project manager with the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management in November 2009.

2009

KRISTINA BJORAN

(B.A. English '09)
Bjoran, of Stockbridge, Ga., was recently accepted in the MIT Graduate Program in Sciences Writing.

SHANNON PHILLIPS

(B.A.S. Technology Management '09)
Attending Clayton State through the Delta ICAPP project, Phillips received her degree with an Aviation Administration concentration. She was recently promoted to the supervisory position of planner at Delta Airlines.

REYNARD PULLIAM

(B.S. Psychology & Human Services '09)
Pulliam and his wife, Geraldine, celebrated their 50th wedding Anniversary on Feb. 27, 2010.

2010

GAIL BUCKNER

(B.S. Integrative Studies '10)
Buckner, of Jonesboro, has announced her candidacy for the Secretary of the State of Georgia in 2010. She currently serves in the Georgia State Senate, representing District 44. She served 16 years as a State Representative (District 76). Buckner was named Clayton State's Alumnus of the Year in 2002.



TONYA CASTON

(B.S. Supply Chain Management '10)
Caston, of Hampton, Ga., completed a milestone. After three kids and several attempts at finishing her degree, she completed that goal and got a job working in her field of study. She works as a purchasing agent for Sunny Delight Beverages Co. in Atlanta. She says, "I am living proof that it's never too late to reach your goals."

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