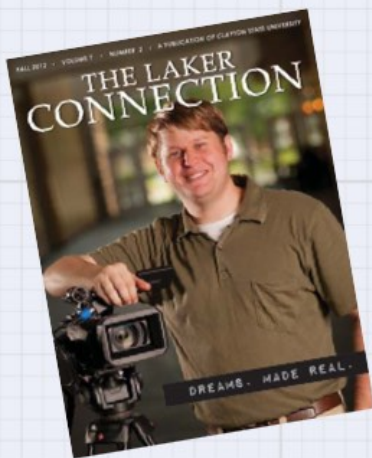


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THE LAKER CONNECTION



DREAMS . MADE REAL .



DREAMS . MADE REAL .

Brian Roberts, a Clayton State University Communication & Media Studies major, is making his dream as a videographer real. See his success story, along with many others, on page 3.

Cover photo by Kevin Liles ('11)

THE LAKER CONNECTION

Vol. 7, No. 2, FALL 2012

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Above: Clayton State University is the place where dreams are made real. This campus photo was captured by Clayton State alumnus Kevin Liles ('11) who is using his B.A. in Communication & Media Studies in his career as a professional photographer. Find out more about Kevin's story on page 31. Visit www.clayton.edu/madereal to see how Clayton State University makes dreams a reality.

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President's Message

As I write, I recall that *James* magazine recently labeled Clayton State as the best buy in higher education in Georgia. Our fall

enrollments are the highest in the history of the University. So even with challenges, my own framing of the University is quite positive.

We all bring our own framing or perspectives to our understanding about higher education. For some, higher education is only a commodity. Learning is of value only because of the kind of job or promotion that will be achieved upon graduation. As a commodity, the means by which learning is achieved is less important than the learning itself. In this context, new developments in the delivery of courses on-line portend the end of traditional higher education forms—that all learners will be on-line, and that the need for traditional universities will be significantly reduced if not eliminated. Those of us involved in higher education must attend to this perspective, even if we believe that such a perspective cannot fully capture the value of higher education. Clayton State's own involvement in on-line learning—graduate programs in nursing education and archival studies, and undergraduate completion programs through our Bachelor of Applied Sciences, for example—demonstrate that we have not ignored this framing of higher education. But we believe that alone, such a framework is incomplete.



Dr. Thomas J. "Tim" Hynes, Jr.

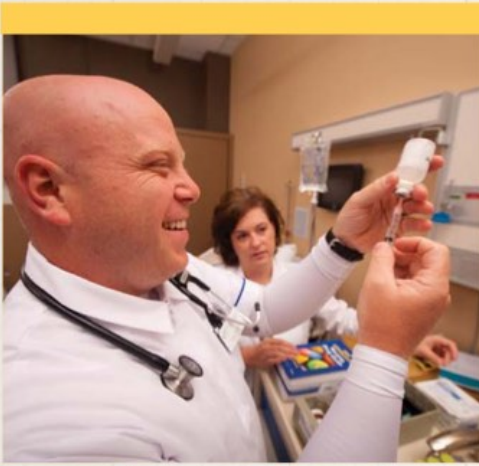
Another important frame for higher education comes from the belief that higher education is either primarily a public good or a private benefit. To frame higher education as most appropriately an important public good is to emphasize larger social benefits from increases in the number of college graduates. Data from the Atlanta Regional Consortium for Higher Education indicates that beyond higher incomes than less educated persons, college graduates have comparably better health, better education for their children, lower crime rates, and higher levels of tax support over their lifetimes. As a product of publically supported higher education myself, and as the first member of my family to graduate from college, I confess that my own framing acknowledges a private benefit, even as the public good is one which continues to be shared with others.

Our university's responsibilities as stewards of place allow us to benefit from the framing of our institution as a driver of educational, economic, and community and regional contributions. If Harvard were to close tomorrow, the Harvard faculty would have offers elsewhere by the end of the week, and some other institutions would have already begun asset transfers of the Harvard Corporation's endowment. If an institution like Clayton State were to end operations, the area around us and our students would likely be forever harmed. There will be no later generations of graduates who, like our alumni and our current students, have used their experiences to realize their ambitions, their accomplishments, and their dreams. There would be no location for our community to convene as they work to find common ground, and safe places for discussions about ways for community ambitions and dreams to be realized. That is the frame through which I view the value of our work.

We are committed to doing more to influence the framing applied to our institution. If there was one consistent message that I received when starting on an interim basis three year ago, it was a plea to tell the rest of Georgia and elsewhere who we really are at Clayton State. We heard our faculty, our alumni, our current students; our community members, say similar things—that Clayton State has a history of bringing many things for our students and our community to reality. For some, dreams have been realized -- access for those without access, or early access for dual enrollment students. For some, it has been economic success realized — or a history of active student learning realized — or a national basketball championship realized -- or a history of support of progress in south metropolitan Atlanta realized. For years, the University has made things real.

I hope that together you will help us tell well how Clayton State University has helped you make your dreams, your ambitions, your faith and your hopes become real.





CLAYTON STATE IS

DREAMS . MADE REAL .



“My dream is to walk on all seven continents, so I would like to travel to poor areas all over the world. I also hope to establish medical facilities and schools in impoverished communities to help in their development. As a citizen of the developed world, I believe education is key to a better standard of life.”

“Some days it still feels unreal. It’s a blessing. To see all the hard work and dedication my teammates and I went through to pay off was a thing of beauty. It’s been an experience that I’ve always dreamed of.”

Dreams made real is what Clayton State does, and even the biggest dreams – like walking on all seven continents, or be-



“I am on the pre-med track, so I plan to use my studies in biology to go to medical school. Although I could have chosen any other major and fulfilled the required pre-requisite to get into medical school, I believe that a biology degree would best prepare me for the MCAT and medical school. As of right now, I am undecided about what type of physician I want to be, but I do know that I want to be a doctor that is most needed in third world countries.”

Sotheavy Vann



The Clayton State women's basketball team realized their ultimate athletic dream when they became NCAA Division II National Champions in 2011.



Woodard

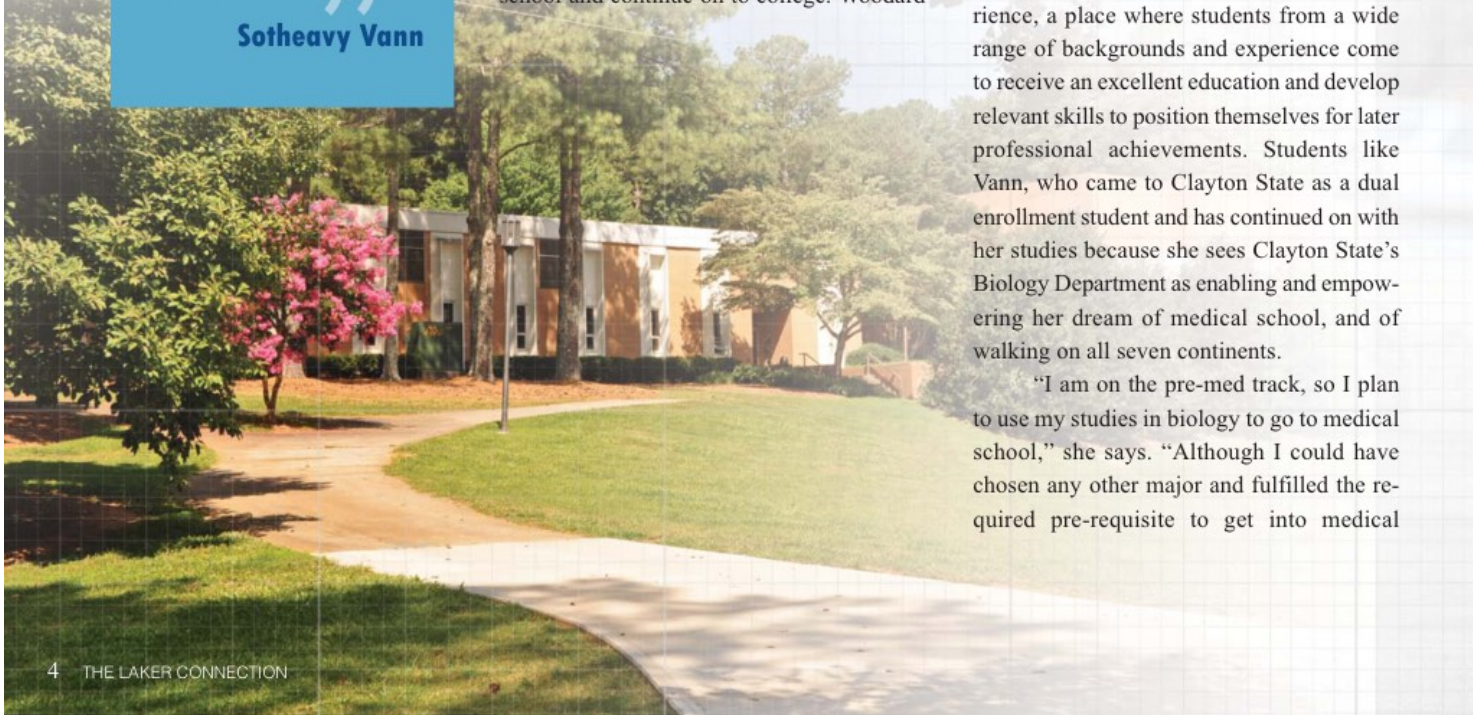
coming the first member of your family to go to college and then winning a national championship -- are made real for students like biology major Sotheavy Vann, who dreams of walking on the continents, or Tanisha Woodard, a national champion, an NCAA Division II Basketball First-Team All-American, a Clayton State psychology major, and the first one in her family to graduate high school and continue on to college. Woodard

had one dream made real by holding a national championship trophy, and another dream made real by holding her acceptance letter to college.

Empowering

Clayton State is an empowering experience, a place where students from a wide range of backgrounds and experience come to receive an excellent education and develop relevant skills to position themselves for later professional achievements. Students like Vann, who came to Clayton State as a dual enrollment student and has continued on with her studies because she sees Clayton State's Biology Department as enabling and empowering her dream of medical school, and of walking on all seven continents.

“I am on the pre-med track, so I plan to use my studies in biology to go to medical school,” she says. “Although I could have chosen any other major and fulfilled the required pre-requisite to get into medical



school, I believe that a biology degree would best prepare me for the MCAT and medical school. As of right now, I am undecided about what type of physician I want to be, but I do know that I want to be a doctor that is most needed in third world countries.”

Another Clayton State student who has been empowered by his work on and off campus is Eric Simmons, a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) graduate student as well as a graduate of Clayton State’s undergraduate English program. He developed his skills in a practicum at Morrow Middle School, learning the importance of classroom management, lesson plan organization, and how to connect with students in a meaningful way.



Simmons

“You need to be able to think quickly on your feet in the event that lesson plans, activities, or the day in general, does not go as planned,” he says. “In those events, it is important not to become rattled and to calmly transition to an alternative assignment.

“My practicum experience at Clayton State University was a very positive one. I had the ability to work in classroom settings ranging from a seventh grade language arts collaborative classroom to a 10th grade honors English course.”

These experiences enabled Simmons (and his MAT fellows) to fully prepare for the challenges he faces in the classroom, explains MAT English Program Coordinator Dr. Ruth Caillouet.

“I want this program to help improve the quality of English education not only in our surrounding counties, but also beyond. I want our graduates to help re-think the way that writing and literature are being taught in America’s schools. This is a chance to help change lives by making it possible for future educators to finally get their dream of teaching English.”

Dreams come in all shapes and sizes. Brian Roberts, a senior Communication and Media Studies (CMS) major had a dream of a career as a videographer. He started working as a volunteer on television sets, learning how to operate professional video equipment, and soon after started working as a live camera operator for high school sports on Georgia Public Broadcasting. After two seasons of sports, he was offered an internship at GPB where he currently works as an intern production assistant and secondary camera operator for the local television show *Georgia Traveler*. During his senior year, Roberts has used his CMS skills as a photographer and videographer for



“Clayton State helps make my dreams real by providing the perfect environment that challenges me to strive for success not only as a student, but also as a media professional.”

Brian Roberts
featured on the cover



“I want this program to help improve the quality of English education not only in our surrounding counties, but also beyond. I want our graduates to help re-think the way that writing and literature are being taught in America’s schools. This is a chance to help change lives by making it possible for future educators to finally get their dream of teaching English.”

Dr. Ruth Caillouet

DREAMS . MADE REAL .



Furlong

Dr. Michelle Furlong is living her dream as an educator at Clayton State University.

chair of the Department of Natural Sciences and a working mom.

“I want (my daughter Delia) to be successful and see me in that light,” Furlong says. She is also honored to lead the department as it continues to grow and transcend. She is dedicated to promoting excellent teaching and student success.

“I met all my dreams,” she declares, “I made it, and I’m really happy.”

Diverse

Clayton State students come from a wide range of backgrounds and experience. In-

deed, the concept of diversity itself is a wide-ranging one at Clayton State, taking in far more than race and ethnicity. As President Dr. Thomas J. Hynes has noted, “we must continue to deepen and enrich that diversity to include student connections to international experiences, connections across not only race, but class, prior educational and geographical experiences, and ethnicity.”

As a result, it is the very diversity of the people, their interests, and their dreams that bring the Clayton State community together and give everyone a feeling of inclusion. A prime example of that inclusion is recent graduate Tony Yaacoub.

A native of Beirut, Lebanon, he originally came to Clayton State through the Georgia Rotary Student Program. He found that his dream was right here in Morrow, so he stayed on afterwards to complete his degree (in May 2012) in mathematics. Along

the Department of Athletics and has also been assisting as a freelance videographer for the Department of Image and Communications.

Of course, the Clayton State faculty have also had their dreams made real; have also been empowered by their teaching. Faculty members like Dr. Michelle Furlong,

Leadership Dreams In The Making

Tony Yaacoub (also pictured at far right as Homecoming King) and four fellow Clayton State students learned more about what it takes to become a leader at the 2012 Georgia International Leadership Conference (GILC). Brett Reichert, Clayton State associate director, International Student Services Office (ISSO) accompanied the students. (Group L to R): Yaacoub, Elitha Sinclair, Brett Reichert, Amber Nguyen, Shuranda Taylor, Yash Brahmhatt.



the way, Yaacoub became president and founder of Clayton State's International Student Association, a DEEP Peer educator, a member on the Student Fees Committee, a member of the Financial Club, a dean's list student and an attendee and presenter at several scholarly mathematical conferences throughout the Southeast, and the winner of the William A. Watt Award and the Mathematics Outstanding Senior Award from the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences.

If that's not enough inclusion, Yaacoub capped his time at Clayton State by being named the Homecoming King in February 2012.

Engagement

Education at Clayton State is more than informing students, it's about engaging students in a dynamic learning experience and preparation outside the classroom that challenges them to develop a depth of understanding, both inside and outside their fields of study.

For example, engagement at Clayton State is the Non-Traditional Student Organization putting on a "Welcome Back to Your Dream" meet and greet, to allow non-traditional students, a group that often has difficulty becoming engaged with the college scene, to mingle and get to know each other.

Engagement in learning is about Christina Gardner being offered a computer

science major's dream internship for the summer of her senior year as a full-time employee at United Services Automobile Association's world headquarters in San Antonio, Tex., thanks to the networking and opportunities available through the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing conference she attended in Atlanta.

Supportive Community

Finally, Clayton State is a supportive community. There is a sense of support, and of student-centeredness that's hard to miss. That support starts with the efforts of the First-Year Advising and Retention Center, and continues throughout the student's Clayton State career, including the careers of graduate students. It includes student services like financial aid, career services,



“The Clayton State Women's Forum Scholarship I received paid for the majority of my summer classes, which were essential for me to stay on track for graduation. I will always be grateful to them for their support in making my dreams real and will readily support them.”

Christina Gardner

DREAMS . MADE REAL .





“The classes were challenging but the professors were so enthusiastic that it was contagious, and they were all very involved in wanting us to succeed. Achieving (an MBA) has made me feel that I am capable of much more than I ever dreamed.”

Alisa Kirk

University Health Services, counseling services, the library, the HUB, and a wide variety of non-academic programs in the Office of Student Affairs... the list goes on and on.

“My experience at Clayton State University has been incredibly positive,” says Master of Science in Nursing student Debra Curry, a past recipient of the Clayton State Retirees Association scholarship. “Regardless of the services utilized – financial aid, dental and health services, the center for academic success, IT, and librarian services – commitment to student success has proven to be the order of the day. My time at Clayton State has reminded me of the joy of learning and discovery and the dreams that emerge from a place of higher education.”



Curry

Alisa Kirk is currently the area director of the Clayton State Small Business Development Center. However, at one time she was an administrative specialist in the Clayton State Center for Instructional Development, with a 20-year dream. What

happened? She earned her MBA from the College of Business.

“The classes were challenging but the professors were so enthusiastic that it was contagious, and they were all very involved in wanting us to succeed,” she says of her academic experience at Clayton State, also noting that a lot of support came from her fellow students. “Achieving (an MBA) has made me feel that I am capable of much more than I ever dreamed.”

Dreams Made Real

These are just a few stories of how a diversity of people’s dreams have been made real at Clayton State. From the biggest dreams, like a national championship or the possibility of walking on all seven continents, to attention to the “little things” of college life, like engaging non-traditional students, Clayton State is all about making the hoped-for become reality. Dreams of undergraduates, graduates, faculty, staff, alumni; dreams from all walks of life and all academic disciplines; from biology to psychology to teaching to media studies to math to computer science to nursing to business. As an empowering, diverse, engaging, supportive University, Clayton State is dreams made real.

— John Shiffert



VP for External Relations Kate Troelstra Getting People Involved with Clayton State

Her title is “Vice President for External Relations.” And it fits. Kate Troelstra, Clayton State University’s new (as of June 11, 2012) vice president for external relations, is all about relating. More exactly, about getting people involved with Clayton State, and building relationships.

Throughout her career in higher education, which spans more than 20 years, Troelstra has concentrated her efforts on building relationships. At Clayton State, she will be responsible for a wide range of relationship-building functions in the External Relations Division, including the University’s Development, Alumni Relations, Image and Communications, and University Relations offices.

“The more people we can get involved with Clayton State, the better,” she says. “For me, it’s all about how (External Relations) can get people involved with Clayton State. Whether it’s coming to an event on campus, being admitted as a student, volunteering or getting a job at Clayton State; it’s about involvement and investment, because everyone has their passion.”

Troelstra speaks with passion, because she already understands that Clayton State is indeed about dreams made real.

“If you would like to make a college experience a reality for someone, we can help you do that,” she says. “If you want to realize your dream as nurse, we can help you do that. It’s about matching up your dreams with what we offer at Clayton State.”

Clearly a devotee after only a few months on the job, Troelstra says it wasn’t hard to be attracted to Clayton State.

“The university is moving forward, but it’s doing so in a controlled, thoughtful manner. It’s growth with a purpose,” she says, when asked why she was attracted to Clayton State from her previous position as senior director of development at Clemson University.

Fitting together with the concept of dreams made real is that controlled, thoughtful part of Clayton State’s future, as reflected in the University’s strategic plan.

“That’s what drives us,” she explains. “What I ask is, ‘what is External Relations doing to support the strategic plan?’”

In case you’re wondering about that last question, Troelstra already has some answers.

“Regardless of the economic climate, universities have to think about growing and moving forward. If you decide to maintain the status quo, you fall behind,” she says. “I think Clayton

State is very aware of who we are, and of the strong services and opportunities we are able to offer to students and the community. Now we, as a division, just need to figure out how to best let the world know about it and invite them to become a part of it.”

A graduate of Johns Hopkins University, Troelstra began her professional career there as a phonathon caller and later phonathon supervisor. Since graduation, she has added experience in a wide range of educational settings, including liberal arts colleges, public research universities, professional schools, and independent schools. At Clemson, she oversaw prospect research, managed hiring, orientation, and professional development; prepared reports and analysis for the campaign and reinvestment fee, and carried a portfolio of major gift prospects focused mainly in Atlanta.

No matter where she has served, including Providence Day School in Charlotte, N.C., Rutgers University, and The Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University, Troelstra has kept her focus on relationship-building, something she’ll continue at Clayton State, to the point where she requested that this story finish with an invitation to all our readers.

“What will help me in this role is talking to as many people as I can, whether they are graduates, friends, business leaders, students, Clayton State employees, anyone,” she says. “Be sure to publish my email address.

“Email me, I’d love to talk to you. Although I certainly want to hear from our close friends, I’m hoping to get some responses from people who have not necessarily been that closely connected with Clayton State recently. I want to know how they might want to get involved with Clayton State. I’ll talk to anyone.”

And she will. As requested, Troelstra’s email address at Clayton State is kate@clayton.edu. Drop her a note, she’d love to hear from you; because, in the end, her job is indeed about building relationships.



— John Shiffert

The Office of Alumni Relations Laker Alumni Forever

“Clayton State students for a short time, but Laker alumni forever” is a popular axiom for the Clayton State Office of Alumni Relations, and it fittingly represents the primary function of the Alumni Office ... building and maintaining relationships for a lifetime.

The Clayton State Office of Alumni Relations is a department within the University’s Division of External Relations. The current Alumni Relations Department was created in 2006 with the department’s first full-time alumni director starting at that time.

The purpose of the Alumni Office is to foster and build strong relationships with current and future graduates of the institution. More specifically, the mission of the department, along with the help of the school’s dedicated alumni, is to “enhance Clayton State’s standing as an outstanding comprehensive metropolitan university, and provide support to Alumni Association members, as they promote an enduring legacy of pride, loyalty and commitment to Clayton State.”

“Alumni are one of the greatest assets of a University,” said Kate Trolestra, vice president for External Relations. “Building and maintaining relationships with our alumni base is so important in the overall success of a university. Not only are our alumni our biggest supporters, they can also serve as advisers and advocates in support of the school’s mission, as they have vested interest in the success of the institution.”

Since the Alumni Department’s creation six years ago, the Alumni Office has diligently worked to create a structure to better communicate and engage with the University’s 19,000 alumni, whom mostly reside in metro Atlanta.

With the University’s first alumni class dating from 1970, and the fact that Clayton State has graduated a much higher percentage of students in recent years, the institution has a relatively young alumni base. Figures show that more than 75 percent of Clayton State alumni graduated within the last 20 years.

The Alumni Office’s structured communications consists of several mechanisms to reconnect with our young alumni base. The plan utilizes the department’s official website, a bi-weekly email newsletter, the bi-annual *Laker Connection* magazine, along with social media platforms, such as Facebook and LinkedIn.

In addition to connecting with alumni through the communications plan, the Alumni Office engages with current students and alumni through a number of special events and activities. Two of the most visible events for Alumni Relations are Homecoming and the Annual Alumni Dinner.

Homecoming at Clayton State is relatively new, dating back

President Tim Hynes reserves the first Clayton State University specialty license plate. Clayton State friends and alumni, show your support by reserving your plate today at clayton.edu/tag.





Loch, a familiar site to Clayton State alumni, debuted his new look at the 2012 Homecoming festivities.

to the late 1990s, and is currently celebrated early in the spring semester, while the Alumni Dinner is a 20-year event and has become the signature affair for the Alumni Association. The Alumni Dinner recognizes graduates with awards for their outstanding career and community accomplishments and has been held at many of the top venues in Atlanta, including the Ocean's Ballroom at the Georgia Aquarium, the Fox Theatre and the Great Hall at Fernbank Museum, to name a few.

Along with these two major events, the Alumni Office also supports many alumni socials and networking events throughout the year to connect with alumni and friends, along with hosting special events for several of the University's alumni affinity groups.

The Alumni Office has also developed a membership program, which allows graduates the opportunity to support the University financially with a

tax-deductible gift and also receive some special perks. Some of the benefits for dues-paying alumni members include the opportunity to join the Fitness Center at the Student Activities Center, and discounts for classes at Clayton State's Continuing Education Center and to alumni-sponsored events throughout the year.

Over the last couple of years, the Office implemented its first formal annual alumni-giving drive. The program consists of targeted communications through a postcard mailer, a call-a-thon, email correspondences and social media.

The Alumni Office also recently initiated the campaign to secure a Clayton State Specialty License plate with the State of Georgia. Alumni Relations is working hard to obtain enough commitments for the license tag, which will feature the new Clayton State Athletics logo. In order to have them manufactured, the University needs 1,000 people to pay a one-time \$25 manufacturing fee.

Other important duties of the office include: being the primary alumni contact for the University; providing support to the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association and working to maintain accurate contact information on the alumni base.

— Gid Rowell



Homecoming is one of the largest events organized through the Office of Alumni Relations. Here Gid Rowell, Lanelle LaRue ('85), Jamey Hicks ('90) and Dina Sweargin ('93, '97, '09) greet alumni at the homecoming welcome table.

The Office of Development Creating Opportunities, Sharing

Development is synonymous with words such as advancement, expansion, growth, evolution - and the development office at Clayton State University is committed to all of those things. We work with University administration to identify priorities and to match those priorities with donor passions. In the process, we help both students and donors to realize their dreams.

Our students dream of higher education and view attaining their degree as a way to advance opportunities for their future – and the future of their family. When donors have a desire to help such students and contribute money for scholarships, they realize their own dream of helping others and impacting many. Graduating from college is no easy task, and having a financial burden relieved with a scholarship is one worry lessened.

Scholarships, though, are about much more than money. The receipt of a scholarship is a confirmation to the student that

The recently held Scholarship Luncheon brought together scholarship recipients and donors. Pictured below is one scholarship recipient, psychology major Keith Matlock. Matlock truly benefited from his scholarship - he graduated in spring 2012.



A favorite campus event, the annual hot dog rally, kicks off the faculty/staff fund drive. Clayton State's contribution rate to the faculty/staff fund drive has averaged in excess of 95 percent for the past 10 years.



someone believes in them and is willing to invest in their future. At the recent luncheon designed to bring together scholarship donors and recipients, student speakers spoke of their goals and accomplishments. Whether studying health care, music, or technology, their comments all had a similar theme – they are involved students who study hard and are appreciative of financial support, with plans to positively impact society through their chosen professions.

The faculty and staff of Clayton State have their own commitments to the University, and they share those commitments in many ways, especially when it comes to the Faculty/Staff Fund Drive. Through their financial support of the fund drive, they demonstrate their continued faith in the work of the University. Clayton State employees look beyond their job descriptions and contribute to academics, student awards, and special programs to enrich the quality of campus life and give students the tools they

Commitment

need to succeed. The Development Office looks forward to coordinating the Fund Drive every year, designing and circulating lapel pins, hosting the hot dog rally, and congratulating the coordinators and their departments.

(L to R) Tiffany Whidby, Reda Rowell, Tony Lawson and Dana Brown
Not pictured: Terri Taylor-Hamrick



Is the Fund Drive a yearly success? Are Clayton State's colors blue and orange? According to our peers throughout Georgia, college and university faculty/staff fund-raising efforts are considered huge successes if as many as 75 percent of the institutions' employees contribute. At Clayton State, the contribution rate has averaged in excess of 95 percent for the past 10 years. That's commitment!

In development, we are fortunate to spend time with our donors and friends, and campus colleagues as well, sharing information about the opportunities of Clayton State. Student success is at the center of everything that we do. We work closely with the Foundation to ensure that in addition to scholarships, funds are available to recognize those students with high academic achievement, to subsidize study abroad experiences, and to enrich their total academic experience by bringing guest lecturers to campus and a myriad other enhancement initiatives.

We are careful stewards of the monies entrusted to our care. We work closely with the Foundation Board of Trustees and our investment advisors to establish and follow investment and spending policies. We are conscious of our responsibility to donors to ensure that funds are spent according to direction and their gifts are maximized for the greatest support.

Serving all of our constituent groups – donors, alumni, on-campus colleagues, volunteers and, certainly students – affords us the opportunity to grow professionally and to continuously advance the University; a mandate that the Development Office is well-equipped to perform since our five-member team has a combined 56 years of experience in working to advance Clayton State, and the dreams of all of its people.

— Reda Rowell

The Office of Image and Communications Who We Are

Before a prospective student experiences the exceptional beauty and warm hospitality of the Clayton State University campus, he or she will likely make a virtual visit to Clayton State's homepage, www.clayton.edu. And now, with the forthcoming introduction of www.clayton.edu/madereal, visitors can learn more about the University's commitment to student success and the personal significance of "Dreams. Made Real." to our students, faculty, and staff, thanks to the Office of University Image and Communications.

Clayton State's web presence has been undergoing a significant transition with more to come. Since July 2010, the Office of University Image and Communications staff has been involved with a project to convert the entire website into a Content Management System (CMS). This project has been accomplished with collaboration from the Office of Information Technology and Services (product installation, configuration, and servers) and the Center for Instructional Development (faculty web pages).

In August 2011, the Image and Communications staff began migrating approximately 7,000 web pages into the CMS as well as providing ongoing support for web design, development, and maintenance to all campus units. The conversion is the first stage of a two-part plan to upgrade the University website. The second stage will entail enhancements in the appearance, look and feel, and content for target audiences. Brand elements will be phased in throughout the remainder of this year and into 2013.

The website is an institution's most essential marketing tool. A CMS enables consistent usage of identity elements, integrates cohesive graphic design features, and incorporates elements of analytics tracking. The system has the added benefit of drawing from a single source for information that appears in multiple locations and offers more efficient management of multiple websites.

In addition to website support, the Office of University Image and Communications, now in its 10th year, assists with promoting the University through a variety of activities. Many of these are closely connected with University Relations, and the two



The Office of Image & Communications recently converted the Clayton State University website, www.clayton.edu, into a Content Management System (CMS). CMS enables the University web to be more functional for maintenance and more cohesive and organized for users.

departments act as a team to handle requests for graphic design assistance with publications and other materials, photography, and campus event coverage.

The online master calendar of events is maintained with input from University Relations and information from campus constituencies. The calendar places a ready resource for all events at the fingertips of both internal and external audiences. RSS feeds from the calendar may be added to various website locations to augment departmental promotion.

The Office guides departments and units regarding the application of brand identity elements as well as consistent messaging and responds to requests for authorized and appropriate use of the copyrighted University logos. The University Communications Guide is edited by the staff and contains guidelines for a myriad of questions – such as speaking with the media, ordering stationery, signage, and e-mail.

A comprehensive market research project was completed in 2010 providing baseline data for the next step of strategic market positioning. The Image and Communications staff is engaged with projects involving brand implementation and other communications initiatives, such as working with the Marketing and Adver-

tising Committee to assure collaborative outreach efforts.

Dolores Cox joined the University in 2000 after sixteen years with the Mercer University School of Pharmacy; she graduated from Clayton State with a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree in 2009. Leanne Bradberry began working with the Office of University Image and Communications as a student intern in 2002 and became the second member of the staff in 2004 following completion of her Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology. Shannon Crupi holds a Master of Education in Instructional Technology and was formerly with Kennesaw State University; she joined the department in 2011.

— Dolores Cox

(L to R) Leanne Bradberry, Dolores Cox and Shannon Crupi



The Office of University Image and Communications works closely with the Office of University Relations to tell the story of Clayton State in a number of media, including photography and videography. The latter efforts include both video for the University web pages, and for the YouTube Channel, ClaytonSTNews.

The Office of University Relations Telling the Story

Now in its 18th year, the Office of University Relations exists to support Clayton State University's strategic planning themes by presenting a positive image through effective public relations with the goal of increasing the University's visibility among any and all relevant publics.

University Relations is the news bureau and information source for Clayton State University, focusing its efforts on the collection and dissemination of news to both on-campus and off-campus publics. As part of this mandate, University Relations provides professional services to the University in public relations, news publications, graphic arts, social media, and photography.

University Relations provides information to on-campus audiences through three primary regular news sources: the e-zine *Laker Lines*; the newsletter, *Campus Review*; and our social media

outlets on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Laker Lines, which is essentially announcements of campus-wide importance and, "this is what's happening at Clayton State," is currently published every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning to University Relations Laker Newsroom web page (news.clayton.edu).

Campus Review is the primary in-house information source for Clayton State. *Campus Review* is published every other Monday as a PDF file on the Laker Newsroom web page. In addition to serving as the primary news source for the campus, *Campus Review* is also the medium for compiling the on-going history of the University... in effect, the on-going archive of the history of the University.

University Relations also maintains an official presence on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, providing information and video through the ClaytonStNews address.

University Relations also writes, lays-out, photographs, edits and publishes this magazine, *The Laker Connection*, which is distributed by mail to all Clayton State alumni, and a select mailing list of friends, VIPs, retirees, politicians and the like. Copies are also sent to all offices of the University for distribution to all faculty and staff, and are made available to the public at the information desks in the James M. Baker and Harry S. Downs Centers.

In addition to its social media efforts, University Relation's reaches its off-campus audiences through the medium of news releases – more than 1100 a year. Major news items are also posted on both the Clayton State home page (www.clayton.edu) and the Laker Newsroom web page.

University Relations functions also involve media relations. The Office of University Relations is the main contact point for media representatives wishing to cover any aspect of Clayton State outside of Spivey Hall and Athletics.

Other University Relations functions include graphics design, serving as the campus photographer and supporting the publications work of the Office of Image and Communications.

Keep up with Clayton State and see past issues of *The Laker Connection* online at news.clayton.edu





(L to R) Ciji Fox, Lauren Graves, John Shiffert and Erin Fender

Professional photographer Erin Fender, who has worked full-time for University Relations for five years, is the University's lead photographer. She also maintains University Relations' growing photo files, writes stories and supports the office's social media efforts.

Lauren Graves is the University's graphic designer. A veteran of more than 10 years in University Relations, dating back to her undergraduate days, Graves is responsible for the "look" of not only University Relations' publications, but a majority of the University's academic collateral materials. Originally a superb writer, she is self-taught in QuarkXPress, and is a superb designer as well. Working for both University Relations and Image and

Communications, she is the designer for most of the high-quality posters, flyers, and brochures seen on campus, as well *The Laker Connection* and *Campus Review*.

Ciji Fox is University Relations' social media expert. If you get a tweet from University Relations, it most likely comes from her.

It is worth noting that Graves, Fender and Fox are all graduates of the Clayton State Communication and Media Studies (CMS) program, proving not only the quality of the CMS program, but also the quality of its graduates.

— John Shiffert



The Laker Newsroom, a function of the Office of University Relations, is Clayton State's go-to site for news briefs, links to *Campus Review* and *The Laker Connection*, the University calendar and our social media outlets. Go to news.clayton.edu to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, FourSquare, Flickr or subscribe to our RSS feed.



50 First-Year Students Inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society

Clayton State University celebrated the success of the best of its first-year students in the ballroom of the Student Activities Center on Tuesday, Apr. 10, 2012, with the installation of a chapter of the national Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society.



Dr. Glenda Earwood, executive director of Alpha Lambda Delta, installed the Clayton State chapter and oversaw the induction of the 50 students -- the charter members of the Clayton State chapter -- by chapter advisors Marcia Bouyea-Hamlet and DeLandra Hunter.

The ceremony also saw the installation of the chapter officers: Terrence Dixon, president; Alexandra Destin, vice president; Mary Tran, secretary; Priyani Patel, treasurer; Tammy Spikes, historian; Jonathan Anderson, webmaster; and Todd Burke, editor.

Founded in the spring of 1924 at the University of Illinois by Dean Maria Leonard, Alpha Lambda Delta is a national honor society that recognizes and encourages academic excellence among first year students.



Clayton State's Alpha Lambda Delta chapter officers

Clayton State Named One of the Top 100 Workplaces in Atlanta

The University was recognized in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution's* Top 100 Workplaces section, published on Sunday, Apr. 22, as well as at an invitation-only event held on Thursday, Apr. 19, at the Cobb Energy Center. Clayton State is the only University System of Georgia institution to receive this honor for 2012.

Clayton State is one of 20 institutions in the "large industry category," which includes Woodward Academy, FedEx, Equifax, Emory Healthcare (the only other higher education-related institution in the entire 100), Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Ernst and Young and Verizon Wireless.



New Loch Highlights Homecoming Pep Rally

Every university has its legends. At Clayton State University, the most famous is the Legend of Loch who has been seen in several different iterations and generation, since 1990.

A new Loch made his first official appearance on Friday, Feb. 17, 2012, at the pep rally for Clayton State's annual Homecoming. And, while he may not be related to Godzilla or the Loch Ness Monster, he is Clayton State's first mascot to wear the University's blue and orange colors.

So, if you happened to see a large blue and orange creature while visiting the Clayton State campus, feel free to say hello to Loch. He's friendly.

Ambassador Young Inspires Clayton State Graduates

The 2012 Spring Commencement on Saturday, May 5, was, perhaps, a little more inspiring than the average, thanks to the commencement speaker, former Atlanta mayor, Ambassador Andrew Young.

In speaking to a total of approximately 500 graduates and a full house of roughly 1500 at both the 9 a.m., and noon ceremonies, Young made sure no one went home uninspired, tailoring his remarks to the first ceremony (and the graduates from the College of Business, College of Health, and College of Information and Mathematical Sciences) towards opportunities and moving forward, and, in his second address (to the graduates from the College of Arts & Sciences), speaking on the theme of kindness to one another.



Young



Stephens

Steve Stephens Awarded Honorary Doctorate by Bluefield State College

Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert L. “Steve” Stephens, then-vice president of External Relations for Clayton State University, went home to West Virginia in May to give the commencement address at Bluefield State College, and to receive a singular honor. “The General,” as he’s known around the Clayton State campus, is now a doctor as well.

As part of his keynote speech for the Bluefield State graduation ceremonies Stephens, a native of Welch, W. Va., was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humanities, becoming the first Clayton State administrator in recent memory to receive an honorary degree from another institution of higher learning. The award came to Stephens as he prepared to retire from Clayton State after 10 years of service. His final day was June 30, 2012.



Bass

Ginny Bass Named Distance Learning Administration Wagner Award Winner for 2012

Ginny Bass, director of Degree Completion at Clayton State University, has been named the recipient of the Distance Learning Administration’s (DLA) Outstanding Instructional Support Award for 2012. This award is one of three DLA Wagner Awards to be presented to outstanding individuals, to recognize them and/or the groups that they represent, for their excellence in Distance Learning

Administration Innovation, Outstanding Instructional Support, or Leadership.

The Outstanding Instructional Support Award recognizes outstanding achievements by an individual in developing and implementing projects to improve support and services for distance students and/or faculty. Bass, the assistant director of the Clayton State – Fayette instructional site in Peachtree City, Ga., received her award on June 3, at the DLA Conference at Jekyll Island.

Former Dean Shakun in Demand... All the Way to the Yalu River

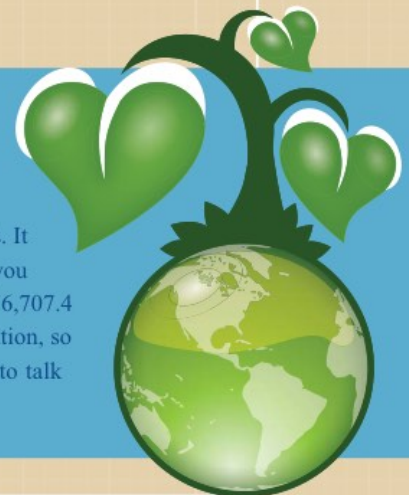
Dr. Wallace “Wally” Shakun, former dean of the School of Technology at Clayton State University, may have retired from the University System of Georgia in June 2004, but he’s still in demand throughout the world as a technology-related guest speaker and seminar instructor.

Ostensibly retired to Evansville, Ind., after 15 years at Clayton State as dean of Technology and then dean of Continuing Education, Shakun recently visited Dandong, China, along the Yalu River and just north of North Korea. It was Shakun’s 10th lecture trip to China at the invitation of the Chinese government, and his fourth appearance in a series of lectures on Test Automation and Instrumentation, as well as a review of the technology associated with same. As has been the case previously, Shakun was the keynote speaker.

Eighteen Tons

Eighteen tons, or, more precisely, 18.7 tons; that’s how much the Clayton State University campus recycled from May 2011 to November 2011.

Maybe you can’t quite grasp the scope of 18.7 tons. Well, first of all that’s 37,400 pounds. It also equates to 318 trees saved, since one ton equals 17, 40-foot Douglas firs. Or, perhaps you think in terms of energy saved. Here, one ton equals 4,102 kilowatt hours of electricity. That’s 76,707.4 kilowatts. If you’re into preventing air pollution, a recycled ton equals 60 pounds of air pollution, so 18.7 recycled tons equates to 1,122 pounds of air pollution prevented. Finally, if you want to talk landfills, that’s 56 cubic yards of landfill space saved.



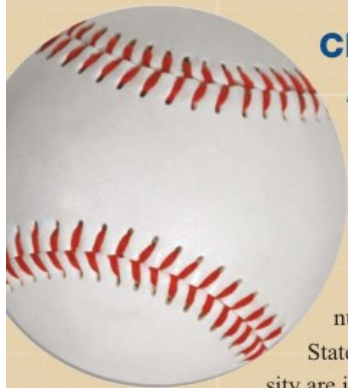


Clayton State's National Champions Get Their Own Road Signs

While an NCAA National Championship trophy is a sure sign of reaching the top in college sports, there are other signs as well.

Take the green road signs that were posted this spring in Morrow, commemorating the 35-1, 2010/11 Clayton State University women's basketball team that won the NCAA Division II national championship on Mar. 25, 2011, with a dominating 69-50 win over Michigan Tech in St. Joseph's, Mo.

Thanks to the efforts of now-retired Clayton State Vice President for External Relations "Steve" Stephens, the Georgia DOT has located the signs on Georgia route 54 (Jonesboro Road), across from the Georgia Archives and just north of the main entrance to the University (Clayton State Boulevard), and on the left side of the exit 233 exit ramp from southbound I-75.



Clayton State to Hold Annual Alumni Dinner at Turner Field's 755 Club

The Clayton State University Alumni Association will look to hit a grand slam once again at its 20th Annual Alumni Dinner. The Alumni Association will hold its annual event at the 755 Club located at Turner Field. The Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, Sept. 22. All Clayton State alumni, faculty/staff, students and friends of the University are invited to the event.

The dinner portion of the event will begin at 7 p.m., preceded by a reception; starting at 6:15 p.m. Attendees will also have the opportunity to take a special tour of Turner Field, which includes a behind-the-scenes look in the Atlanta Braves clubhouse.

In conjunction with the dinner, the Alumni Association will also recognize its 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award winners and hold a benefit auction.

Students Participate In Day of Action

Spearheaded by the efforts of Atawanna L. Royal, campus activities coordinator in the Department of Campus Life, Clayton State students helped in United Way's Day of Action by collecting bread, lunch meat, cheese and sandwich bags for St. Francis Table Sandwich Ministry in Atlanta.

The United Way's Day of Action is a national strategic effort designed to advance the common good. To celebrate United Way's 125th anniversary, there were 125 volunteer opportunities on June 21, ranging from scheduled projects at local nonprofits, to individuals doing something on their own for a neighbor, or activities with co-workers.

Going a step further, Clayton State students not only collected donations for St. Francis

Table Sandwich Ministry, but also came to the shelter on June 23 to - you guessed it - make sandwiches for the Atlanta homeless, poor and the hungry.



Janet Winkler Named Outstanding Adult Educator in Georgia



Winkler

Executive Director of Continuing Education Janet Winkler has been named the Outstanding Adult Educator in Georgia by the Georgia Adult Education Association (GAEA).

Winkler received this singular honor, the GAEA's most prestigious award, at the GAEA annual meeting at the Jekyll Island Club.

Spivey Hall's New Steinway Arrives

Clayton State University's world-famous Spivey Hall has a new addition to its musical repertoire, a new Steinway & Sons D-274 concert grand piano (serial number 591261), which arrived from Hamburg by Lufthansa air cargo on Friday, Feb. 10.



The piano was picked-up by Steinway Piano Galleries' piano movers, and delivered to Spivey Hall. Steinway Piano Galleries then spent most of the afternoon uncrating and assembling the instrument, named "Clara."

Acquisition of the piano was made possible with a generous seed grant from the Chaparral Foundation, augmented by a significant allocation from Clayton

State University, a grant from The Coca-Cola Company, special gifts to the Friends of Spivey Hall Piano Fund, and other donations from the Friends.

Clayton State's Veterans Resource Center Now Open

What originally began as a "coffee social" in 2008 has officially become the Clayton State University Veterans Resource Center (VRC), located on the first floor of the Student Center. Under the direction of Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Brian Haynes, the University held the grand opening and ribbon-cutting for the VRC. This event marked a significant milestone for Clayton State's 400+ student veterans, and was also the culmination of many notable events and efforts at the University over the past four years. Many of those initiatives were the direct result of a tremendous amount of dedication and work by the student veterans' best advocate on the Clayton State staff, Associate Director and Training Coordinator of Counseling and Psychological Services Shiraz Karaa, pictured below at the VRC Grand Opening.

Zornosa, Davis Named Alice Smith Award Winners

Dr. Ximena Zornosa and Darius Davis are the winners of the Clayton State University 2012 Alice Smith Awards.

Clayton State's Alice J. Smith Awards, for both faculty and staff, were presented at Clayton State's Faculty/Staff Awards Ceremony on Apr. 24.

Zornosa, a resident of Peachtree City, Ga., is married with a three-year-old golden retriever. Now an associate professor in the Department of Dental Hygiene, she began her full-time career at Clayton State in 2005. During the spring of 1999, she was a part-time clinical instructor.

Davis hails from Atlanta. He is currently Assistant Manager – Customer Service & General Merchandise in the university bookstore, The Loch Shop. This fall will mark his 12th year at Clayton State. He is also a 2007 graduate of the Supply Chain Logistics program in the College of Business at Clayton State. And, he is currently pursuing an MBA from Clayton State.



Zornosa



Davis

An annual event since 1995, the Smith Awards are presented to the faculty member and staff member ranked most outstanding as determined by committees of their peers. The two, \$1000 awards were established by local philanthropist Joseph Smith in honor of his wife, Alice.



Ludley Ready for The Open Door

Clayton State University is reluctantly saying good-bye to one of its iconic faculty members, writer and artist, Professor of English and Art History Dr. David Ludley, who is retiring after 36 years.

"I love teaching, and I've had 36 years of it here at Clayton State," he says. "I now look forward to having time to finally focus on what talents I have in painting and in writing. I have a few novels and several poems under development. It's time to pursue some other things I love: writing, painting, hiking, traveling, maybe even flying in a yellow biplane! It's an open door. And I can't wait to see what's on the other side."



Ludley Family

Charles Named To Leadership America Class of 2012

Jennell P. Charles, PhD, RN, CNE, associate professor of nursing, was selected to join an elite network of more than 5,000 women as a member of the Leadership America Class of 2012.

Charles is one of 53 outstanding women leaders competitively selected from across the nation to participate in the longest-running women's leadership development program in the U.S. Throughout the year-long program, she will have the opportunity to broaden her perspective and enhance her recognized leadership skills as the program visits three of our nation's key cities.



Charles

Gid Rowell Joins Department of Athletics

Gid Rowell came to the University as Sports Information Director in 2000. He served as Alumni Director from 2006 to August 2012, when he returned to Athletics, this time as Assistant Athletic Director for External Relations.

He plans to use the lessons he learned in advancement and will work closely with the Division of External Relations to build relationships for Athletics. He also serves as Athletics' chief communications contact.



Rowell



Environmental Toxicology Students Visit Atlanta EPA Office

Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Jacqueline Jordan recently led her Environmental Toxicology students to, if not a major toxicological site, a major superfund site in downtown Atlanta. The students were invited to visit the United State Environmental Protection Agency in Atlanta, the office being a major superfund site that controls said activities for all the Southeastern United States.

"This office sets limits for exposure to air pollution, pesticides, solvents, metals, etc.," explains Jordan. "They also respond to environmental disasters in all the South-eastern states."

The Clayton State students discussed air and water pollution in Atlanta with several EPA officials, and met with the emergency response personnel to understand how they train and respond to chemical spills, explosions, oil spills, etc.

The trip to the EPA gave students the opportunity to inquire about internships and jobs at the center, and was featured as one of the rotating stories on the University System of Georgia (USG) website. (<http://www.usg.edu/>)



Dr. Mary Hollowell Awarded Fulbright Scholarship

Clayton State University Associate Professor of Education Dr. Mary Hollowell will be returning to the People's Republic of China... as the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship.

Hollowell's grant, a Fulbright Teaching Scholarship, is for the spring and summer of 2013. She



Hollowell

will be teaching American Educational Policy and American Children's Literature in English to Chinese college students at a location still to be determined. Clayton State faculty members have previously earned a half dozen short-term Fulbright-Hays Grants, but this is the University's first Fulbright Teaching Scholarship.

Journeying to China from Peachtree City with Hollowell will be daughters Kate and Sophie Mei. Husband Scott Hollowell, who has business commitments in the spring, will join the rest of the family later.

Dr. Hollowell is the first among the Clayton State faculty to receive a Fulbright Teaching Scholarship. She will teach abroad in China in spring and summer 2013. China holds a special place in Hollowell's heart - the Hollowell family previously journeyed to China to adopt daughter Sophie Mei.



Clayton State Mourns the Passing of Professor Emerita Dr. Martha Wood

Clayton State University is mourning the passing of one of its original faculty members. Dr. Martha Wood, professor emerita of mathematics at Clayton State, and a member of the faculty at Clayton Junior College when the University first opened its doors in 1969, passed away in April after a long battle with cancer.

Along with her husband, James M. "Jim" Wood, Jr., Martha Wood was a pillar of the Clayton State and Clayton County community for the past 43 years - the length of the Wood's residence in Forest Park.



Jim and Martha Wood

In addition to Martha's long years of service on the Clayton State faculty, Jim Wood is the sole remaining founding member of the Clayton State University Foundation Board. In 2010, the Wood's sons set up special funds in the Clayton State University Foundation honoring both parents individually, monies which are designated to benefit and promote faculty and staff improvement at the University.

Mascaritolo Named MAC Supply Chain Professional of the Year

Clayton State University Assistant Professor of Supply Chain John Mascaritolo has been recognized as the winner of the 2011 Supply Chain Professional of the Year by the Metro Atlanta Chamber (MAC).



Mascaritolo

The award was announced at MAC's Sixth Annual Atlanta Supply Chain Forum and Awards Luncheon held Feb. 7 at the Georgia World Congress Center. The event was managed by MAC's Supply Chain Leadership Council and the Council of Supply Chain Management Atlanta Roundtable. Mascaritolo, the director of the Center for Supply Chain Management for Clayton State's AACSB-accredited College of Business, was recognized as the individual who had made a significant contribution in advancing the supply chain sector in 2011.

Athletic Director Carl McAloose A New Era, With the Same Expectations

A new era for one of the most successful athletic programs in NCAA Division II began on Monday, June 4... the first day on the job for Clayton State University's second Director of Athletics, Carl McAloose. While it's a new era, McAloose expects it to be more of the same for the Laker athletic teams.

"I'm excited to be on campus," he said upon starting his new position. "We have a great opportunity to do something special and take our athletic program beyond even what it is already. I'm looking forward to building our program both athletically and academically. There's no question we can do both, because athletics and academics mesh at Clayton State.

"I would like to thank Dr. Tim Hynes for the great opportunity he has given me. Mason Barfield did a great job assembling a fantastic group of coaches, and I hope to continue to build upon his dream. And, I'd also like to thank all of Clayton State's student-athletes for all of their efforts."

McAloose sees great potential for what is already one of the top Division II programs in the nation. In fact, he unequivocally states that, "just about all our sports have the potential to be top 10 national teams."

When asked about his goals for Clayton State athletics in the coming year, he is equally upbeat, speaking about both the playing field and the classroom.

"The goal is for those teams to compete for national championships, all the while creating an environment that is friendly academically for our student-athletes, and for them to graduate," he says. "Mason has done an outstanding job. Hopefully, we can grow on his vision. Hopefully we can bring accolades to the university similar to what our women's basketball team did in 2011."

The parameters for building on the success of Barfield's athletic program are already in place, McAloose adds.

"With the outstanding location and the beauty of our campus, the quality of our coaches, and our outstanding leadership team, we think we can attract some of the top quality student athletes in the country; and thus we have the opportunity to continue to compete on a national level," he says.

McAloose most recently served as president and CEO of Athletics Staffing & Consulting, a consulting company that

supports college and university athletic programs with feasibility studies, strategic planning, compliance reviews, NCAA membership initiatives and conference realignment proposals.

Prior to his role with Athletics Staffing & Consulting, he served as the ultra-successful director of athletics at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) in Fort Myers, Fla., from 2000 to 2008. As Barfield did at Clayton State, McAloose built the FGCU program from scratch, overseeing a program with 14 sports and an annual operating budget



of \$8 million, and taking the program to NCAA Division I status in record time. He also oversaw the construction of the University's \$30 million athletic complex, which included multiple facilities; and helping secure a \$5 million gift, the largest cash contribution in the school's 10-year history, for the construction of the school's \$20 million Alico Arena.

Along with his experience as an athletic director, McAloose also brings a wealth of experience in athletic conference administration. He served as the commissioner of the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Valley Conference from 1996 to 2000 after serving as the associate commissioner in the Big South Conference from 1992 to 1996. He also served in associate athletic director roles at both Coastal Carolina University and at West Chester State (Pa.) University.

He earned a master's degree in education with a concentration in physical education and athletic administration from Frostburg State University in 1988. He holds a bachelor's degree in physical education from McDaniel College.

McAloose has three children: Krista, 19; Savannah, 16; and Hunter, 14. Krista McAloose is just starting her college career this year at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Co.

— John Shiffert

staff profile

PAT KEANE SWITCHBOARDS TO SCOREBOARDS

Dreams were made real in the Department of Athletics on March 25, 2011 when the Clayton State women's basketball team brought home the University's first ever national championship victory. That day was special to athletics' Pat Keane for two reasons. Not only was she part of Clayton State history, it was also her birthday.

"It was the best gift I could have received!" says Pat, administrative assistant for the department of Athletics. "It's one of my favorite memories from my years at Clayton State."

Celebrating her 28 year staff anniversary in November 2012, Pat is second in staff seniority at Clayton State. She began her career at then-Clayton Junior College in 1984 working two nights a week.

"I saw an ad in the *Clayton News-Daily* for a part-time switchboard operator. Cilla Leed, then-director of personnel, hired me. I am so very grateful that she gave me a chance," recalls Pat. "The college was celebrating 15 years when I arrived, and many of the original faculty and staff were still here. It was like a big family...very friendly and welcoming."

Pat became a permanent fixture on the Clayton State staff in September 1985 when she was hired full-time as record's coordinator in Continuing Education. Following a promotion to Continuing Education conference coordinator, Pat became the administrative assistant for Media & Printing Services in 1996 and joined the Department of Athletics in 2003.

In her current job, Pat supports the administrators and coaches to ensure all of Clayton State's Lakers have what they need to compete. That includes arranging buses and vans for travel, handling travel monies, and performing office manager duties. Beyond keeping the Lakers in the game, Pat plays another significant role in her department. She mentors student athletes.

"I love the students, and I enjoy interacting with them," shares Pat. "They know I am available to help in any way, like helping them find the right contact on campus that can help solve a problem, or encouraging them to continue studying and get good grades."

Pat helps students realize their dreams on and off the court, field, track or green; and she says Clayton State University has made dreams real in her life as well.

"I had a few part-time jobs before coming to Clayton State, but this is the only full-time job I have ever had, and I feel so fortunate to have it," shares Pat. "My career at Clayton State is a dream come true. I work with such great people. Some of my best friends are from Clayton State, either present or former."

When Pat is not cheering on the Lakers at Clayton State, she enjoys the great outdoors, attending concerts in Atlanta and hiking and biking with her husband of 46 years, John. The couple originally hail from Philadelphia, PA, and set roots in Georgia in 1971 following John's third and final job relocation. They have three grown children (a daughter in Alpharetta, GA, a son in San Francisco, California and a son in Washington DC) and four grandchildren. They enjoy serving others, and have been active in their church since moving to the Atlanta area 41 years ago.

— Lauren Graves



My career at Clayton State is a dream come true. I work with such great people. Some of my best friends are from Clayton State, either present or former.

faculty profile

DR. DONNA MCCARTY TRANSFORMING LIVES, REALIZING DREAMS

After completing her master's degree, Donna McCarty came to Clayton Junior College in 1977 to interview for a counselor position, what she says was a life changing decision. Now Professor of Psychology and Department Chair, Dr. McCarty has spent 35 years making dreams a reality for students at Clayton State.

"Actually, in a very real sense I know that Clayton State has made my dreams real. I fell in love with Clayton Junior College – its students, its faculty and staff, its beautiful campus, its tradition of excellence and willingness to change, and it has been a great privilege to be part of nurturing this institution into Clayton State College and on to Clayton College & State University and, finally, to Clayton State University," says McCarty.

During her two years as a counselor, McCarty had an opportunity to teach introduction to psychology and fell in love with teaching. She knew from that moment her reality and career goals had changed, and so she returned to graduate school to obtain her Ph.D.

"The best part of my job is that I get to work with and on behalf of students every single day to help make their dreams real. Whether it is in my problem-solving role as Department Chair or as a faculty member in the classroom or supervising internship students, the best part of my day is always when I am helping students on their journeys to achieve their dreams," explains McCarty.

She has been an integral part of implementing Clayton State's successful bachelor of science program in Psychology & Human Services. She notes it has a unique blend of theory, research, and application. McCarty has played a key role bringing together an outstanding group of Psychology faculty as well as working as a team to develop and implement the new Master of Science program in Psychology.

"The MS program means additional opportunities to serve our community; we are able to provide innovative training programs to prepare new professionals committed to working effectively with diverse populations of adults (as clinicians) and youth (as applied developmental professionals). The graduate program also provides opportunities for faculty to use their considerable expertise in new ways and to teach at a new level," she says.

A resident of Atlanta, she and her husband John will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary in March 2013. They have one daughter who was married last year. McCarty earned a B.A. in English as well as a M.Ed. in Counseling and Student Personnel Administration from the University of Georgia. She obtained her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology at Georgia State University in 1990. In 2004, she was named Alumnus of the Year by the faculty of her academic department at Georgia State.

"Clayton State has given me so much and has afforded me with varied ways to give back, and so I have supported the Foundation as generously as I can every year. It is only fitting that I continue to support the University for the remainder of my career, my retirement, and beyond. Honestly, it is hard for me to think of a nonprofit organization that provides better service for a community than Clayton State University," expresses McCarty.

— Erin Fender



The best part of my job is that I get to work with and on behalf of students every single day to help make their dreams real... The best part of my day is always when I am helping students on their journeys to achieve their dreams.

student profile

SGA PRESIDENT RASHEEN HUNTER COLLEGE IS TRULY WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT

Rasheen Hunter, a senior majoring in political science at Clayton State University, learned the importance being an involved student shortly after transferring to Clayton State from Savannah Technical College.

“My first year at Clayton State I was not involved on campus, and I did many activities off campus,” Hunter says. “As a result I really did not enjoy the school, at least I thought I didn’t. At one point I even considered transferring. Once I got involved, my whole outlook on the university changed.”

Hunter is currently president of the Student Government Association, a student assistant for the College of Arts & Sciences Academic Advising Center, as well as the founder and former president of the Society of Global Affairs.

“I am also a University Hearing Panel Member, a member of S.A.F.E., and a second year Laker Orientation Leader,” he says. “The Laker Orientation Leader position is the first student involvement I had on this campus, and I truly believe the training and exposure that has afforded me is a testament to the student leader I am today.”

In addition, Hunter will also serve as a peer mentor to a group of incoming freshmen students. All that involvement is one reason why Hunter describes his experience at the University as “exceptional!”

“We really have great faculty, staff, and administration here,” he explains. “This university has engraved, not only a great education into me, but also a duty to serve to my community. I really have met some great people here.”

Hunter credits his mentors for their positive influence and encouragement to his success. Dr. Augustine Ayuk, assistant professor of political science, has been one of those mentors.

“I also look up to Dr. Rafik Mohamed, the de-

partment chair of social sciences,” Hunter says. “Both men are trailblazers and phenomenal, not only in their teaching styles, but because they engage with their students.

“My academic advisor, Ms. Keokuk Kight, director of the College of Art & Sciences Academic Advisement Center, has been very influential. We developed a relationship when I began my journey here. She provides students with a means to be successful in spite of challenges. I get to watch her do this Monday through Thursday, as she is now my direct supervisor.”

Hunter’s plans include attending law school and earning a Ph.D. in a program that merges sociology and political science. He’s also a firm believer that, along with the influence of his mentors, his college experience has prepared him for his future after college, for the fulfillment of his dream.

“I want to be a community organizer,” Hunter declares. “Clayton State has allowed me to begin gaining experience in that field. My experience has proved to me that you get out of college what you put into it. Clayton State has enabled me to go on outdoor adventures, meet several influential community and national leaders, and attend many conferences. College is truly what you make of it.”

Hunter volunteers in the community and has also organized orienteers (volunteers for the New Student Orientations) for the last two years.

In his spare time, Hunter discusses politics, and is into cooking, hanging with friends and family, and trips to Atlanta.

— Ciji Fox



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trustee profile

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION MAKING DREAMS A REALITY

Founded in 1974, the Clayton State University Foundation exists to successfully support the university in making dreams a reality. The board consists of more than 25 community members, local business leaders and philanthropists.

“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,” expresses current Vice-Chair Tim Crawford.

Alongside Crawford, Leonard Moreland serves as chairman with Dr. Cephus Jackson and Starr Helms rounding out the executive committee as secretary/treasurer and assistant secretary/treasurer, respectively.

Board members serve as advocates in the community to increase awareness of opportunities for involvement and support at the University. These leaders also support the university by attending campus events, such as faculty and staff service awards day, the hot dog rally, and homecoming. Additionally, they organize and attend fundraising and donor recognition events designed to embrace and expand the spirit of Clayton State.

“The trustees in recent years have stretched themselves to advance Clayton State University, especially through the formation of limited liability companies to build Laker Hall and the Student Activities Center, and to purchase Clayton Station,” says Director of Development Reda Rowell.

The Foundation understands the economic development impact of the University and realizes the value that a comprehensive University brings to our community.

“As a resident of Clayton County and educator it is important to me to support the higher learning

opportunities of this region. I feel Clayton State and the public school system can create meaningful relationships to benefit the future generations. I hope to help support a seamless transition into continuing education and higher learning,” says Jackson.

Watching dreams go from idea to reality, and helping wherever possible is the goal of the Clayton



(L to R) Starr Helms, Leonard Moreland, Tim Crawford and President Hynes

State Foundation Board.

“I’ve been thrilled to be part of Clayton State University, watch it grow from a community dream, and expand impressively over the years,” James M. Wood, Jr., explains. He is the lone remaining founding member of the Board of Trustees.

Proceeds of the Foundation’s fundraising efforts are used for many projects and initiatives on campus, with the largest single initiative being the Honors Program. More than \$625,000 in Honors and Presidential scholarships has been awarded over the past 10 years. Last year, more than 70 students received this prestigious award. Contributions given to the Excellence Fund are primarily used to support the Honors program.

The Clayton State University Foundation is committed to achieving the stated mission of enhancing Clayton State by attracting financial and other resources to achieve the University’s mission and goals to educate students; support faculty and staff; and to increase community awareness. — Erin Fender

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

alumni profile

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION A LIFELONG CONNECTION TO CLAYTON STATE

Founded in 1990, the Alumni Association has served thousands of alumni and friends over the years, working to prepare a foundation for the future.

“In the formation of the Alumni Association, our main purpose was to promote the cause of higher education and aid and encourage the growth and progress of the University,” says Lanelle LaRue, a charter member of the Alumni Board of Directors, who is also past president and a current member of the Board. “We work to foster beneficial relationships between faculty, students, and alumni in conjunction with cooperative enterprises within the community.”

The first official meeting of the Alumni Association was on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 1990, as then-Clayton State College President Dr. Harry S. Downs welcomed the school’s first Board of Directors into service. James Jernigan, an alumnus from the Class of 1978, was the group’s first president.

Twenty-two years, 10 alumni presidents and many dedicated board members later, the Association continues its commitment of dedicated service to the University. Meetings of the Alumni Board of Directors are open to the public, and the Board convenes on the second Wednesday of every other month in the Spivey Board Room of the Harry S. Downs Center.

Currently the Alumni Association plays an active role in reconnecting with graduates by sponsoring alumni events, such as Homecoming and the Alumni Dinner, as well as giving back to academic programs and supporting scholarships, such as the organization’s own Benita Harris Moore Alumni Scholarship.

Over the last 20 years, Clayton State alumni have provided thousands of dollars and volunteer hours, helping many students reach their dream of obtaining a college degree. And, thanks to the dedi-

cated support of our alumni, even more dreams will be realized in the future, as more graduates than ever before made a gift to the Clayton State University Foundation in 2011/12. Through our alumni support, the University empowers students to achieve great things as graduates.



Alumni board members

Within the next year, a new and exciting program will be initiated under the leadership of current Alumni President Ben Hopkins. The Alumni Association is working to develop an alumni mentorship program, which will allow our alumni the chance to engage with Clayton State students and help them in their maturation from being a Clayton State student to a graduate.

In building that lifelong relationship with Clayton State students and graduates, current board member and past president of the Clayton State Alumni Association Dina Swearngin says, “I want every student to feel as though they are a part of this campus from the first day... and on the last to recognize that Clayton State changed their life. Whether it is fond memories of the lakes, a financial gain due to the degree itself, our national championship in women’s basketball, or a lifelong network of friends and supporters – Clayton State will be part of me forever.”

— *Gid Rowell*

I want every student to feel as though they are a part of this campus from the first day... and on the last to recognize that Clayton State changed their life... Clayton State will be part of me forever.”

- Dina Swearngin

ClassNotes

ClassNotes 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. Submit your news and a print quality photo to:

Standard Mail:

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

Email: LaurenGraves@clayton.edu

DREAMS .



Teske ('81)



Wilkinson ('97)



Henson ('01)



Chase ('02)

1971

Dora (Ivy) Sumner (A.S.N. Nursing), of Cleveland, GA, was a member of Clayton State's first graduating class of nursing students. Throughout her career, she has held several positions in the nursing field. She worked at nursing homes for 13 years, served as a nurse in a surgeon's office, and worked at Emory and Lanier Park Hospital in Gainesville, GA. Sumner also established an employee health clinic, Talon Inc., in Cleveland, GA, before retiring. She has one daughter, who is also a registered nurse with a B.S.N. degree, and has one grandson.

Margaret (Betsill) Tutton (A.S.N. Nursing), of Erie, CO, was a member of Clayton State's first graduating class of nursing students. She is a stay-at-home mom, caring for her special needs son. Tutton has been married to her husband, Tim, for 40 years.

1981

Judge Steve Teske (A.A. Political Science), Clayton County's chief Juvenile Court judge, has been appointed by the governor to help reform the state's criminal justice system as a member of the Criminal Justice Reform Council. A long-time advocate for juvenile justice reform, Judge Teske will make recommendations on areas of improvement in the criminal justice system. He is a former recipient of a Clayton State Outstanding Alumni Award in 2006.

1982

Todd Tyson (A.S. Pre-Medicine), of Dacula GA, is the president and founder of Hi-Tech Healthcare, which he launched in 1990. Hi-Tech Healthcare has eight branch locations throughout GA, TN, and AL.

Tyson is married and has four children, two boys and two girls. After graduating from Clayton Junior College, he received a B.S. degree in 1986 from Georgia State University in Cardiopulmonary Science.

1997

William "Eddie" Wilkinson (B.B.A. Marketing), of Strongville, OH, has been appointed president of Bendix Spicer Foundation Brake, LLC (BSFB), a joint venture of Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, LLC and Dana Commercial Vehicle Products, LLC. A 17-year veteran of Bendix, Wilkinson has served as the Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems vice president of quality and product safety since 2007. In his role as BSFB president, Wilkinson provides executive oversight for the entire BSFB business.

1999

Brent Davis (B.M. Voice Performance), of Cumming, GA, performed the principal role of Masetto in the Atlanta Opera's production of Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni* earlier this year.

Yvette L. White (CER Medical Office Specialist), of Atlanta, GA, is currently pursuing a degree in Health Service Management. She is thankful for the education she received while attending Clayton State and has obtained other certifications and degrees since graduating in 1999.

2000

Deana Dean Bohannon (B.A. Middle Grades Education) and her husband are the proud parents of Trey and Jakob. She taught sixth grade for four years before becoming a stay-at-home mom to care for Jakob, who has cerebral palsy. Bohannon works part-time for Parent to Parent of

Georgia, an organization that helps families of special needs children and also volunteers as the leader of the Gordon County Navigator Team. Through her volunteer work, she started a Focus on Abilities Girl Scout Troop, which integrates girls with special needs into the traditional Girl Scout troop. Although, Bohannon no longer teaches in a school classroom, she knows her education helped her in her other endeavors. She loves the new world that Jakob has opened her eyes to and is looking forward to many more adventures. The family lives in Adairsville, GA.

2001

Leticia Henson (B.M. Vocal Performance) is a general music lead teacher in the Atlanta Public School System. She obtained a Master of Arts in Teaching with concentration in music education from Piedmont College earlier this year. She serves on the education board at Clayton State's Spivey Hall.

2002

Kameelah Chase (B.I.T. Network, Plan, Design & Management), of Ellenwood, GA, was recognized in 2011 by *Georgia Trend* magazine as one of Georgia's 40 Under 40 for making her mark in education, the community and the state of Georgia. Chase, who is a teacher at Sutton Middle School in Atlanta, has also been recognized as Teacher of the Year, among her many accomplishments. She has provided many innovative initiatives to improve middle school business and technology curriculum.

Jay Richardson (B.I.T. Information Technology), of Jonesboro, GA, is chief manager with The Compass Group. He recently earned the restaurant and foodser-

vice industry's top credential by becoming certified in the National Restaurant Association Solutions' Foodservice Management Professional® (FMP®) certification program. Along with his Clayton State degree, Richardson has also obtained an associate degree from the The International Culinary School at The Art Institute of Atlanta. He is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration Degree in Hospitality & Tourism from Strayer University.

2004

Alexander D. Clark (B.A.S. Technology Management), of Lithonia, GA, recently started a new position at Research In Motion as a BlackBerry Operations Data Center Management Change Coordinator. Before his new job, he had worked for ten years with Harland Clark Corporation. Clark also earned a graduate certificate in Project Management from Georgia State University's Robinson College of Business earlier this year.

Stephen Cox (B.B.A. Marketing) was recently named the head coach at Thomas University in Thomasville, GA. Cox, a former letterwinner for the Lakers from 2002-04, has also served as an assistant coach at Georgia Southwestern, Mercer and Sante Fe Community College.

Brian Lee Smith (B.B.A. Management), of Newnan, GA, recently joined the Matrix Insurance Agency. Smith specializes in property and casualty insurance for commercial clients and their employees. Following graduation, Smith began a career in the medical sales field before becoming an insurance agent in 2008. During his insurance career he has received several awards including the

Chairman's Council. Smith and his wife, Laura, have one son.

2006

Pamela Hooks (B.S. Integrative Studies), of Riverdale, GA, currently works as an Operations Manager for the Department of Transportation. Hooks earned a master's degree and has been accepted at Cornell University. She has been awarded the Department's Commissioners Award and the Jonesboro Executive Woman's Award since her graduation. Hooks, who has a seven-year-old son, thanks Clayton State for giving her the educational opportunities that otherwise would have passed by.

Lisa (Earls) Wilkerson (B.B.A. Management) and her husband, Art, welcome a new baby girl, Molly, in May of this year. She weighed 8 lbs, 13 oz. Wilkerson says big brother MJ is very proud.



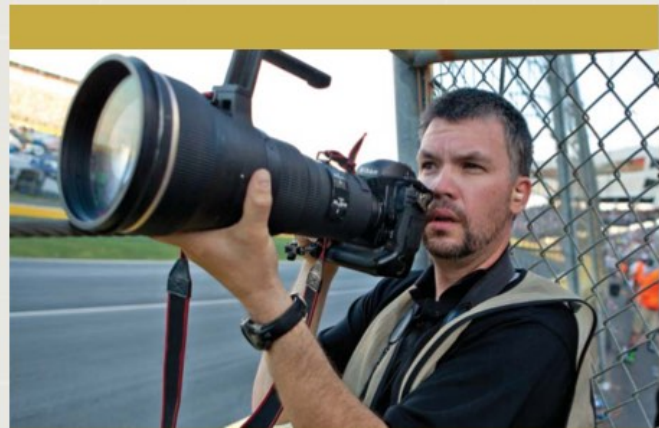
2007

Catreia Shaw (B.S. Psychology & Human Services), of Forest Park, GA, is the proud mother of her first child, Anthony Lamar Forrest, whom she gave birth to on February 11, 2012. Shaw was a standout on the Clayton State women's basketball team from 2001-03.

2008

Jill (Gazaway) Fox (B.A. Liberal Arts), and her husband, live in McDonough, GA, and have three children: Schuyler, 15; Connor, 2; and Elizabeth 6 months. Fox works part-time as a pre-school teacher.

Julie Kornder (B.S. Biology), now Dr. Kornder, graduated earlier this year with a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Georgia. She was awarded a small animal



Kevin Liles (B.A. Communications and Media Studies 2011) is a commercial and editorial freelance photographer. He has been a lighting technician and assistant with *Sports Illustrated*, allowing him to work at some of the nation's top sporting events, including the 2012 NCAA Men's Final Four and four NBA Finals. During Kevin's senior year, he was the editor-in-chief of *The Bent Tree* student newspaper. Under his leadership, the paper won its first awards from the Georgia Collegiate Press Association. You can view Kevin's work at www.kdlphoto.com. Kevin photographed the cover of this issue of *The Laker Connection*.



Congratulations spring class of 2012!

imal medicine and surgery senior clinical competency award at UGA. Kornder, who plans to specialize in veterinary cardiology, is currently doing a small animal rotating internship at the Veterinary Referral and Emergency Centers in Norwalk and Shelton, CT. After her internship is completed in 2013, she plans to apply

for a small animal cardiology residency. In her free time, Kornder has been doing research and is assisting with echocardiograms on animals at Zoo Atlanta aside a board certified cardiologist and human ultrasonographers.



Cox ('04)



Brower ('08)

Brittany Lewis (B.S.N.), of Loganville, GA, is currently working as a labor and delivery nurse at a local hospital and was married in September.

Ana Torres Brower (B.S. Psychology), of Grantville, GA, celebrated her 15 year anniversary with Delta Airlines in March, where she currently holds the position of Sr. Inventory Analyst. Also, while working full-time, she completed a three-year master's program in social work at Georgia State University. She graduated *summa cum laude*, was inducted into the Omicron Gamma Chapter of the Phi Alpha Honor Society and chosen as the outstanding part-time social work student for the spring 2012 semester.

2009

Nancy Capponi (B.S.N., M.S.N.), of Oxford, GA, is a clinical instructor within Clayton State's School of Nursing and began full-time in 2010.

William Bradley McKibben (B.S. Psychology & Human Services), of Griffin, GA, received his master's degree in community counseling from North Georgia College & State University earlier this year. He was also awarded the program's Most Outstanding Graduate Student for 2012.

He was accepted into the doctoral program of Counseling and Counselor Education at the University of North Carolina Greensboro where he was offered a three-year assistantship and has been elected president-elect of the Upsilon Nu Chi chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, an honor society of professional counseling. He will begin work on his doctorate degree this fall and hopes to earn his Ph.D. and become a professor of mental health counseling.



McKibben ('09) and family

Terrell Dark (B.S. Criminal Justice), of Snellville, GA, is the proud father of a two-year old son and currently a second-year law student at the University of Kansas School of Law.

Sibongile B. Lynch (B.A. English), of Jonesboro, GA, recently received a Master of Arts in Literary Studies from Georgia State University, and is pursuing a Master of Science in Information Design and Communication at Southern Polytechnic State University this fall. Her short story *Pass Me Not*

will be featured this fall in the upcoming anthology *But, Yet, Still* by Plenary Publishing. She has worked as a program specialist with the USDA Food and Nutrition Service since May 2010.

Daphne Michelle Shaw (A.A.S. Paralegal Studies, B.A.S. Administrative Management) graduated with her Juris Doctor degree from Florida Coastal School of Law in May 2012 with honors. She took the Florida Bar in July 2012 and will take the Georgia Bar in February 2013.

2010

Brandon D. Bethea (B.B.A. Accounting), of Roswell, GA, was recently promoted to Accountant 3 for Georgia Department of Community Health in Atlanta. He plans to pursue a master's degree in information systems audit and control this fall.

Augurie E. Herring (B.S. Sociology), of Snellville, GA, recently graduated *magna cum laude* with a master's degree in adult education and development from Strayer University. He is currently a candidate for the Ph.D. program in curriculum and teaching at North Central University in AZ. Herring thanks Clayton State for its strong curriculum and the support it provides students.



Lynch ('09)



Ballenger ('11)

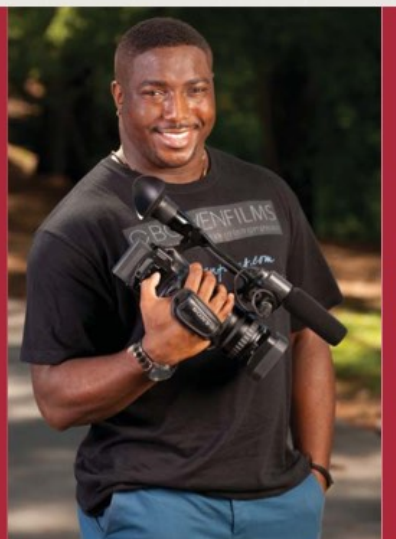
Nina Maimone-Cruz (B.S. Psychology & Human Services), of Forest Park, GA, has experienced three major events since her graduation from Clayton State. She got married, began working on her master's degree in professional counseling, and landed a job as a coordinator for an after school program.

Dale Myers (M.B.A. Supply Chain & Logistics), of Riverdale, GA, has returned to his entrepreneurial roots after six years of teaching physics, chemistry and biology at the high school and collegiate level. He launched two separate ventures, Vision Shaper Consulting, which specializes in startups, new product launch and music business strategy and Advanced Proficient Learning, which offers tutoring, enrichment and multimedia products that propel student achievement in math and science.

Stephen Odom (B.A. Music), of Stockbridge, GA, has been hired as part of the performance company at Sight and Sound Theatre in Branson, MO, the largest Christian-themed theatre company in the nation.

Julie A. Pate (B.A. Middle Grades Education), of Conyers, GA, is currently working as a paraprofessional in a self-contained MOID (Moderately Intellectually Disabled) class with Rockdale County Public Schools at Pine Street Elementary. She is pursuing her master's degree in education with an emphasis in special education from Walden University. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA and expects to graduate this spring. Pate and her husband of 18 years have two wonderful boys.

Christian Bowen (B.A. Communication and Media Studies 2007) is a professional video producer and editor. In 2012, he filmed and edited a web series for Dr. Sherry, a WE Television reality show celeb, and the Braxton Family Values show, including an appearance at the Essence Music Festival in New Orleans. Christian produced "Losing Your Bite?" a 13-minute long documentary that features the Clayton State Department of Dental Hygiene's 2008 Service Learning Program. If you follow the University Relations' YouTube channel (ClaytonSTNews), many videos are his work. His first paid gig was for a competition to win free rent for a year; a student paid him \$60 to film his "Clayton Place Experience" and won with Christian's video. See samples of his portfolio at www.cbowenfilms.com.





Clayton State alumna **Ashley Vicos**, a past star of *Have Cake, Will Travel* on the Food Network, was recently a featured speaker at the Lake Spivey Rotary Club. Pictured left to right are Vicos '04 and Lake Spivey Rotary Club president **Vibha Singla** '95, also Clayton State graduate.

Lianna Wimberly Williams (B.M. Voice Performance) has been accepted to the M.M. in Voice Performance and Pedagogy program at Ohio State University with a full fellowship award. She will begin her graduate studies at the Ohio State this fall. During her undergraduate studies at Clayton State, Williams performed many roles with Clayton State Opera, including Madame Flora in *The Medium*, Mrs. Noye in *Fludde*, Lilith in *Eve's Odds*, and Mary the Mother of Jesus in *Planctus Mariae*.

Tambria Willingham (B.S. Psychology & Human Services) completed her first semester as a master's student in the Student Affairs Administration and Counseling program at Clemson University with a 3.75 GPA. She attributes her success to the strong foundation she received from the faculty in the Department of Psychology at Clayton State.

2011

Brittne Ballenger (CER Paralegal Studies), of Lithonia, GA, is currently a law clerk at Marshall and Kirkland Law Group and says her decision to attend Clayton State and obtain her paralegal certificate was a great one. Ballenger is currently a law student at Georgia State University and says

thanks to her CSU education she was able to get into law school. She is pleased with her experience at the Clayton State because not only did she receive a great education, but also met many great mentors and friends.

Orlando Burns (B.B.A. Accounting) of Hampton, GA, is currently studying for the C.P.A. exam after completing his Master of Professional Accountancy at Georgia State University in the spring with a 3.83 GPA. After graduating, he was offered a full-time associate position at Clausell & Associates, P.C.

Janeé Dixon (B.S. Legal Studies) completed an internship at Sykes and Ladson, LLC Attorneys at Law, and received a full-time position at the firm as a legal assistant/paralegal. She plans to attend law school in 2013.

Chris Havard (B.I.T. Information Technology), of Atlanta, GA, recently landed a position at Verizon Business, where he currently serves as a business analyst for Salesforce.com.

Sara Henderson (B.S. Political Science, M.A. Liberal Studies), of Newnan, GA, began work earlier this year with the Georgia House Democratic Caucus as Deputy Director of Legislative Services. She was recently pro-

moted to Director of Legislative Services with the Caucus. This position allows her to work closely with the Representatives in the Georgia General Assembly, addressing all their legislative research needs. She also works as an adjunct political science professor in the Department of Social Sciences at Clayton State. Henderson gave birth to her third daughter, Eva Kathryn, in July of 2011.

Michael Nguyen-Quan (B.A. Middle Grades Education), of Fayetteville, GA, had a successful first year teaching 10th grade mathematics in Savannah, GA and is looking forward to his second year. He is currently finishing up a capstone course at Georgia Southern University for his master's degree in mathematics education.

2012

Amber Welch (B.A. Communication and Media Studies) and **Brittany Webb (B.A., Communication and Media Studies)** co-presented a paper with Dr. Susan McFarlane-Alvarez at the USG Teaching and Learning Conference in Helen: The Bridge from Education 1.0 to Education 3.0: An Exploration of How "Digital Immigrant" Universities Can Adapt to "Digital Native" Students through Social Media.

Edward (Drew) Case (B.S. Legal Studies) was accepted into the Emory University School of Law for this fall.

Robert Cunningham (B.S. Legal Studies) was recently accepted into the Georgia State University Law School for fall 2012.

Michael Hanft (B.S. Biology) received an internship in the Urban Watch Program at Fernbank Museum. This competitive program focuses on environmental education, ecological restoration and tree inventories.

Brittney Ragsdale (B.A. English) was accepted at NC State to the Master of Science in Technical and Scientific Writing degree program as of fall 2012.

DREAMS .

MADE REAL .

Clayton State University students, alumni, faculty, and staff are extraordinary people.

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Inspire others with the career, adventure, opportunity, and success you have made real.

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