

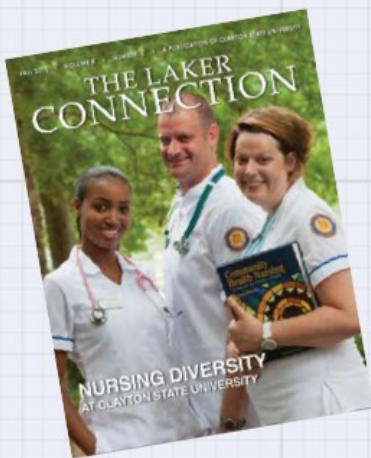
FALL 2013 • VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 2 • A PUBLICATION OF CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

# THE LAKER CONNECTION



**NURSING DIVERSITY**  
AT CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

IDEAS MADE REAL



**DREAMS . MADE REAL .**

(L to R) Clayton State nursing students  
Alexa Forniss, Dave Margrave and  
Lindsey Akers

Cover photo by Erin Fender ('05)

## THE LAKER CONNECTION

Vol. 8, No. 2, FALL 2013

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**Above:** In addition to a diverse student body, the Clayton State University nursing program offers a diverse curriculum, including a state-of-the-art simulation lab where students gain working knowledge of procedures through programmed patient situations.

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Diversity in age, race, sex, religion, culture, economics, sexual orientation, geographical experience, et. al., is represented not only in the nursing student body but also in the nursing curriculum.

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*Dean Lila Roberts*

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Dr. Lila Roberts isn't a "token" in a field where only 25 percent of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degree holders are female. She has earned all that she has accomplished as a leader in the field of mathematics....

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In a world of swiftly shrinking borders, Clayton State prepares students for the reality of working and cooperating in a variety of diverse environments. It's a form of preparation as vital as any of their classroom work.

## Sueños Hecho Realidad... In Any Language, Clayton State University Makes Dreams Real 24

No matter the language, look no further than international student-athlete Ayrton Azcue, a native of Zizur Mayor, Spain, as an example of this transformative process.

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### There are any number of ways in which concepts of diversity and inclusion can be framed. In more than a few occasions,



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

I have acknowledged my own debt to the thinking and writing of the late Dr. Roosevelt Thomas. At the time of his passing in the spring of 2013, Dr. Thomas was described as "...a pioneer in moving the entire field of diversity and inclusion beyond just race and gender...He made it more expansive and also caused it to become a mainstream function within the human resources profession."

In his work *Building a House for Diversity*, Thomas wrote that a diversity mixture is "...any combination of individuals who are different in some ways and similar in others. It is in this collective mixture that true diversity lives...Diversity is not a function of race or gender or any other us versus them dyad, but a complex and ever changing blend of attributes, behaviors and talents."

The featured stories in this volume of *The Laker Connection* wonderfully provide just a few illustrations of ways in which Clayton State draws strength from this perspective—that it is not just "the other," but the entire community that contributes to institutional and community strengths drawn from our diversity.

I first heard of gumbo as a metaphor for diversity in an interview some years ago with the New Orleans born music artist Aaron Neville. (I have come to learn that this metaphor is widely used in New Orleans, but will continue to give credit to Mr. Neville.) A gumbo is a wonderful combination of a variety of ingredients. It inevitably begins with a roux made from slowly cooked and well stirred oil and flour. But it then can include a wide range of other contributors to taste—be that okra, celery, onions, seafood, chicken, sausage, or other ingredients. Gumbo, well-made, has a distinct flavor, and is a single dish served over rice. At the same time, each of the ingredients makes an individual and distinct contribution to that wonderful meal. Like a gumbo, the diverse and inclusive institution, with care and attention, can be far more than just the individual ingredients, even as the separate nature of those ingredients are recognized, celebrated, and enjoyed.

Please enjoy this volume's sample of the similarity and differences among our campus community that makes up Clayton State University.

Dr. Thomas Hynes  
President

# NURSING DIVERSITY



Alan So, Elizabeth Oyeyemi and Beth Kelly



Alexa Fornise, Dave Margrave and Lindsey Akers

## AN INCLUSIVE DIVERSITY

Some were traditional students preparing for their first careers. Others were non-traditional students who came to the nursing profession – or “calling” as many describe it – later in life. Several came from out of state or out of the country. Females and males; gay and straight; married and single. Some dream of working with children, others with military veterans. Some want to travel the country or the world, serving wherever the need is greatest. Clinical experiences ranged from newborns to nursing homes. A diverse student body serving a diverse community. And that was from speaking with only 10 of the 259 students in the Clayton State University undergraduate nursing program.

“Clayton State is very diverse. It’s one of the reasons I came here,” shares senior Lindsey Akers, 32. “Many of my peers are returning students like me. Diversity is ingrained in us – it’s in every class we take, we’re tested on it, and we are required to know it. It’s all around us.”

Diversity in age, race, sex, religion, culture, economics, sexual orientation, geographical experience, et. al., is incorporated into each nursing course offered at Clayton State University. And when classroom education meets experiential learning in the clinical setting, students are put to the true test.

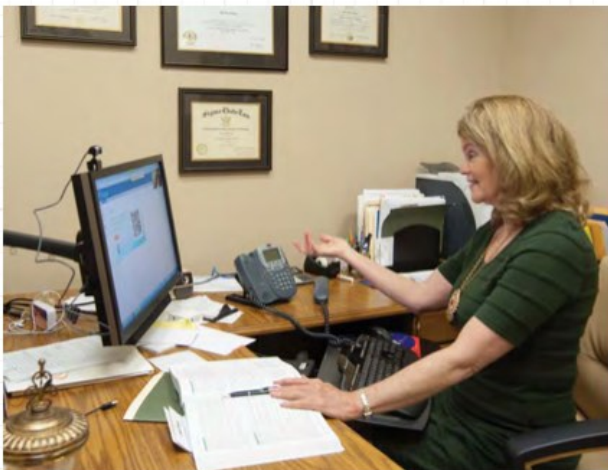
“The most critical element of training in the program occurs in the acute care setting. Students learn about various backgrounds from textbooks, lectures, and from their fellow students; but when they are assigned to a patient in the hospital



Dina Swearngin, MSN, RN oversees a student in the Clayton State Simulation Lab, a space where students experience a variety of nursing scenarios by working with artificial and computerized patients.



Dr. Rick Zoucha, speaker at the spring 2013 Nursing Workforce Diversity Conference, explains “la raza” or Mexican American cultural pride to nursing students and faculty.



Dr. Sue Odom speaks with students in an online classroom, adding another pathway to learning in addition to the traditional classroom and experiential learning opportunities offered in the nursing program.

from a different background than their own, it becomes very real very quickly,” explains Course Coordinator/Clinical Instructor Dina Swearngin, MSN, RN. “They must apply their theoretical knowledge to the real world patient situation. Sometimes it may be dietary choices or a special ritual during times of illness. Other situations can involve facing life and death choices and being a part of that final conversation, even when the family’s choices are much different than the student’s own personal beliefs and background.”

## NURSING WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

In addition to diversity education in the classroom and clinical environment, the School of Nursing presents the Nursing Workforce Diversity Conference for nursing students and faculty each fall and spring. Funded by the federal Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant, the conference features guest speakers who lecture on healthcare diversity topics. Past lecturers have included former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher and former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Dr. Louis Sullivan.

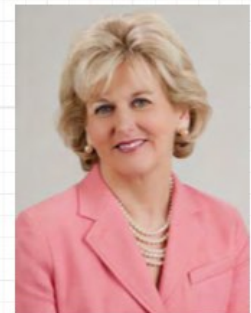
Dr. Rick Zoucha, one of the 2013 Nursing Workforce Diversity Conference speakers, discussed the Hispanic community’s relationship with nursing. His comments on “la raza” - explained as a sense of cultural pride among Mexican Americans - educated attendees on the importance of what he called “ethnonursing.”

“If you even say one word in Spanish, it is viewed as caring,” Zoucha shared.

The growing metro Atlanta Hispanic community is one minority population that the School of Nursing works to recruit.

“Atlanta has a growing population of Hispanics – the students see this a lot in their clinicals. Many of their patients do not speak English,” says Chair of the Undergraduate Nursing Program and Professor of Nursing Dr. Sue Odom. “We need more Hispanic nurses to care for people within their culture and communicate with them in their language.”

“There are barriers to higher education in the Hispanic community like legal documentation,” says Dean of the College of Health Dr. Lisa Eichelberger. “We are a proponent of the Dream Act. Many Hispanic students were brought to America by their parents, have gone



Dr. Lisa Eichelberger  
Dean, College of Health

*Continued on page 9*

I was in the automotive business, and I wanted to do something out of my comfort zone, so I decided to go to school to pursue nursing.

**Dave Margrave | Age 34**

I have worked with lots of patients from different age groups, ethnicities, etc., and the nursing program has taught me to be mindful that everyone is different and to cater to those different needs

**Nicole Davis | Age 22**

This school is very diverse. It's one of the reasons I came here. Many of my peers are returning students like me.

Diversity is ingrained in us – it's in every class we take, we're tested on it, and we are required to know it. It's all around us.

**Lindsey Akers | Age 32**



My dream is to be an OB nurse. The nursing professors are encouraging to us, and they want us to be successful in the program.

**Zebib Alemie | Age 28**  
Ethiopia



My dream is to work with children and abroad in missions. The nursing program is the start of what I want to do. There is a beginning and this is it.

**Mackenzie St. Claire | Age 22**

I was one year old when my aunt graduated from Clayton State. Then it was called Clayton Junior College. I've always wanted to be like her. Life got in the way, but I am finally making my dream come true. I was meant to be a nurse.

**Beth Kelly | Age 42**



At one point in my life I was sick, and I met a nurse. I remember the way she treated me, and I thought this is a good profession. I was an accountant in Nigeria, but when I came to the United States I decided to pursue nursing. I have come back to my dream.

**Babatunde Olorunfemi | Age 41**  
Ibadan, Nigeria



I want to work in the Emergency Room, or be a traveling nurse and go where the need is most... I am doing what I love. I get to go and help people. I don't want to see people suffer and not be able to do something about it.

**Elizabeth Oyeyemi | Age 21**  
Oshun State, Nigeria



I was motivated by a childhood illness to become a nurse. The doctors couldn't figure out what was wrong with me, but a nurse did.

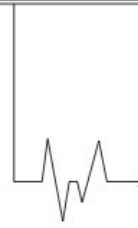
**Alexa Forniss | Age 23**



My biggest diversity experience was in my clinicals when I was a care giver in a nursing home. My grandparents were killed in the takeover in Cambodia, so I never had the opportunity to experience that population. The people in the nursing home were so interesting and polite, but they will tell you how it is!

**Alan So | Age 23**



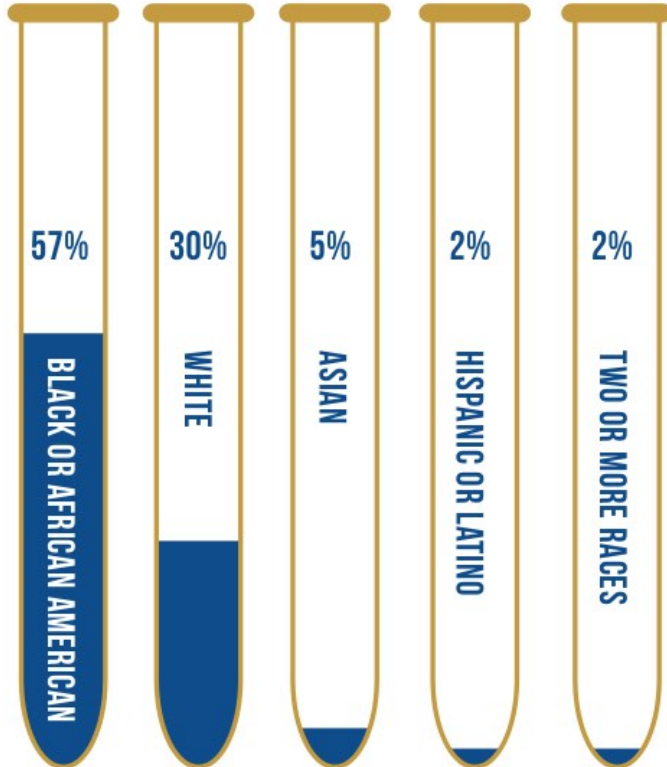


CLAYTON STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATES  
**MORE**  
MINORITY NURSES  
THAN ANY OTHER  
NURSING SCHOOL  
IN GEORGIA  
INCLUDING  
HISTORICALLY BLACK  
COLLEGES



**70%**

OF CLAYTON STATE NURSING  
DEGREES ARE EARNED BY  
MINORITY NURSING STUDENTS



FALL 2012 | 4% UNKNOWN

BETWEEN FALL 2010 AND SPRING 2013  
THE SCHOOL OF NURSING ENROLLED

**615** UNDERGRADUATE  
NURSING  
STUDENTS

**173**



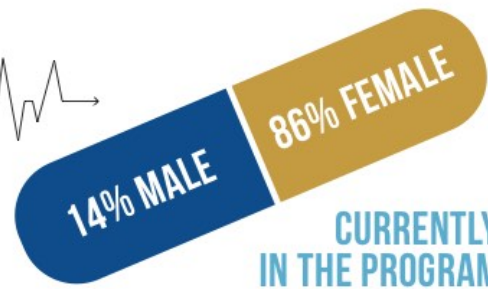
(28.13%) WERE FOREIGN BORN  
WITH THE MAJORITY SPEAKING  
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE



**65%** = **25**  
NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT BODY OVER AGE



**MANY HAVE FAMILIES  
AND/OR HAD PREVIOUS CAREERS**



**CLAYTON STATE HAS RECEIVED  
4 NURSING WORKFORCE DIVERSITY  
FEDERAL GRANTS  
TOTALING  
\$4,245,000**

**EACH GRANT FUNDS CLAYTON STATE FOR 3 YEARS  
CLAYTON STATE HAS BEEN FUNDED 12 CONSECUTIVE YEARS**



**THE ANNUAL NURSING WORKFORCE  
DIVERSITY CONFERENCE IS FUNDED BY THE GRANT**

**80%** OF CLAYTON STATE NURSING AND PRE-NURSING  
STUDENTS RECEIVE SOME AMOUNT OF  
FEDERAL NEED-BASED  
**FINANCIAL AID**

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# TRACYE LAMAR CLAYTON STATE'S YOUNGEST NURSING GRADUATE IN THE MAKING

Tracye Elaine Lamar will be the youngest person to graduate from Clayton State University's School of Nursing. In a program where 65 percent of the students are age 25 or older, Tracye is on track to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing by age 21.

Tracye fast-tracked her college career by attending college courses at Clayton State before she graduated high school. But participating in dual-enrollment wasn't her first experience at the University.

"In the spring of my junior year of high school, I applied to volunteer that summer at Children's Hospital at Egleston and Grady Hospital," Tracye recalls. "During my research online, I discovered Clayton State's Careers into Nursing Summer Camp program and also applied."

Her dream is to work at Children's Hospital at Egleston in the Neonatal or Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and eventually earn her Doctorate of Nursing Practice with a specialty in pediatric acute care.

But before she earns her Ph.D., she is enjoying her time as a Clayton State student.

"The professors here are amazing! One thing I really appreciate at Clayton State is that the professors encourage a positive learning environment. They want to know their students, and they enjoy when students ask questions and desire to learn," she says.

In addition to her commitment to her studies, Tracye is a 2013 Laker Orientation Leader, peer tutor, and supplemental instructor in the Center for Academic Success. She served as the historian in the Alpha Lambda Delta freshman honor society in 2012, and volunteers with the Department of Campus Life and AmeriCorps.

Tracye encourages other students to get involved on campus and participate in opportunities like study abroad as they pursue their academic goals.

"It's not enough to just attend classes and go home. Take advantage of the opportunity that you have been given, and become a leader. Impact the world, one person at a time!"

Tracye is a recipient of the Clayton State Presidential Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship (HOPE) and Pell Grant. She thanks her parents who encouraged her to do her best and gave her a quality education, all the nurses in her family for inspiring her to pursue nursing as a career, and her Clayton State family for supporting her and her dreams.

*by Lauren Graves*



Tracye Lamar



The Careers into Nursing Summer Camp, funded by a federal Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant, introduces high school students to the nursing profession.

"I was already interested in the nursing field, especially the diverse specialties; but after attending the camp, I solidified my decision to become an acute

care pediatric nurse," she says. "Clayton State has a campus that is close to my home, beautiful, safe, and diverse. I wanted to attend a university that had a great nursing program, teachers that care and extracurricular leadership opportunities, and Clayton State has it all.

Tracye plans to graduate with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing with a minor in Spanish – an excellent secondary concentration for a nurse who may provide care for non-English speaking Hispanic patients or their family members. She is also pursuing a bachelor's degree in Healthcare Management and second minor in Health and Fitness Management.

*Continued from page 4*

through K-12 education, and are excellent students. But they can't finish nursing school, because they can't go through clinicals without proper documentation."

Odom has advocated for Clayton State University Hispanic students, even writing a letter to the Social Security Office on behalf of a male, Hispanic nursing student who did not have a Social Security Number, a requirement for licensure by the Board of Nursing. In the case of Hispanic students, there are often multiple disparities to overcome: language differences, legal documentation and financial resources, to name a few.

To assist with financial need, the federal Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant also awards scholarships to minority students in need of financial support for nursing program costs.

"Students from diverse backgrounds often have financial difficulty getting in and staying in college," explains Elicia Collins, nursing instructor and student navigator under the Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant. "The nursing profession as a whole is not diverse, so it's important to address those issues and this grant helps retain those students."

The grant also offers stipends to students who want to mentor classmates; study resources to help pre-nursing students get on track before entering the program; workshops and a pre-nursing foundations course to attract minority students to nursing; nursing summer camps for middle and high school students, and more.

## WHAT IS YOUR DREAM?

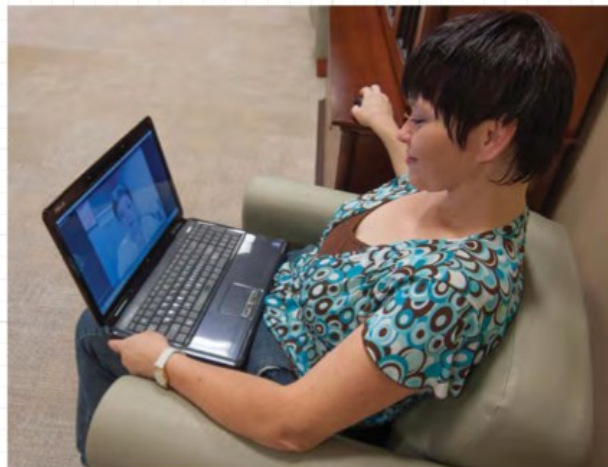
Each student brings his or her own unique perspective to the program, but – it was clear from speaking with this group of 10 – they share a collective heart for nursing and value the learning environment that results from diversity. However different their life experiences have been and will be, they are working together towards the same goal that leads to the same profession.

"This school has students from different backgrounds, cultures, age groups, and different first professions. Some have served in the military. I was, at one time, an accountant. There is such a combination of experiences that people bring to the program and all of the classes have given me more insight into what nursing is all about," says Babatunde Olorunfemi from Ibadan, Nigeria.

"There are so many stories that we hear - so many personal struggles that are often not discussed openly - but every student has that underlying dream of becoming a nurse," says Swearngin. "They have a desire to help someone in a very vulnerable situation. Yes, it is a career – and a solid one – but you must have the dream; you must love people, and have a strong desire to work very hard in school and after graduation in order to make this become real for you. This is not TV nursing. We are not able to

solve everything in an hour. It is hard physical and mental work, but for students and nurses it is so rewarding to know that you will have a hand in helping someone recover. It's the nurse's dream and our patient's dream made real."

*by Lauren Graves*



Nursing student Beth Kelly reviews an online lecture. Kelly, who was diagnosed with ADHD in her adult life, benefits from the diverse approach to learning at Clayton State University. She often takes her tests in the Disability Resource Center, a private, quiet testing environment with additional test time to achieve her best.



Makenzie St. Claire, Nicole Davis and Babatunde Olorunfemi

DEPARTMENT OF CAMPUS LIFE SCHEDULES FOURTH ANNUAL DIVERSITY AND MULTICULTURAL CONFERENCE

## Clayton State International Student Association Elects Officers

CLAYTON STATE SCHEDULES ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., CELEBRATION

WISTEM (Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Meeting

SCHOOL OF NURSING TO HOST ANNUAL CULTURAL DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

CLAYTON STATE'S NEW DEPARTMENT OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES... DIVERSITY PERSONIFIED

"Dialogue Across Differences" at Clayton State

CLAYTON STATE TO HOLD SECOND ANNUAL

"THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER" INTERNATIONAL FEAST

CLAYTON STATE READY FOR CULTURE SHOCK WEEK

"The Real Diversity Awareness" Presented at Clayton State by  
National Federation of the Blind of Georgia President Garrick Scott

Clayton State to Hold Second Annual Women's History Month Luncheon, "Women Together and Encouraging Advancement"

Consider these "headline events" that took place at Clayton State during 2012.  
What do they all have in common? They all represent diversity in action at Clayton State.

## DIVERSITY GOES DEEP AT CLAYTON STATE

By John Shiffert

If you were to stop 10 people on the street and take a quick survey, asking them the meaning of diversity in higher education, chances are that nine of them would make some reference to race and ethnicity.

That's not the case at Clayton State, and, in addition, President Dr. Thomas Hynes is the "10th man" in that virtual survey. He defines diversity in a much broader fashion, congruent with the manifestations of diversity at Clayton State.

"We must continue to deepen and enrich diversity to include student connections to international experiences, connections across not only race, but class, prior educational and geographical experiences, and ethnicity."

Although it is true that more than 75 percent of the Clayton State student body is comprised of minority students, thus making race and ethnicity a big part of the diversity conversation, diversity at Clayton State goes much deeper... to the classes, activities, dozens of multicultural clubs and events, the atmosphere across campus. However, those are just words.

The proof of Clayton State's embracing diversity is in what actually happens on campus.

Whether it's celebrating the life and work of America's greatest Civil Rights leader, or promoting the inclusion of women in fields that were traditionally considered a male provenance, or hosting two major diversity conferences each year, Clayton State puts its commitment to diversity into action every year. So, it shouldn't come as any surprise that if you type "diversity" into the "Search" field on the Clayton State website ([www.clayton.edu](http://www.clayton.edu)) you'll get 2,950 hits. That's because, at Clayton State it is the very diversity of the people, their interests, and their dreams that bring the community together and give everyone a feeling of inclusion.

Clayton State's student body, named the "Most Diverse" in the Southeastern United States six times by *U.S. News & World Report* since 2000, encompasses a diversity of people – and there is also diversity of dreams. This is a university that helps make them succeed. Take for example, alumna Colleen Walters.

“I walked onto this campus a minority in ethnicity, immigration status, gender, and as non-traditional student. But, I graduated summa cum laude, Sigma Theta Tau nursing honors, and I was the 2012 Chancellor’s Award Recipient and Most Outstanding BSN student. Additionally I was offered a Master of Science in Nursing full scholarship and full time employment as Clinical Instructor.”

Or 2012 Homecoming King Tony Yaacoub, a native of Beirut, Lebanon, who 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. That’s pretty successful.



Students listen to Muhammad Rahman’s lecture in the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences where programs like Wi2STEM encourage women to pursue the STEM disciplines.



Non-traditional students represent 39 percent of the student body.

Anousouck “Andy” Sayavong, profiled elsewhere in this issue of *The Laker Connection*, was the recipient of the College of Arts & Sciences 2012/13 Award for Excellence in History. He’s a refugee from Laos, by way of Thailand, who came to the U.S. at the age of seven.

Fred Snow, vice president – U.S. Aftermarket for Hella, Inc., in Peachtree City, graduated from Clayton State in May 2013 with an MBA. Shortly thereafter, he was accepted into the Hella development program that took him to Bad Driburg, Germany.

“I am very excited about this, and this is great news... looks like about 50 participants in a 27,000 employee global company. This program is designed to only run every two years, so pretty exclusive company. My MBA experience will certainly be helpful with showing well in this program, and I want to thank you for all your help,” he wrote in an email to one of his professors, Dr. Gary May.

Or another May 2013 graduate, Marcus Bartlett, who originally entered college with a GED, and graduated Clayton State with a topological index for molecules named after him, after completing a double major in mathematics and chemistry, and all at the age of 30. Of course, Bartlett is a virtual kid compared to Judi Kanne, who earned her BSN from Clayton State last year at the age of 69.

At the other end of the spectrum, the 2013 fall semester at Clayton State saw the University enroll a record-breaking 430 dual enrollment students, meaning more than five percent of Clayton State’s student body consists of high school students. As Associate Vice President for Extended Programs Dr. Kevin Demmitt put it in addressing the Arts & Sciences faculty at the start of the semester, “they might be the best student in your class.”

So, yes, Clayton State students come from a wide range of backgrounds and experience. Perhaps another alumnus said it best, “Diversity at Clayton State is just natural, it’s seamless. In every one of my classes I benefited from the life experiences that my fellow students brought with them, and they from mine.”



Assistant Director of Campus Life and Staff Advisor Atawanna Royal of the We Are O.N.E. Interfaith Council (far left) and members of the We Are O.N.E. Interfaith Council

## CLAYTON STATE ACCEPTS PRESIDENT OBAMA'S RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY CHALLENGE

*By Samantha Watson*

In the midst of religious turmoil in Syria, Israel, and around the world, President Barack Obama recognizes the need for common ground and religious understanding and appreciation. "For over two hundred years Americans of all faith traditions have come together, put their shoulders to the wheel of history, and made this country what it is today," states Obama. "And I know that as we go forward it's going to take all of us, Christian and Jew, Hindu and Muslim, believer and non-believer, to meet the challenges of the Twenty First Century." With this in mind, the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge was initiated nationwide.

Clayton State University, as a recognized leader in diversity and inclusion as well as community service, eagerly accepted the President's Challenge. The Department of Campus Life

has initiated the Interfaith Leadership Ambassador Program (ILAP) and the We Are O.N.E. (Outreaching, Navigating, and Empowering) Interfaith Council as Clayton State's response to the President's challenge.

The challenge invites institutions of higher education nationwide to commit to a year of interfaith and community service programming on campus.

"ILAP has been designed to equip Clayton State students with the skills to engage diverse religious and non-religious identities to build a community of respect and mutually inspiring relationships for the Clayton State community," remarks Atawanna Royal, assistant director of Campus Life and staff advisor for We Are O.N.E. Interfaith Council.

ILAP follows the mission and goals of the national organization Interfaith Youth Core, an affiliate of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, the White House, and the Office of Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan. ILAP will provide opportunities for participants to acquire skills to address issues of values, ethics, and morality; and examine the interaction of faith, non-faith, intellectual inquiry and social responsibility as bases for affirming meaning and satisfaction in life, among other goals.

“Upon completion of the program, participants will become Interfaith Leadership Ambassadors able to contribute to a campus interfaith movement built on religious pluralism,” comments Royal.

“The purpose of We Are O.N.E. Interfaith Council is bringing awareness to religious diversity, unifying different religious faiths through service, fostering safe and open dialogue on controversial topics of importance to our communities, and promoting mutual understanding, appreciation, and respect among diverse religions and cultures,” adds the president of the We Are O.N.E. Interfaith Council, Jasmin Gaston.

The council was officially recognized by Clayton State University as a student organization on Apr. 15, 2013. Preceding the council, the religiously-affiliated organizations on campus included Baptist Collegiate Ministries and Clayton State’s Gospel Choir, Influence, which both focus on the Christian religion.

“I’m happy to see a student organization on a campus in the South that includes all religions respectfully. Working together at a common goal that benefits all of the community is a great way to get to know each other and realize that we aren’t all that different. We all care about helping, and we all care about our community,” says Sara Omar, a Muslim sophomore at Clayton State.

Royal, Gaston, Vice President Ryan Wilkerson, Corresponding Secretary Alice Keith, Recording Secretary Eriel Hawkins, Treasurer Kyante Gadson, and Promotional Affairs Coordinator Erika Smith have all taken the President’s challenge seriously and, “are in the midst of working on something great,” states Gaston.

Kicking off their service, the council completed their first initiative at the end of Welcome Week in August. The program, “Clean House” was essentially a campus-wide clean up. The



Representatives from campus religious organizations set up tables at a Welcome Week event on the lawn outside of the Student Activities Center.



Students gather for an We Are O.N.E. Interfaith Council kick-off meeting.

council partnered with Campus Events Council, Student Government Association, FSC, Alpha Phi Omega, Student Leadership Involvement Council, and AmeriCorps to sponsor the restoration of the campus after the Welcome Week festivities.

Starting off strong, the council held their second event, entitled “Let Me Live: Religious and Spiritual Forum,” on Aug. 28. The forum focused on world religion, spirituality, religious education, and other similar topics. A panel of representatives from different faces of religion and spiritual beliefs discussed and debated these topics in an open, informative, and understanding atmosphere.

The President’s Challenge is alive at Clayton State University. We Are O.N.E. Interfaith Council aims to make the dreams of inclusion, appreciation, and community unity real.



Members of the Student Veteran's Association. Front Row, L-R: Dennis Brown, Kevin Nguyen, Kevin "Mac" McMullen and Edwin Gomez. Back Row, L-R: Shannon Platts, Jonathan Lopez-Mercado, Natalia Gomez and Kenneth Gray.

## AGE IS MORE THAN A NUMBER

*By Erin Fender*

Diversity is often limited to the idea of race and ethnicity, but true diversity is a much deeper concept. Beyond ethnicity, it is truly about what makes each of us different; age, religious beliefs, and even life experiences bring diversity to the classroom. At Clayton State University, age plays a huge role in the diverse culture of the student population. During the spring 2013 semester, with a total student enrollment of 6,954 students, non-traditional students comprised 39 percent of the student body.

The non-traditional student comes to Clayton State at least five years post high school graduation or may have even attended college but earned fewer than 30 semester hours. However, some of those students come to Clayton State after a military career.

“Student veterans offer diversity through their unique life experiences. Veterans have experienced intense physical, technical and combat training, often directly after high school.

Many have participated in combat and bear scars, seen and unseen, from the horrors of war. Through these experiences, student veterans have gained broader and more global perspectives about the world and about life in general,” says Tina Lake, Clayton State’s Veterans Resource Center coordinator.

Kevin Nguyen is a junior biology major and current president of the Student Veterans Association. He also notes that having more life experience coming back to school after nine years of service in the Navy is a real benefit.

“I really have experienced and traveled more than many traditional students, and I believe I can mentor and advise other students,” says Kevin.

The Veterans Resource Center offers a place for student veterans to connect and give those students a quiet place to study. It’s a place for like-minded students to connect and support



**“I have enjoyed the support of my classmates, who have treated me as one of them. Whether young or old, they always gave me due respect. I can only say that I am grateful for my experience as a non-traditional student at Clayton State, and it has helped me to be more tolerant, thankful, forgiving, helpful and interested in others.”**

**- Pearlle Crocker, senior, psychology & human services major**

each other as many are transitioning back to civilian life or simply adjusting to college life as a non-traditional student.

This center is also where I met Deidre Harrell, who serves as president of the Clayton State Non-traditional Student Organization (NTSO) as well as a student assistant for the center. She came back to school in 2008, taking a couple of classes each semester, and is on track to graduate in summer 2014 with a degree in psychology.

“As a non-traditional student, you have so many hats to wear. I have many people in my life that I support as a wife, mother, grandmother, and I need time for my passions - plus, I am a student! You really have to find that pace that works for you and learn how to prioritize,” explains Deidre.

She has her own ties to the military, growing up with her father serving and then later marrying her husband Steven, who is now retired military. Deidre has a desire to work with active duty servicemen and women as well as veterans returning from deployment in need of a strong support system as they return “home.”

However, her desire to support the non-traditional student is also evident. She strives to see these students succeed and to create opportunities to be involved on campus or to simply have study partners.

For example, NTSO created Saturday Study Sessions aimed at those who cannot participate in the Midnight Study Sessions sponsored by the Campus Events Council. Non-traditional students often need afternoon times on the weekend to balance family and their academics.

“It’s been a really positive experience. Once you go home as a non-traditional student, studying often takes a backseat.

Offering these study sessions during key times around mid-terms and finals often really helps this group,” says Deidre.

“Non-traditional students are a large component of this university. Our voice needs to be heard, and we need to support the success of this institution as well as one another. We do impact this university.”



NTSO members (Front L to R) Jerrod Raymond, Deidre Harrell, and Neotha Catalan (Back L to R) Pearlle Crocker and Iris Abernathy



Non-traditional students gather for a Saturday Study Session created especially for students with families and careers.

## Governor Deal Tells Clayton State Graduates, “It’s... Who You Are”

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal congratulated the graduates at the 9 a.m. Commencement ceremony at Clayton State University on May 4.

Of course, every Commencement speaker congratulates the graduates. Georgia’s chief executive, the first sitting governor to address a Clayton State graduation, had something more tangible for the 250 degree recipients from the College of Business, College of Health, and College of Information and Mathematical Sciences.

Deal neatly overturned the old adage, “it’s not what you know, it’s who you know,” by telling his audience, “It’s not what you know, or who you know, it’s who you are.”

The noon ceremony’s speaker was Atlanta City Councilman Kwanza Hall. Hall addressed 265 graduates of the College of Arts & Sciences.

The ceremonies were also highlighted by the awarding of a posthumous degree. The family of the late Scharlie-Marteece Lockhart attended the noon ceremony to receive his posthumous Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS). Lockhart, who previously earned a B.S. in Sociology from Clayton State, passed away unexpectedly on Mar. 1, 2013. A frequent visitor and worker at the Clayton State Disability Resource Center (DRC) during his undergraduate days, Lockhart was working for the DRC, and Director Louise Bedrossian, as well as completing his MALS degree, at



Georgia Governor Nathan Deal

the time of his death.

Hynes presented the posthumous degree to Lockhart’s mother, Meirley N. Lockhart. Also in attendance on Saturday was Marteece Lockhart’s sister, Dr. Sharbrenia Lockhart-Thompson.



## Clayton State, Korean Health Sciences College to Sign MOU

Clayton State University and Daejeon Health Sciences College, located in Daejeon, South Korea, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations on Monday, Mar. 25.

Clayton State’s initial collaboration with Daejeon will be in the School of Nursing; but it eventually could include the Clayton State departments of Health Care

Management, Health and Fitness Management, and Dental Hygiene, all of which reside in the Clayton State College of Health. The MOU will initially focus on faculty and staff exchanges, student exchanges, and special teaching and degree programs.

## Clayton State Growth Transcends National Borders

Diversity is not only an aid to education, but also an agent of education. By attending Clayton State, international students have the opportunity to engage in academic learning as well as cultural exchanges, and because of international students, Clayton State has the opportunity to be exposed to and educated in cultures from around the world. This helps shape the University as a culturally appreciative and welcoming campus.

Spring 2013 at Clayton State saw the largest increase in the school’s history of new international students. The Laker community welcomed 21 new and transfer international students from eight countries including Bosnia, El Salvador, Jamaica, New Zealand, Romania, South Africa, and Trinidad. A large number of Saudi Arabian graduate students, around 12, contributed to this influx.

## Clayton State Named One of the Top 100 Workplaces In Atlanta For the Second Consecutive Year

For the second consecutive year, Clayton State University has been named one of the “Top 100 Workplaces in Atlanta” for 2013 by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Also for the second consecutive year, Clayton State was the only University System of Georgia institution to receive this honor. The only other higher education institution on the list is private Brenau University.

More than 1200 organizations were initially included in the 2013 competition, held by the AJC and its partner, Workplace Dynamics. After employees responded to print and online solicitations beginning in August 2012, Workplace Dynamics surveyed a total of 83,565 metro Atlanta employees and compiled the top 20 large companies (500+ employees), the top 30 midsize companies (150 to 400 employees) and the top 50 small companies (fewer than 150 employees.)



## Experiential Learning Students' Business Proposals Adopted by Atlanta Pet Partners

One of the hallmarks of a Clayton State University education is the opportunity for students to learn outside of the classroom. Not uncommonly, these experiential learning occasions also end up benefitting the community as well.

One such “win-win” synergy occurred recently between Assistant Professor of English Dr. Sipai Klein’s writing for nonprofits course and Atlanta Pet Partners (APP). During the fall 2012 semester, Klein’s writing for nonprofits students were divided into three teams with each team assigned to work with a different nonprofit organization for the purpose of preparing business proposals for that organization.

“Team APP,” consisting of students Christen Greene, Willie Mayers, Jr., Diana Peters, and Shonteria Wilson, prepared three proposals for APP Founder/President Dan Barnhill as their final exam. These proposals consisted of ideas for fundraising/community awareness events, event coordinator/internship job descriptions, and possible logo designs and tag lines.

Peters, who is now a Clayton State graduate working for the University’s Center for Academic Success, picks up the story six months after Team APP “turned in” their final exam.

“Recently, I volunteered with APP and discovered they had officially adopted Team APP’s proposed logo/tagline for business use,” she reports. “APP CEO Dan Barnhill was also in attendance. He bragged about the quality of the work the students produced and explained how APP was in the process of putting into place several of the proposed ideas Team APP had included in their business proposal.”

## Pat Keane, Dr. James Keebler Named Winners of 2013 Alice Smith Awards

Pat Keane, who has worked at Clayton State longer than any other staff member, and College of Business professor Dr. James Keebler, won the University’s 2013 Alice Smith Awards.



Keane

Clayton State’s Alice J. Smith Awards, for both faculty and staff, were presented at Clayton State’s Faculty/Staff Awards Ceremony on Apr. 23.



Keebler

Keane has been with Clayton State for 29 years and is currently the administrative assistant in the Athletic Department. She started as a part-time switch board operator in 1984. She then began her full time work in the Continuing Education Division and later spent several years in Media & Printing Services.

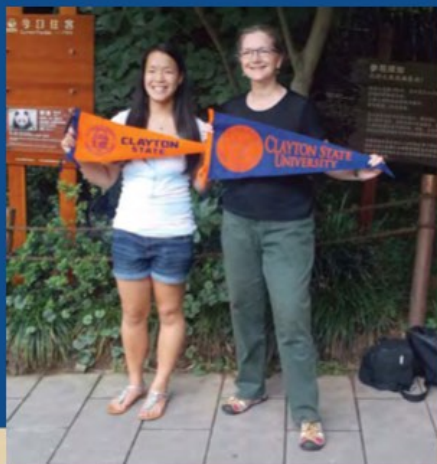
Currently residing in Lakewood Ranch, Fla., Keebler has commuted to Clayton State since 2008. He is professor of Supply Chain Management and serves as chair of the Faculty Senate and the Charles S. Conklin Endowed Chair. He obtained his doctorate in business administration, marketing and logistics from the University of Tennessee. His Smith Award capped a big day for the U.S. Army veteran, since he also was awarded tenure and his Five Year Service Award by the University.

## Clayton State Professor, Student Meet at Chengdu Panda Base

It's a long way from Morrow, Ga., but Clayton State University Associate Professor of Education Dr. Mary Hollowell and Clayton State sophomore Maggie Shiffert had a Clayton State reunion in July at the Chengdu Panda Base in the People's Republic of China's Sichuan Province.

Hollowell had just concluded five months of teaching in China on a Fulbright Teaching Scholarship. Shiffert was taking part in a National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) scholarship to study Chinese language and culture in Chengdu for the summer of 2013.

Hollowell, who earned the University's first Fulbright Teaching Scholarship, taught American Educational Policy and American Children's Literature in English to Chinese college students at Shaanxi Normal University (SNNU) in Xi'an from February 2013 through July 2013. Having concluded her Fulbright, Hollowell, husband Scott Hollowell, and daughters Kate and Sophie Mei joined a Chinese Heritage Tour sponsored by Chinese Children Adoption International (CCAI) of Englewood, Colo., the agency the Hollowells used when they adopted Sophie Mei in 2004.



## Clayton State Hosts Scholars from 28 Countries for Economics Conference

The Society for the Advancement of Behavioral Economics (SABE), the International Association for Research in Economics & Psychology (IAREP), and the International Confederation for the Advancement of Behavioral Economics and Economic Psychology (ICABEEP) held their international interdisciplinary conference at Clayton State University from July 25 to July 29, 2013.

The conference is the largest gathering of scholars with interest in economic psychology and behavioral economics, and individuals from 28 countries from Ghana to New Zealand were in attendance.

## Teacher Education Unit Re-Accredited by NCATE, Adds Master of Education Degree

The Unit Accreditation Board (UAB) of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) has re-accredited the Clayton State Teacher Education unit for the next six years, affirming the unit's mandate to make dreams real for both Clayton State students and those students they will be teaching in the future.

At its April meeting in St. Louis, NCATE decided to continue the accreditation of Teacher Education at Clayton State at the initial teacher preparation level. This re-accreditation decision indicates that the unit and its programs meet rigorous standards set forth by the professional education community.

"Special congratulations are in order because the UAB cited no areas for improvement relative to any of the standards," wrote NCATE President James G. Cibulka in a letter to Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Hynes.

The Clayton State University Department of Teacher Education is also excited to be offering a new Master of Education with a major in teacher leadership. This degree offers teachers of all disciplines and grade levels the opportunity to develop leadership skills that they can take back to their classrooms, schools, and communities.

## Clayton State Alumni Association Holds Officer Installation Ceremony

The Clayton State Alumni Association held its Officer Installation Ceremony on Thursday, Apr. 25, in Spivey Hall, marking the first time the Alumni Association conducted a separate standalone event to honor outgoing officers and recognize the incoming ones.

Foremost among the incoming officers is an individual for whom the honor is far from being a "first time." New President Lanelle LaRue of Lake City, Ga., has twice previously served as president of the Clayton State Alumni Association, and is also one of the charter members of the Clayton State Alumni Association, dating back to 1991.

Joining LaRue as officers will be Vice President Larry Jordan, Treasurer Jenny L. Rice and Secretary Marvin H. Bailey, Jr. All three are new to serving as Alumni Association officers.



Hall

## Hall Named Director of Honors Program

Dr. Kevin Demmitt, associate vice president of Extended Programs at Clayton State, announced that Associate Professor of Philosophy Dr. Alexander Hall has been named the fourth director of Clayton State's Honors Program.

Hall succeeds Professor of History Dr. Adam Tate. Now-retired Professor of History Dr. Eugene Hatfield was the founder of the Honors Program in 1995. He was followed as director by Demmitt, who was followed by Tate as director.

The director of the Clayton State Honors Program oversees the management and development of the Program. Responsibilities include recruiting qualified students, working with departments to develop and schedule Honors courses, managing the budget for scholarships and operating expenses, and working closely with the Honors Student Association.



Giffin

## Giffin Named Director of Development

Following an extensive national search and the recommendation of the Director of Development Search Committee, Thomas W. Giffin has been named director of development in the Division of External Relations at Clayton State University by Vice President of External Relations Kate Troelstra. Giffin, who replaced Reda Rowell, started his new position on Monday, Apr. 1.

Giffin comes to Clayton State with 15 years of experience in development, a majority of which is in the higher education field. Most recently the chief development officer for the Western Carolinas region of the American Red Cross, Giffin has previously worked in development at Clemson University, Virginia Tech, Coker College, UNC-Pembroke and Potomac State College. At both Virginia Tech and Clemson he was responsible for growing the pipeline of donors in a specific area; the state of Florida for Clemson, and the Graduate School and the University Honors Program at Virginia Tech.



Lake

## Lake Appointed First Permanent Coordinator of Veterans Resource Center

Tina Lake was appointed the first permanent Coordinator of Clayton State's Veterans Resource Center (VRC) in January, a move that Dr. Angelyn Hayes, assistant vice president for Student Affairs, characterizes as, "another significant milestone for the University."

As VRC coordinator, Lake is primarily tasked with communicating and collaborating with the University community to promote and implement military and veteran student retention and success efforts and to advocate for military/veteran student population. She will also be leading initiatives to identify specific needs of military and veteran students including additional support service needs, and to collaborate with and advise the University's Student Veterans Association (SVA). In conjunction with SVA, Lake will also be organizing, marketing and implementing targeted programs and events for active-duty military and veterans.

## President Hynes on Clayton State's Regional Impact – Economic Effects Gratifying, Value to Quality of Life Also Significant

With the release of the annual study by the Selig Center for Economic Growth of the University System of Georgia's economic impact, Clayton State University was once again shown to be a major player in the life of the Southern Crescent. However, as Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Hynes points out, Clayton State's regional impact goes beyond numbers, to the overall quality of life in the region.

The current study shows that Clayton State's economic impact on the Southern Crescent for FY12 was \$256 million and 2,377 jobs. Over the past five years, according to the Selig studies, Clayton State's economic impact has increased 39 percent, from \$184 million. Within the same time frame, the number of jobs the University was responsible for increased 37 percent, from 1737 jobs. Hynes says the results are gratifying, and part of the big picture of Clayton State's role in the community.

"Clayton State's direct economic effects on the region we serve are gratifying," says Hynes. "But the data serve only as a hint of other impacts for our community — the data show report payments to artists in Spivey Hall, but not the value of bringing exceptional art to our community. It records the salaries of Clayton State AmeriCorps students serving in Clayton County Public schools, but not the long term effects on students in Clayton County Schools who benefit from their tutoring."



## Georgia Legislature Approves Funding for Science Building

A project a decade in the making, and one that will help make generations of Clayton State University students' dreams real, came one step closer to fulfillment when the Georgia General Assembly approved the state's FY 2014 budget for the University System of Georgia, a budget that included approval of the bonds needed to fund a \$19.8 million science building for Clayton State University.

Additional labs and classroom space for the natural sciences have been a need for Clayton State since the University has expanded from 4,675 students in 2001 to more than 7000 students currently. Indeed, given the science course and lab requirements in the core curriculum, the lack of a dedicated science building has limited the University's enrollment, in effect limiting the number of students who can make their dreams real.

In addition to meeting the needs of the University, the new science building will also help the University meet critical needs in several fields in Atlanta's Southern Crescent; notably in nursing, healthcare managers for Southern Crescent medical facilities, science educators, and entrepreneurs in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) disciplines.

"Governor Deal and his staff deserve the credit for their efforts and leadership to include the building in the FY14 budget," says Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Hynes. "It was truly a bipartisan effort in both chambers that secured funding."

## Clayton State Launches New Minor in Corporate Communication

The Department of Visual and Performing Arts new program in corporate communication officially began this fall semester. The new minor offers courses in areas including advertising, public relations, and crisis communication.

Offered by the Communication and Media Studies Program, the minor in corporate communication will offer a total of seven new courses, including introduction to public relations, introduction to advertising, principles of project management, crisis and change communication, digital imaging, media industries, and communication technologies.

## Chinnan Community Endowment

As a result of their commitment to the international perspective and higher education, and in recognition of the importance of becoming leaders in both the global and local communities, Lata and Manjeet



**Manjeet and Lata Chinnan**

Chinnan have created the Chinnan Family Community Endowment at Clayton State University. In addition to this generous commitment, the Chinnans have also pledged to match any gift made to this endowment up to \$125,000... essentially doubling all gifts made to support the endowment to a level of a quarter of a million dollars.

Like Clayton State, the Chinnans have a commitment to the global and local communities. With a lifelong international perspective, the Chinnans value the richness of experience gained from a global experience. As a long-time business leader in Clayton County, Lata Chinnan also understands the importance of engaging in your community and recognizes the power that coming together as a community can have to accomplish great things. Professor Manjeet Chinnan brings an educational perspective having worked in academia his entire career. For him, the community engagement also brings the opportunity for professional development for faculty, staff, and students.

Once established, the endowment will provide scholarships for Clayton State students who have an interest in being exposed to a global perspective through study abroad programs. It will also allow scholars from India to enrich their educational or professional experience at Clayton State. The endowment will also allow opportunities for faculty and staff to benefit from Rotary membership and programs such as Leadership Clayton.

## Clayton State Music Division Granted Full Membership in NASM

The Clayton State University Division of Music, part of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts in the University's College of Arts & Sciences, is honored to announce that it was granted full membership (accreditation) by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).



NASM is a professional organization that specializes in accrediting degree and non-degree music programs at U.S. institutions of higher learning. Established in 1924, NASM helps support artistic and academic excellence by setting national standards for music study. It also conducts statistical research and policy analysis to promote the importance and achievements of music education.

## Drameka Griggs Named to WBCA All-American Team

Clayton State senior guard Drameka Griggs was named to the 2012-13 Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) All-American team. In addition to the All-American honors, Griggs has received several other accolades this season. She was named the Daktronics NCAA Division II's Southeast Region Player of the Year. She was the Peach Belt Conference Player of the Year and the MVP of the 2013 Peach Belt Conference Tournament.



Griggs

Griggs led the Lakers to 32 consecutive wins and the NCAA Division II Southeastern Regional championship before losing in the Elite Eight to Augustana College. Her 653 points in the 2012-13 season is the all-time best in Clayton State women's basketball history, breaking the Laker record of 547 points set by former All-American Teshymia Tillman during Clayton State's 2010/11 national championship season. Only Robert Conley (664) has scored more points in a season than Griggs did in 2012-13. She also finished her career second in career scoring.

## Harrison Named New Men's Basketball Coach



Harrison

The Department of Athletics and Athletic Director Carl McAloose announces the hiring of Paul Harrison as the program's new men's basketball coach.

Harrison, a native of Larchmont, N.Y., most recently served as the associate head coach at NCAA Division I Wofford College and becomes the fourth coach in the 23-year history of the Laker men's basketball program.



(Left) Leonard Moreland with scholarship recipient and speaker Loretta Smith. (Right) Scholarship recipient Todd Burke.

## Clayton State Celebrates Scholars and Donors at Annual Scholarship Luncheon

Clayton State University celebrated some of its finest scholars, and the donors who made their dreams real, at the 2013 Clayton State University Foundation Scholarship Luncheon.

A chance to bring various Clayton State scholarship recipients together with the individuals and organizations that made their scholarships possible, the Foundation's Scholarship Luncheon drew a strong turnout of recipients, donors and Clayton State administrators, in addition to Foundation Board Chairman and Heritage Bank CEO Leonard Moreland.

Among the speakers at the luncheon were three scholarship recipients; Tracye Lamar, Todd Burke and Loretta Smith.

Speaking on behalf of all scholarship donors was Dr. Eugene Hatfield, retired professor of history, professor emeritus, and president of the Clayton State Retirees Association, which has endowed a graduate scholarship at the University its members served for so many years.

# DEAN LILA ROBERTS A MATHEMATICIAN; AN ADVOCATE FOR DIVERSITY IN STEM

By John Shiffert



Dr. Lila Roberts  
Dean of CIMS

Dr. Lila Roberts, dean of the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences (CIMS), isn't a "token" in a field where only 25 percent of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degree holders are female. She has earned all that she has accomplished as a leader in the field of mathematics – not as a female mathematician.

Still, she understands why, in the past, young women have been reluctant to pursue science and mathematics as careers.

She remembers having taken many courses where she was the only woman in the room, and she remembers an experience from her high school days.

"In high school [in North Carolina], I was good at math and enjoyed it. I was enthralled with the space race and watched every launch with envy, wishing I could get into a capsule and see the earth from outside the atmosphere," she recalls. "My high school received a grant for the math teacher to take one student to the Bell Labs in New Jersey. I hoped I would be that student.

"Alas, the thought was that I would 'just become a teacher' or 'just get married and have kids,' so the experience would be somehow wasted."

While many would quibble with the concept that an exemplary high school student would become "just" a teacher, the point is that the opportunity would not have been wasted. Roberts did teach high school mathematics for six years and then went on to graduate school where she experienced the closest thing to a ride in an Apollo capsule.

"A faculty member saw some talent and got me into a NASA Graduate Student Fellowship program at NASA Langley Research Lab in Hampton, Va.," she says. "I also had the opportunity to work with some wonderful scientists in laser

technology and applications at NASA, all of whom were male. Best experience I ever had."

Foremost among those providing opportunity in the Ph.D. program in Computational and Applied Mathematics at Old Dominion University was Dr. John Swetits, who Roberts describes as an exceptional mentor who saw some talent in a non-traditional Ph.D. student... one who now leads CIMS at Clayton State and is a leader in the STEM fields, and an advocate for diversity in the STEM fields.

"Clayton State, with its diverse student population, has a tremendous potential to prepare students to enter STEM fields which, in addition to being intellectually challenging, have higher salaries than other occupations," she says. "Broadening participation in STEM from underrepresented groups is important to me, and I am proud of the work that our student organization, WISTEM, has done over the past few years in supporting women, many of whom are non-traditional students, who have chosen to enter the traditionally male-dominated fields."

Another part of Roberts' advocacy of STEM has been shown through a legacy gift she and her husband of 35 years, Lonnie Roberts ("I couldn't have done any of this without his support," says Dean Roberts) have made to Spivey Hall.

"I firmly believe that music and the arts are the gateway to creativity, which is the basis for discovery in math and science," she explains. "Being able to think and imagine beyond what is in a textbook; that comes from the arts. So supporting Spivey Hall through such a legacy gift is one way to promote that."



# EVERY DAY DIVERSITY

By Ciji Fox

In a world of swiftly shrinking borders, Clayton State prepares students for the reality of working and cooperating in a variety of diverse environments. It's a form of preparation as vital as any of their classroom work.



Brett Reichert

Brett Reichert, the associate director of Clayton State's International Student Services Office says, "If we read the old cliché 'you can't see the forest for the trees' as, 'you can't see diversity because of the students,' it might mean that some students are reared, acculturated and educated only in homogenous context... socio-economically, racially, ethnically, and also in terms of family status, religion, age, and disability."

If that's the case, adds Reichert, such homogenous students, "will lack the ability to see the forest in life for the trees, that is, they will lack the ability to process or understand the amazing diversity and variety in the world for lack of exposure to it, and for lack of interaction with it." Such a shortcoming, he notes, will hinder their team-building, cooperation and communicating with "the forest."

More importantly, homogenous students may react with fear or irrational thoughts and perceptions, which can be a real hindrance in the work place and in life.

"Students learn these skills from day one because they experience all kinds of diversity all around them," explains Reichert.

Lisa Austin, a recent graduate of the Clayton State Healthcare Management program, and a former president of the Caribbean Student Association (CSA), agrees that an ethnically diverse campus encourages students to network and learn about other cultures.

"Ethnic diversity is very crucial of the college experience. I am of Caribbean descent, and grew up around people of only three different backgrounds; American, Barbadian, and Guyanese. Being the president of CSA for three years has exposed me to many other different cultures," Lisa explains. "I believe that broadening your horizons while in college prepares you post-graduation. I feel that by being exposed to diversity in college you also learn how to handle different situations as well."

Clayton State currently has seven ethnically diverse student organizations: Model United Nations Club, International Student Association,

Muslim Student Association, Student African American Brotherhood, Student African American Sisterhood, Caribbean Student Association and the Vietnamese Student Association. The Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) is a non-profit student organization that revolves around culture, diversity, and leadership.

"I have been with VSA since spring 2011, and without a doubt, I adore this organization" says Sonny Tran, president of VSA. "VSA does not comprise of only Vietnamese and Vietnamese-Americans; we promote diversity and cultural mixture, meanwhile, educating the Clayton State University community about Vietnamese traditions."

Every year VSA hosts a charity dinner.

"The charity dinner is a philanthropy project that raises funds for different non-profit organization such as MEMO, World Cataract Foundation, and Blue Dragon Children's Foundation," Tran explains. "This event has been our tradition at the University for the past five years, and every year, we strive to raise more money for our philanthropy project and deliver an exciting show for our faithful audience."

As a student, learning the "material" is simply not enough; you have to couple that with hand-on experience, Tran says. "VSA has provided me with plenty of hands-on experience, and I have gained friendships along the way," he explains.

Joshua Davis, a Business Management major who currently serves as the student body president, grew up in an ethnically-diverse environment which included Caucasians, African-Americans, Hispanics, and Asian-Americans.



(L to R) Joshua Davis, Loch and President Hynes

"Diversity at Clayton State is one of the first things that made me feel comfortable here," he says. "So far, I have become more involved in service; and, as I continue my collegiate career, I continue to learn more about student affairs. As a result, I now have a greater appreciation and interest in critical issues regarding ethnic diversity."



## **SUEÑOS HECHO REALIDAD... IN ANY LANGUAGE, CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY MAKES DREAMS REAL**

*By Gid Rowell*



No matter the language, look no further than international student-athlete Ayrton Azcue, a native of Zizur Mayor, Spain, as an example of this transformative process. Earlier this year, the dreams of this four-year letter-winner in track and field truly became real in more ways than one.

On the track for Clayton State's NCAA Division II athletics program, Azcue excelled at the highest level and was named a two-time All-American in the 800m run. He placed second in the 800m event at the 2013 NCAA Division II Indoor National Championships and eighth in 800m event at the 2013 NCAA Division II Outdoor National Championships. Both performances ranked Azcue among the nation's best in the events, which had thousands of competitors across the country.

"Ayrton is another fine example of a student-athlete who excels in the classroom and in the competition venue," said long-time Clayton State coach Mike Mead. "He

worked extremely hard, paid close attention to details and did the extra things that took his talents to a national competitive level.”

His performance on the track placed him among the all-time bests in Clayton State’s track field program, becoming only the second two-time All-America in men’s track and field along with Carlos Guyton in 2004 and 2005.

“Part of his success was listening to his coaches,” said Mead. “Coach Clive (Caesar) and myself were telling him for a few seasons that he needed to change his racing strategy. Until late in 2012, Ayrton wanted to sit and kick, but he learned that he needed to run up near the front to be in the race at the end and that strategy resulted in consistently faster times and an NCAA runner-up finish.”

In addition to success on the track, Azcuc also excelled in the classroom, graduating in the spring of 2013 with a bachelor’s degree in management with over a 3.0 grade point average. He will continue his education in the spring of 2014, pursuing his masters in health administration at Clayton State.

As a result of his success both on the track and in the classroom, Azcuc received the 2012-13 Laker Award, bestowed annually to the top male athlete in the Clayton State Athletics program. He also received the 2012-13 H. Mason Barfield Academic Award given to the student-athlete with the highest grade point average.

Azcuc credits a number of supporters for his success at Clayton State, “I attribute both my successes in academics and athletics to the people who are around me all the time. I credit my parents and family members, my coaches and teammates, my friends, especially those who are next to me when things are tough, and all the Clayton State professors and staff who were there helping every day.”

In deciding to attend the University, Azcuc says Coach Mead and Coach (Hugh) Toro were the two main reasons he chose Clayton State, citing their welcoming nature throughout the process.

“Both my parents, especially my mother, encouraged me to study in America, so I got in contact with a number of coaches from all around the country,” said Azcuc. “However, it was the close attention that Coach Mead and Coach Toro showed that was the difference. They made the whole process easy, and they made me feel wanted. That’s what made me decide to attend Clayton State.”

When describing the University and his experiences at Clayton State, Azcuc says the beautiful campus, small class sizes and the opportunity to engage and interact with supportive faculty are just a few things that make this place special to him.

“The first thing you notice is the size, newness and beauty of campus,” said Azcuc. “But aside from that, Clayton State is really special to me because the number of students per class is small, the professors are always willing to help, and everyone on campus is so really supportive. The relationships that I have built with all the people at Clayton State have helped me grow as a person.”

Along with pursuing his master’s degree in 2014, Azcuc will also serve as a graduate assistant coach in the spring for the track and field program.

“Coach Mead has given me a tremendous opportunity to serve as a graduate assistant coach,” said Azcuc. “I will be coaching and training with all these students who are motivated and excited for college and athletics. I hope that I can share some of my experiences and help them achieve their goals.”



Ayrton Azcuc received multiple awards at the last Athletics Banquet, including the H. Mason Barfield Academic Award, Most Valuable Athlete Men’s Track & Field, and a Laker Award.

# faculty profile

## DR. XIMENA ZORNOSA FULFILLS HER TEACHING DREAM

**D**r. Ximena Zornosa, associate professor of Dental Hygiene at Clayton State, was born in Bogota, Colombia. She moved to the United States at age eight and faced the daunting challenge of learning a new language. Excelling at all things academic, she grasped the English language quickly, going on to perform well enough to gain acceptance into one of the world's most highly regarded dental schools, the University Of Pennsylvania School Of Dental Medicine.

While serving in the U.S. Air Force as a dental officer, Zornosa managed and presented base-wide dental health education programs. It was during her service that she discovered that she was passionate about being educator. Zornosa's passion continued to grow as she took on more teaching responsibilities. She began lecturing medical students and fellow residents while completing a three-year residency program at Emory University, culminating in board certification as an Oral and Maxillofacial Pathologist.

Dr. Zornosa's first experience teaching at Clayton State University came in 1999 when she served as a part-time clinical instructor. The experience rekindled her dream to teach and after completing her residency she started at Clayton State as a full-time assistant professor of Dental Hygiene in August of 2005. Dream fulfilled! In 2010 she was promoted to associate professor.

Zornosa says her most rewarding experiences to date have been the gratitude received from every dental hygiene class.

"The most rewarding aspect of my job is the personal satisfaction that comes from training young dental professionals," Zornosa says. "Teaching has given me the opportunity to not only make use of my training and experience, but also to give back to the dental profession and the public which it serves."

"Dr. Zornosa is an incredible instructor who

shares a great knowledge to all of her students," Jessica McClendon, senior class president, says. "She is devoted to our dental hygiene program and to her students. I respect and rely on her opinion, because I know she cares about my education and future career."

Zornosa's most memorable experience at Clayton State has been the recognition by her peers by being presented with the Alice Smith Faculty Award in 2012.

A dentist and oral pathologist, she volunteers in numerous oral health screenings and service events. Often, it is to accompany Clayton State dental hygiene students in their out-

reach activities. As a member of the Georgia Dental Association, she recently participated in the Georgia Mission of Mercy, which provided dental services at no cost to 1,700 underserved Georgia residents. She also volunteers with Adopt-a-Golden Atlanta.

Zornosa lives in Peachtree City with her husband and golden retriever "Cassie." A former marathon runner, she still regularly enjoys walking, jogging, yoga, and pilates. An avid travel, sport, and nature photographer, she is finishing work toward a certificate in professional photography.

"If I had a single piece of advice to pass on to every student, it would be to keep an open mind by paying attention to even those subjects and topics that seem unimportant at the time," she says. "Someday, what may not have seemed important may become so. When I was in college, I didn't know that I would someday dream of being an educator and that Clayton State University would make that dream real. Now I know."

— Ciji Fox



**It's gratifying when I can see the difference I have made in a student's life. It is empowering and reaffirms my career path as a professor. I also enjoy the camaraderie of my fellow workers and the interaction with the student body. Our campus is a beautiful place to work.**

# student profile

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## ANOUSOUCK “ANDY” SAYAVONG A HISTORY MAJOR WHO’S PART OF HISTORY

**A**nousouck “Andy” Sayavong was the recipient of the College of Arts & Sciences 2012/13 Award for Excellence in History, an award given each year to a student by vote of the history faculty for superior achievement.

Unlike most Clayton State academic award winners, this history/philosophy double major has also been a part of history, specifically, the large-scale wave of immigration to the United States from southeast Asia in the decades following the disastrous conclusion of the Vietnam War.

Sayavong came to the United States with his family in 1996, at the age of seven, not knowing a word of English. Originally natives of Laos, the Sayavong family had been forced to live as refugees in Thailand after leaving their native land. After finally making it to the U.S., they eventually settled in Morrow. A graduate of Forest Park High School, maybe with somewhat greater dreams than the average high school graduate, Andy became a U.S. citizen this past summer, and plans to graduate from Clayton State in the spring of 2014.

“The reason I decided to dual major in both history and philosophy was because I thought it would be extremely helpful for me to get into law school,” he says. “The two majors have done a wonderful job in assisting me to be a better writer, a more logical thinker, as well as a good reader. Although I’ve learned quite a bit, I believe I have much to work on.

“I would like to thank Dr. (David) Gilbert and Dr. (R.B.) Rosenberg for being such wonderful instructors throughout my time here at Clayton State. They’ve been excellent teachers, and I could definitely say that everything that I’ve learned from them will carry with me beyond my studies at Clayton State.”

Initially a business major at Clayton State, Sayavong switched to history at the urging of Gilbert, a career decision that clearly has been suc-

cessful, in part as shown by his Excellence in History award, and in part by his being voted president of Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society, for his senior year.

“He is an excellent student who is working on a double major in history and philosophy,” notes Gilbert, who has taught Sayavong in several of his



history classes over the years.

“Both are challenging subjects, but I think that Anousouck is motivated by a desire to understand the contemporary world at a deep level. The study of the past, including the progress of human thought, is the key to that understanding, so he is willing to make the effort to succeed in both fields.”

Although Andy’s journey to Clayton State is an unusual as well as historic one, his ‘story’ is typical of many first-generation Clayton State students, whether they come from Laos or Locust Grove... students who succeed thanks to the support of their professors and their families.

“Personally speaking, I think the greatest impact that helped me succeed in my studies is support and encouragement from my family,” he says. “I would encourage other students to stay focused and strive for what they wish to accomplish. Anything is possible as long as they want it enough and work hard for it.”  
— John Shiffert

**I would encourage other students to stay focused and strive for what they wish to accomplish. Anything is possible as long as they want it enough and work hard for it.**

# staff profile

## ATAWANNA ROYAL REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

**B**eing a graduate of Clayton State, this university means a lot to me. I know how important obtaining a college education is today, but even more so I know how equally important it is to obtain a college experience filled with opportunities to grow personally and professionally; to engage in diverse opportunities and interactions; to acquire transferable skills; and to develop as a leader,” expresses Atawanna Royal.

She came to Clayton State as a non-traditional student, working full time. Her dream? To complete her bachelor’s degree. She jokes that she considered herself a “parking lot student,” one who spends more time traveling through the parking lot than exploring what Clayton State has to offer.

“It didn’t take long for this to change. A couple of weeks into the semester, I began to notice how open and welcoming Clayton State really was with the administrators and student leaders on campus just as warm as the environment,” she says.

When she began reading her “StudentInfo” emails and getting to know her peers and professors, she soon discovered a new college life experience.

“I discovered a whole new world in this arena called college. The resources, programs, events, and initiatives offered at Clayton State provided me with the opportunity to learn more about myself and other cultures; to define my leadership skills and abilities needed to succeed in this global society. Accompanied with a great academic curriculum, my time at Clayton State as a student proved to be one of the most life-changing, life-shaping experiences I would ever have,” she says.

Fast forward five years later and she is part of the energetic staff in Campus Life, encouraging students to be active; preparing them with tools and skills they need to succeed personally and professionally. Thanks to her own experiences at Clayton State she now enthusiastically assists students with their colle-

giate transitions and the development of skills that will lead them successfully beyond graduation.”

Often the most challenging part to being “Royal” is that she pushes herself beyond immeasurable limits. As Assistant Director of Campus Life she oversees the administration and registration process of all myriad student organizations. She is also advisor to the We Are O.N.E.

Interfaith Council, and the Campus Events Council. She also serves on many campus committees including the Commencement Committee, Operation Study, Student Fees and Activities Board, University Image Consulting Committee, Homecoming Committee, and Freshman Premiere Planning Committee.

“Clayton State whole-heartedly supports staff professional development and the opportunity to further our education. In May 2012, I successfully obtained my Master of Education in Higher Education. I was completely supported by my director and my colleagues of the Department of Campus Life, the administrators of the Division of Student Affairs and many others here,” she says.

The mother of four-year-old Morgan, loves spending time with her daughter whether it is coloring, reading, singing, or even karate - Morgan in an accomplished yellow belt. Active in her church, where she serves as a leader for the Praise Team and Youth Ministry, Royal is also a member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), serving as an undergraduate fellows program mentor. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She also volunteers in the community, working at St. Francis Table, an Atlanta soup kitchen.

– Erin Fender



Clayton State is where I realized I had dreams that I didn’t even know existed, dreams of reaching heights not yet reached; seeing things not yet seen; watching the eyes of other dreamers light up when they realize they too can fly, all while cheering them on as they soar higher and higher.

# trustee profile

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## BOB OLIVER AND JACK HANCOCK ENDOWMENTS MAKE DREAMS REAL

In recognition of his contributions to Clayton State and the surrounding community, the partners of Freeman Mathis & Gary created and endowed the G. Robert Oliver Scholarship for Legal Studies. This will forever link Oliver and Clayton State in a way that emphasizes the importance of education, leadership, and the legal profession. Family, friends, and local officials gathered at a March 2013 Foundation Board meeting to surprise Oliver with the announcement.

“While I am honored that my colleagues at Freeman, Mathis & Gary would establish this scholarship in my name, the significance of what the law firm has done goes far beyond any personal recognition. To provide a grant of money to be used by Clayton State students to pursue a course in legal studies and to further a student’s education in a particular field of study is a noble thing,” says Oliver.

Oliver has played a significant role in the University’s development over the years. He is a charter member of the Board of Trustees and, in 1999, was named chairman of the then-Clayton College & State University Foundation. He now serves as trustee emeritus. In 2001, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Clayton State.

Clayton State began offering a variety of options in legal education in 1990, beginning with continuing education paralegal courses. The University graduated its first students with a bachelor’s degree in legal studies in 2011. Currently, the University offers a bachelor’s degree in legal studies, a paralegal certificate, an associate degree in paralegal studies, and a minor in legal studies. More than 150 students are enrolled in a program within legal studies, making it one of the fastest-growing departments.

“Participation in the G. Robert Oliver Scholarship for Legal Studies is an avenue by which I can enable young people to advance their education in a field that I have loved for more than 30 years. At the

same time and equally as important it gives me the opportunity to honor a man that I have admired and respected for many years. Mr. Oliver epitomizes the best in our profession. Throughout Mr. Oliver’s career he has served his clients and his community with the highest level of skill and integrity,” says Jack Hancock, attorney and partner at Freeman, Mathis, and Gary.

Jack Hancock is currently serving as assistant secretary treasurer on the Clayton State Foundation Board of Trustees. He began serving on the board in 2009. Hancock received his B.B.A. and J.D. from the University of Georgia. He serves as special assistant attorney general and has served on the Board of Directors for the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce. During his tenure on the chamber board he served as legal counsel and served two terms as chairman of the board.

Robert G. Oliver received his A.B. in 1953 and LL.B. in 1959 from Emory University. He has served as deputy assistant attorney general for the State of Georgia, president of the Georgia Academy of Hospital Attorneys, president of the Clayton County Bar Association, chairman of the Code of Professional Responsibility Committee for the State Bar of Georgia, and chairman of the State Bar of Georgia, Formal Advisory Opinion Board. He has also served as chair, administrative board member and Church Council member at Jones Memorial United Methodist Church in Morrow, Ga.

— Erin Fender



**My hope is that this scholarship can provide the means whereby Clayton State students can pursue an education in legal studies and hopefully encourage them to consider careers in law related fields.**

**- Bob Oliver**

# alumni profile

## CHARLIE FRAZIER I AM CLAYTON STATE

“I dreamed of earning a college degree,” he said during a presentation in Spivey Hall. That dream has been realized, and more, for Charlie L. Frazier, Jr., who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Middle Grades Education in 2002. His story begins like many others, but his path and his destination reveal a strength of character and depth of integrity that are pure inspiration.

After finding how “the party side” of college life can halt forward progress, Charlie joined the U.S. Army and served for almost five years. He was still holding on to the dream but had no plan. While stationed in Georgia, he met a representative from Clayton State. And the rest, as they say, is history. Under the leadership of Coach Gordon Gibbons, Charlie excelled as a four year letterwinner in men’s basketball. Several of his records still stand: he ranks fourth all-time in games played; ranks second all-time in games started; ranks third all-time in points scored; ranks second all-time in steals; and ranks first all-time in assists.

Charlie also changed his academic direction from pre-Army computer science to education. Both his parents have successful careers as teachers, principals, and administrators. “They were examples,” he says proudly. His sister also teaches and coaches. He credits Dr. Annita Hunt at Clayton State for providing the essential role model for the classroom. “She was so goal-oriented. She made you feel like you were number one. I carried that forward to my classes,” he explains.

Following graduation, Charlie began his professional experience teaching mathematics and social studies at Adamson Middle School in Rex, where he was named Teacher of the Year 2007-2008. In 2010, he became assistant principal and athletic director at Henderson Middle School in Jackson; and in 2012, he assumed responsibilities as assistant principal at Jackson High School. He describes the con-

trast between teaching and administration as going from the front line where teachers form relationships with students to shifting into more of a disciplinary role. As instructional leader for the 9th-12th grade, he values every opportunity he has to impact a student’s life.

Those opportunities also happen on the courts.

Charlie has served as basketball coach at Forest Park High School, Morrow High School, Adamson Middle School, and Jasper County High School. At Clayton State University, an award was established in his honor:



“The Charlie Frazier ‘Laker Award’ is named for an alumnus who embodies all the characteristics of the ideal Clayton State Men’s Basketball student-athlete. The recipient of this award sets the example for his fellow teammates in the classroom and in life.”

Returning to that presentation in Spivey Hall, Charlie stood at the microphone and recounted the goals to which he aspired (he called it the condensed version): “Earning a college degree; having a stable and substantial job where I could make a difference; being a teacher of the year; being a student-athlete and playing a sport that I love so dearly; winning a conference championship; and being recognized as a good and decent human being.” He attributes his success to the experience and expertise of others – yet he is obviously an exceptional individual. Charlie concluded by sharing with the audience, “I am Clayton State... where dreams are made real. How do I know? Because they made mine real.”

– Dolores Cox

**I am Clayton State... where dreams are made real. How do I know? Because they made mine real.**





# ClassNotes

The 2013 Alumni Board Officer Induction in Spivey Hall. (L to R): Marvin Bailey, Jr. ('11), secretary; Jenny Rice ('91), treasurer; Larry Jordan ('06), vice president; and Lanelle LaRue ('85), president with Leila Tatum, director of Alumni Relations.

## 1974

**Dr. Benita H. Moore (A.A. Business Administration)**, former Clayton State faculty member and former acting dean, shares that Lee Moore, her son, and his friend Galen Burke received a \$10,000 grant as a part of a project to hitchhike the Silk Road in China. "Both hope to use the project to gain exposure and make business con-



The Moore Family

tacts, and they are planning to submit the film they produce to the Banff Film Festival."

## 1985

**Lanelle LaRue (A.A. Business Administration)**, a Greene County native, was named Clayton State University Alumni Association president for the third time. In addition, LaRue is also one of the charter members of the Clayton State Alumni Association, dating back to 1991. LaRue has also served as Alumni Association vice president twice, secretary twice and treasurer once, and is familiar with the workings of the association. LaRue has two sons, a daughter, two granddaughters, and a new great grandson, Emery



LaRue ('85)

Christopher Sink. In her spare time LaRue loves baking, gardening, hiking or anything outdoors.

## 1991

**Jenny L. Rice (B.B.A. Accounting)** is the budget manager for Southern Company Services (SCS). Since joining Georgia Power in 1991, she served in various roles, including assistant to the senior vice president of Metro Atlanta Regions and budget manager for Customer Service & Marketing, before joining SCS in 2010. Rice serves as the treasurer of the Clayton State Alumni Association. In her spare time, Rice enjoys reading, exercising and playing golf. Rice and her husband, Chet, reside in Newnan, Ga.



Rice ('91)

## 2004

**Leigh Wills (B.A. Integrative Studies)** was named to a development post in DeSoto County, MS. Wills, who was previously an administrative assistant with the county Tourism Association, is now the county's first community development coordinator. Wills will be responsible for community relations, external and internal communications as well as media relations. Wills is well-known in the area as a member of the Hernando Planning Commission and as manager of

**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:**  
Leila Tatum  
Director of Alumni Relations  
Alumni@clayton.edu



the award-winning Hernando Farmer's Market. Her eldest daughter, Lindsey, will soon be a Clayton State alumna and is on the cover of this issue.

## 2006

**Jason Glover (B.S. Political Science)** was recently selected to serve as the assistant director of the Atlanta Federal Records Center. Glover has worked for the National Archives and Records Administration since 2005, when he began his career there as a student intern. In the role of assistant director, Glover will be responsible for the daily operations of a 300,000 square foot warehouse facility that stores more than 1.7 million cubic feet of federal records. He is married to Tiffany Wilson, and they have three boys, ages six, four and two.

**Larry Jordan (B.B.A. Management)**, a New Jersey native and McDonough, Ga., resident, has been an economic assistant with the U.S. Department of Labor/Bureau of Labor Statistics in Atlanta since 2007 and a licensed realtor with Keller Williams Realty Traditions in Stockbridge since 2006. Jordan currently serves as the vice president of the Clayton State Alumni Association. Jordan loves to watch and play sports, and he is currently learning to play golf. Jordan also likes to spend time with his family, travel, learn about different cultures, and work out at the gym.



Jordan ('06)

## 2009

**Leslie Branson (B.S.N. Nursing)**, currently an intensive care unit nurse at Piedmont Fayette Hospital, was named the winner of the DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Award for Extraordinary Nurses. DAISY is part of a national program honoring nurses for their clinical skills and compassionate care for patients and their families.

**DeMario Lindsey (B.S. Health & Fitness)** was promoted to clinical exercise physiologist at Saint Joseph Hospital Cardiac Rehabilitation.

**Bradley McKibben (B.S. Psychology and Human Services)**, currently a first year doctoral student of counseling and counselor education at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, was recently awarded a Leadership Fellow Award for 2013-2014 through Chi Sigma Iota, Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International. This award provides leadership involvement and mentorship through the honor society over the next year.



McKibben ('09)

## 2010

**Letitia "Tish" Naghise (B.A. Liberal Studies)** of T & C Transportation Enterprises, Inc. was recognized by The Fayette Democratic Women as

Business Woman of the Year. Tish is the owner/operator of T & C Transportation located in Fayette County. T & C is a small business where Tish manages a staff of five men (including her husband and oldest son) who are all truck drivers. T & C Transportation has managed to keep all employees working through the turbulent economy without downsizing or decreasing hours. They have also been able to add staff to ensure service is at a premium.



Naghise ('10)

**Michael Ratti (B.A. Liberal Studies)** was invited to join the Jet Stunt Extreme show in Queensland, Australia as a stunt performer at Sea World Australia. A year ago Michael worked as a Jet Ski stunt instructor for six months at the Abu Dhabi Coast Guard base in the United Arab Emirates, so he was excited to have the chance to live in and explore another country in conjunction with the sport he loves. Ratti is currently living and working in the Gold Coast area of Australia where he continues to work as publisher on the watercraft magazine he started in 2010, *Pro Rider Magazine*. He credits the wonderful professors of his journalism, marketing and philosophy courses at Clayton State with preparing him for the world of entrepreneurship.



Ratti ('10)



## 2011

**Marvin H. Bailey, Jr. (B.B.A. Marketing)**, a native of Macon Ga., serves as Secretary of the Clayton State Alumni Association. Bailey was afforded the opportunity to serve in the national membership process for Alpha Phi Alpha as a master trainer, where he still serves today. He aspires to return to school this fall to work on a master's degree in divinity along with a master's in business administration. Some of his hobbies include hanging out with friends and frat brothers as well as involvement at his church, the Greater Traveler's Rest Baptist Church.



Bailey ('11)

**Orlando Burns (B.B.A. Accounting)** finished his master of professional accountancy at Georgia State University in May 2012, received his CPA license in January 2013, and was offered a staff accountant position at American Tower Corporation, an S&P 500 company, in March.

**Kristy Clabaugh (B.B.A. Accounting)** and her husband, Erik, welcomed their son, Spenser, into the world in January 2013. She continues to work as a tax accountant at Habif, Arogeti, & Wynne, LLP.

## 2012

**Scott Masters (M.B.A. Healthcare)** is currently employed as director of emergency medical transportation at Northeast Georgia Medical Center.

**Anissa Matlock (B.A. Theatre)**, a former stalwart of the Clayton State Theatre, is moving from the stage to the screen, and from romantic comedy to zombie/apocalypse comedy. Matlock organized auditions for interested Clayton State students for roles in an independent film called "Welcome to the Bubs," which she describes as being, "a zombie/apocalypse comedy."

**Debbie-Ann Lawrence (CER Paralegal Studies)** has published a book entitled, "Your Year of Turn Around: 40 Days of Encouragement." Ms. Lawrence's book is about encouraging the seeds of greatness within each of us by laying out a 40-day plan for achieving goals. Lawrence currently resides in Atlanta and hopes to secure a paralegal position while continuing to do motivational speaking, workshops, teaching, and freelance writing projects.



Lockhart

He received his posthumous Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) degree from Clayton State President Dr. Thomas J. Hynes. Lockhart, who previously earned a B.S. in Sociology from Clayton State, passed away unexpectedly on Mar. 1, 2013. A frequent visitor to the Clayton State Disability Resource Center (DRC) during his undergraduate days, Lockhart was working for the DRC, and Director Louise Bedrossian, as well as completing his MALS degree, at the time of his death.

**Kristi Woodham**, a LeCordon Bleu trained chef employed by The Pecan, is engaged to Neil Baumgartner. The couple married on the beach in Gulf Shores in front of the family home on September 14, 2013.



Woodham ('13)

## 2013

**Scharlie-Marteace Lockhart (Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, MALS)** The family of the late Scharlie-Marteace Lockhart, one of the University's best-known alumni and student workers, was present at the noon ceremony of the Saturday, May 4 spring commencement ceremonies to re-

DREAMS . MADE REAL .

# **ALUMNI,** *Reconnect with Clayton State, and* **YOU CAN WIN A** **KINDLE FIRE**

*Register with Clayton State University's new online community to stay current with exciting news and events and be automatically entered to win a Kindle Fire.*

*This contest is open to Clayton State University alumni who register with valid and up-to-date contact information. You must be registered by November 15, 2013 to enter.*



## **TO REGISTER**

- 1. Go to [giving.clayton.edu/kindlefire](http://giving.clayton.edu/kindlefire)**
- 2. Follow the link to register and log in to our online community**
- 3. Complete and submit your contact info by November 15, 2013**

*Only graduates of Clayton State University are eligible to win. The winner will be selected from those who have registered with valid email addresses. The winner will be selected at random from a pool of eligible participants and will be notified using the email address provided.*