

# THE LAKER CONNECTION



**CLASS ACT**  
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING  
AT CLAYTON STATE

BEAMS OF LIGHT REAL



**DREAMS . MADE REAL .**

Brittany Bachman, a teacher education alumna, was a 2012 Chancellor's Academic Award Finalist. She graduated in 2012 and interned at the Avondale Museum School.

Cover photo by Kevin Liles ('11)

## THE LAKER CONNECTION

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**Above:** Clayton State University alumna Chiara Browning is living her dream as a sixth grade social studies teacher at Hapeville Charter Middle School, where she conducted her internship during her time at Clayton State. "Clayton State's program provided me with a foundation that allowed me to work in the field for which I was born. I can't remember a time in my life when I did not want to be a teacher."

## This Issue

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### **Class Act: Experiential Learning at Clayton State 3**

Teaching by doing is a central component in teacher education at Clayton State University. Learning revolves around the interplay between engagement in the college classroom and real-world experiential preparation.

### **Dreams Made Real Through Experiential Learning 10**

Clayton State University recently previewed its future and reviewed its past as Clayton State students, alumni and faculty expressed the University's identity as epitomized by the statement, "Dreams. Made Real."

### **International Graduate Students Bring the World To Clayton State University 12**

Thanks to its international students, the School of Graduate Studies at Clayton State University is part of the global mix.

### **Jamaica: A Place Where Great Learning Happens 13**

Dr. Rafik Mohamed takes learning outside of the classroom by leading a study abroad trip to Duncans, Jamaica, for the fourth consecutive year.

*Katrina Swain*

### **A Career Changing Internship 14**

Katrina Swain, a senior psychology major, has an active spirit of volunteerism and a strong sense of community.

*Chris Klute*

### **Former Laker Soccer Star Joins the MLS 22**

Chris Klute, the central defender for the Lakers in 2011, was acquired by the Colorado Rapids in Major League Soccer (MLS) in fall 2012.

*Rosalynn Gresham and Sarah Stein*

### **A Tale of Strength, Devotion and Perseverance 24**

Student Rosalynn Gresham perseveres toward her dream of graduation while facing lupus and waiting for a kidney donor. Her professor, Sarah Stein, hopes to make Rosalynn's donor dream a reality.

## Departments

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President's Message .....	2	Faculty Profile .....	26	Alumni Profile .....	29
Campus Update .....	16	Student Profile .....	27	Class Notes .....	30
Trustee Profile .....	25	Staff Profile.....	28		

# Our institutional mission serves to guide our practices and improve our efforts to foster learning for our students, faculty, staff



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

and community. Our mission statement reads in part: "Clayton State University cultivates an environment of engaged, experienced-based learning, enriched by active community service that prepares students of diverse ages and backgrounds in their lives and careers." In fact, our business is all about learning.

Future President John Adams in 1751 appears to be the first American author to conclude that practice makes perfect. A later refinement—that only perfect practice makes perfect—has been attributed (as so many other statements have been so attributed) to the great American philosopher Vince Lombardi. Whatever the source of the statements, it is clear that applied and experiential learning are important to our institution, and we believe an essential part of our institutional mission.

Contemporary educational applications of experiential learning are often associated with the work of David Kolb, and his landmark work in 1984. There Kolb defines experiential learning as "the process whereby knowledge is created through the transformation of experience. Knowledge results from the combination of grasping and transforming experience." For Kolb, experiential learning includes four important elements: concrete experience, reflective observation, abstract conceptualization, and active experimentation.

To understand the value of such learning, it is indeed important to consider the ways in which experiences must be framed so as to assist students in converting experiences into real learning. The experience alone is a necessary, although not a sufficient condition for learning consistent with academic program goals -- in a laboratory setting, in a workplace, with groups of students guided or coached by a faculty or staff member. It is not enough to simply place a student in a science laboratory or an internship within the transportation industry or place a nursing student in a hospital setting. Experiential learning requires more than simply giving students a chance to spend time at the state capital or at a city or county government office. Our success in experiential learning requires partnerships with colleagues in the public and private sectors. Our success requires collaborations that help set learning outcomes and expectations for our students, and provide the conditions in which that learning can take place. These are just the kinds of partnerships that build on the history and traditions of this institution. The stories you will read here, and many more, establish the following: when our university and its faculty and staff serve as stewards of place, we contribute to ways in which the dreams and aspirations and needs of our students and our communities are made real.

Dr. Thomas Hynes  
President



# CLASS ACT

## Experiential Learning at Clayton State University



*Meet Larita Pugh  
Jonesboro Middle School  
4th Grade Literacy*

### TEACHING. MADE REAL.

Clayton State University's teacher education program has been the center of my teaching success. I found an unparalleled student experience as a student who was excited to investigate the biggest issues of education. As a University devoted to excellence in teaching, learning and developing educational leaders who make a difference, it bridged the gap and cultivated my desire to be an extraordinary teacher. I am now working on my doctoral degree.

JONESBORO MIDDLE SCHOOL'S  
2011-2012 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Teaching by doing is a central component in teacher education at Clayton State University. Learning revolves around the interplay between engagement in the college classroom and real-world experiential preparation. Teacher candidates sit behind the desk as the educated, stand in front of a class as the educator, and graduate with a comprehensive understanding of education.

"We're not holding off on dessert," says Dr. Ruth Caillouet, Department Chair of Teacher Education at Clayton State. "Instead of saying 'Wait until you graduate,' experiential learning shows them a tangible reason for what they are doing, and the future is very clear for what they will become."

What they will become depends on the education program chosen by the candidate. Undergraduate candidates earn a Bachelor of Arts in Middle Grades Teacher Education (grades four through eight) or a bachelor's in a specific discipline (English, History, Music or Mathematics) with an emphasis on teaching secondary education (grades six through 12). The music education program leads to a bachelor's degree and k-12 certification. Graduate level candidates pursue a Master of Arts in Teaching – English or a Master of Arts in Teaching – Mathematics.

For undergraduates, the road to the classroom begins as early as the sophomore year. Candidates tutor, observe and teach short lessons two days a week at their assigned metro-Atlanta school. By spring semester of their senior year, candidates spend all day, every day at the internship site with a mentor teacher. During that last semester, the candidate teaches full-time for six weeks – an invaluable class act.

"It is only through the experience of being in the classroom that one can truly know what it looks, feels, and smells like to be a teacher," shares class of 2011 alumna Chiara Browning, recipient of the Georgia Power New Teacher Assistance Grant and Social Studies Department Head at Hapeville Charter School. "I look at the experiential learning aspect as baptism by fire with a safety net. We are put into the classroom environment, but have a mentoring teacher there.... Having her there gave me the confidence to try things that I may not have if I had been alone."

In addition to a mentor teacher, candidates pursuing an emphasis in teaching receive input from a Clayton State faculty supervisor within their discipline. Twenty faculty members from across mathematics, English, science, history and music devote a portion of their time to teaching the candidates in the Clayton State classroom and observing the candidates in the field.

"We have faculty going out to work with students and watch them teach," says Cailouet, "It's a more complete process than folks usually get to see. Often you don't see the professional that the student becomes, but we get to see it a lot sooner."

Experiential learning is also a major component in the graduate level Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) programs. As in the undergraduate programs, MAT candidates spend spring semester of their senior year in the field. Key differences between the baccalaureate and master's level programs

Cont'd. p. 9

## TEACHING. MADE REAL.

Teaching, particularly in a middle school, allows me to reach students at a crucial and interesting age. They are growing and evolving almost daily, and at times, are unsure what to do with themselves. As their teacher, I do so much more than teach Social Studies; social skills, self-esteem, and boundaries are high on the list. I also find myself being a shoulder to cry on and an ear to listen. I cannot imagine a career that would be more fulfilling.

HAPEVILLE CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL  
2011 GEORGIA POWER NEW TEACHER  
ASSISTANCE GRANT WINNER

*Meet Chiara Browning  
Hapeville Charter Middle School  
6th Grade Social Studies*



*Dr. Dennis Attick meets with teacher education students.*



*Dr. Kelli Nipper crunches numbers in an undergraduate math class.*

# NEGATIVE NUMBERS, POSITIVE ATTITUDES

by Samantha Watson

Math is usually a dreaded subject associated with fear and failure. Students walk into math classes downtrodden and disheartened with the whisper of “I can’t do this” on their lips. Dr. Anthony Stinson knows the connotations associated with mathematics all too well, and he is determined to reverse the discouraged feeling students may feel towards math.

Dr. Stinson is an assistant professor of mathematics and came to Clayton State University full time in 2010 with 30 years of experience in DeKalb County public schools. His extensive knowledge of standard space learning and instruction helps him incorporate engaged learning into the collegiate classroom. His understanding of public school teaching also allows him to impart his knowledge on the students that will go into that field.

“I have to go inside what I call my ‘tool box’ of strategies and figure out what am I going to do with my students. I have to get them excited about learning. I would tell my public school students to do things like stand up on the table. Sometimes we (teachers) don’t want to realize we are actors on stage. We have to get the students to buy into what we’re trying to convey to them. Because they know if you love it or if you’re just here for a pay check,” says Dr. Stinson.

While working in DeKalb County, Dr. Stinson studied at Georgia State University for his master’s, specialist and doctorate degrees in mathematics. Upon receiving his Ph.D., he retired from DeKalb County schools and chose to teach at Clayton State. He considers “Clayton State the best kept secret in the state. I think that there is so much here as far as resources are concerned: the one-on-one help for students and faculty and the resources in the Center for Academic Success to name a few. I think that it’s just a great place to be.”

Part of Dr. Stinson’s success in teaching has to do with what he calls the three P’s of teaching: Purpose, Planning, and Passion. He argues that in order to be an effective teacher you have to feel called to do it, you have to do a significant amount of planning, and you have to be passionate about it. The passion a teacher has can influence and inspire their students.

“I knew I wanted to teach math when I was in ninth grade and that was because of Mrs. Talent, my math teacher at the time. She gave me that spark—that interest, because she was excited about it. That’s why I tell teachers that it makes a difference; you put a stamp on your students. Either positively or negatively,” states Dr. Stinson.

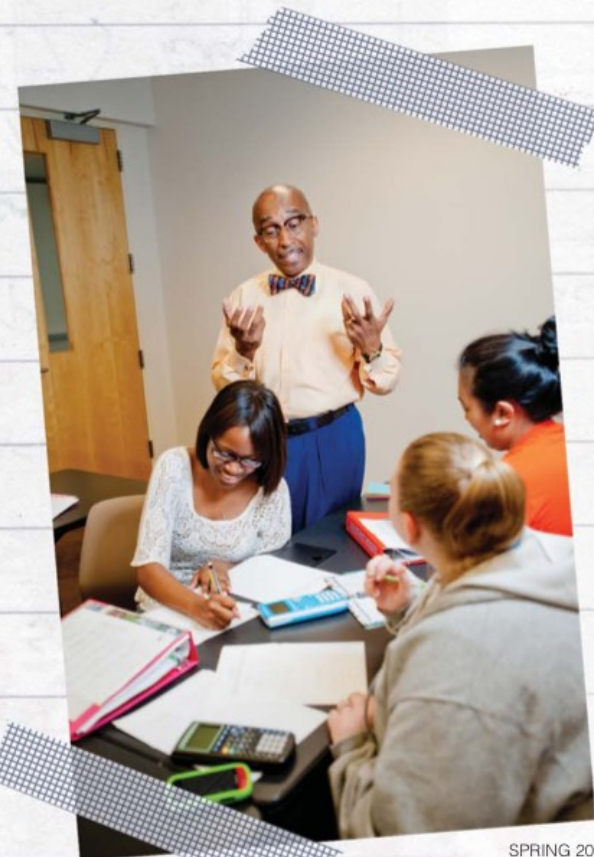
Putting a stamp on his students is something that Dr. Stinson does very well. Maggie Shiffert, a dual enrolled student ex-

claims, “he always comes to class with lots of energy, a smile on his face, and a love for math that he constantly shares with his students. I enjoy him so much that I enrolled in his early morning statistics class this semester. If a student is willing to be in a math class by 7 a.m., then that professor must be something special!”

Changing attitudes towards math and teaching math is a big way that Dr. Stinson helps students’ dreams be made real. With positivity and passion, he engages students and helps them realize that yes—math is something that they can do!

Besides his palpable positive energy and love for teaching, Dr. Stinson is well-rounded. As an undergraduate, he double majored in mathematics and music from Alabama A&M University. He plays the piano, sings, and is the advisor for Clayton State’s gospel choir. He is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, enjoys going to the gym, and loves to learn about other cultures.

“As teachers we tend to just teach our subject, and not get to know our subjects. Learning about a student’s culture helps me get to know them, and if students know you care about them, they will learn from you better,” says Dr. Stinson.



# TEACHING. MAT



*Deidra Wright-Rossell*  
Georgia Council of Teacher of English Future Teacher of Color Winner

*Brittany Bachman*  
2012 Chancellor's Academic  
Award Finalist  
{ Class of 2012 - Avondale  
Museum School }

I have always been a believer in the value of making things "real" to students. Experiential learning encourages reflection, critical analysis and synthesis in student thinking and provides opportunities for students to engage intellectually, take initiative, make decisions, and be accountable for the results.

**Dr. Mari Ann Roberts**  
Assistant Professor of Multicultural Education  
Coordinator, Master of Arts in Teaching Program



*Donnell Cox*  
2010 Georgia Power New Teacher  
Assistance Grant Winner  
{ Class of 2010 - Cowan Road  
Middle School }

*Latasha Boone*  
Teacher of the Month  
{ Class of 2011 - Rex Mill Middle School }

*Yolanda Phillips*  
2010 Georgia Power New Teacher Assistance Grant Winner  
{ Class of 2010 - Rex Mill Middle School }

Experiential learning is important because it allows students to move beyond textbooks and the four walls of the classroom. Students are able to make their own observations and apply what they have learned to an authentic and relevant context. I believe that experiential learning allows students to make interesting interdisciplinary connections because their learning occurs real-time.

**Dr. Erica Dotson**  
Assistant Professor  
ESL Program Coordinator





# DE REAL.



I love teaching and talking about literature. I love seeing our candidates discovering the joys of teaching. I love seeing the success of our graduates who go on to receive awards as Teachers of the Year and other honors. I love changing the world – one classroom at a time.

Dr. Ruth Caillouet  
Director of Educational Programs  
Chair of Department of Teacher Education  
Associate Professor of English Education

I love being able to work with a diverse group of students who are so committed to the most important job in the world... I think that it is important that students see and understand the nexus between the things we talk about in class and what is actually going on in the schools.

Dr. David Messer  
Associate Professor  
Coordinator of Middle Grades Education



<http://www.clayton.edu/teachered>



## MARY HOLLOWELL: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING GOES INTERNATIONAL

As a 2013 Fulbright Teaching Scholar in China, Dr. Mary Hollowell will be a visiting faculty member in the educational psychology department at Shaanxi Normal University in Xi'an. The city of Xi'an in central China is the home of the Terracotta Warriors. Xi'an is also surrounded by a nine-mile Ancient City Wall, and was once the end of the Silk Road. The Hollowell family is very excited to be residing in a city with more than 5,000 years of ancient history.

Dr. Hollowell has taught educational psychology at Clayton State University, and she will be using some of the same dynamic techniques to enhance learning and engage students in China that she uses in America. For example, in addition to lectures, she has used the board game "It's About Time: Balancing Work & Family®" when covering the topic of parental stress. She has also used manipulatives to help future teachers develop non-cognitive skills, otherwise known as character traits. Students developed persistence while playing Pick Up Sticks, slowly easing one stick at a time from a pile without moving other sticks. This activity also reinforced patience, which is vital in K-12 teaching. Hollowell's American college students have responded to her creative lessons with raves and smiles.

Hollowell's inspiration for applying for a Fulbright Teaching Scholarship included reading the chronicles of Peace Corps instructor Peter Hessler, author of the book "River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze." The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board is the presidentially appointed, 12-member board that is responsible for establishing worldwide policies for the Fulbright Program and for selection of Fulbright re-

cipients. Hessler was an excellent and compassionate teacher and was a good role model for global citizenship. In 2011, he won a MacArthur "genius" award for writing about China. Hollowell is a national award winner, herself. In 2010, she won the Equity & Social Justice Advocacy Award from the National Association for Multicultural Education. She plans to chronicle her own teaching adventures in China in a comparative education book. It will be her second book following "The Forgotten Room: Inside a Public Alternative School for At-Risk Youth."

While at Clayton State, Dr. Hollowell has also been a square dance caller, leading multicultural education students in square dances to music such as "Turkey in the Straw" with square dancing followed by lectures on different racial identities, including black and white racial identities. Hollowell, a long-time dancer, received a standing ovation from Clayton State students following dancing in class, and she hopes to host extracurricular square dances at Shaanxi Normal University. She anticipates that the dance maneuver of "do-si-do" will be similarly popular in China.

Hollowell's daughters, one of whom is adopted from China, have practiced clogging, which is another distinctively American form of dance, one that originated in the Appalachian Mountains. The Hollowells are prepared to do kinesthetic activities as part of their ambassador duties in China.

Readers of "The Laker Connection" can follow the Hollowells and ask questions about their adventures at [www.thehollowellsinchina.info](http://www.thehollowellsinchina.info).

Cont'd. from p. 4

are the intensity of the graduate curriculum and an Action Research Project. Lead by Clayton State's Dr. Mari Roberts, the Action Research Project is designed to encourage candidates to see the classroom as a research environment, teaching them to observe and later present on classroom dynamics such as absenteeism, language acquisition, and other issues prevalent in the education process.

Whether it's middle grades, secondary education, music education or the MAT, experiential learning is at the crux of teacher education at Clayton State University.

"All students learn better by 'doing,'" explains Caillouet. "For teacher candidates, that 'doing' is crucial to developing the art of teaching. We can talk about being a good teacher for days and not accomplish anything close to having our students in the classroom learning on their feet, working with students and understanding it from that side of the teacher's desk. Good teaching has to be taught, but it also has to be learned. It's become the building block for the entire program."

Clayton State University's teacher education is accredited through NCATE. To learn more about teacher education, visit [www.clayton.edu/teachered](http://www.clayton.edu/teachered).  
*by Lauren Graves*

## TEACHING. MADE REAL.



### ALL PROGRAMS

Ruth Caillouet, Director of Education Programs;  
Chair of Department of Teacher Education  
Shayla Mitchell  
Coordinator of Educational Field Experiences  
Erica Dotson, Teacher Education;  
ESL Program Coordinator  
Mary Hollowell, Teacher Education

**PART-TIME FACULTY/SUPERVISORS**  
Beverly Garner, Teacher Education



**PART-TIME FACULTY/SUPERVISORS, CONTINUED**  
Marsha Hood, Teacher Education  
Shirley Mills, Teacher Education  
Steve Smith, Education Technology Instructor

**MIDDLE GRADES PROGRAM**  
David Messer, Teacher Ed (Program Coordinator)  
Amy Sanford, English



**MIDDLE GRADES PROGRAM, CONTINUED**  
Harold Banke, Science  
Charles Elfer, Social Science  
Kelli Nipper, Mathematics

**SECONDARY UNDERGRAD PROGRAM**  
Dennis Attick, Teacher Education  
(Program Coordinator)  
Tricia Smith, English (Also MAT English)



**SECONDARY UNDERGRAD PROGRAM CONTINUED**  
Anthony Stinson, Mathematics  
Samantha Fowler, Biology  
David Gilbert, History

**MAT PROGRAM**  
Mari Roberts, Teacher Education  
(Program Coordinator)  
Linda Nash, Mathematics

**MUSIC PROGRAM**  
Richard Bell, Assistant Professor of Music



**NOT PICTURED**  
Debbie Lowe, Secondary English/Supervisor  
Kristin Lyman, Music Program  
Lee Shaler, Teacher Education, Part-time



# DREAMS MADE REAL THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

*By John Shiffert*

**Clayton State University recently previewed its future, and reviewed its past, on the stage at Spivey Hall. In a world-class venue where generations of Clayton State students have had their dreams made real in the most engaged, dynamic way possible, through their own performances, it was only fitting that President Dr. Thomas J. Hynes, along with Clayton State students, alumni and faculty, expressed the University's identity, as epitomized by the statement... Dreams. Made Real.**

Above: Student Christina Gardner shares how Clayton State has made her dreams real. Gardner was one of several students, alumni and faculty members to speak at the event. Above Right: Hynes calls "Dreams. Made Real." Clayton State's authentic message.

As Hynes puts it, "this is our authentic message; Clayton State is a place where dreams are made real."

In looking back and looking ahead, faculty and students told how Clayton State has been, and will be, identified by the concept of dreams made real. It is the essence of the University, something Clayton State has done for many years. And while there are many ways that dreams are made real at Clayton State, perhaps none illustrate the University better than the experiential learning opportunities afforded the students.

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

Sotheavy Vann (B.S., biology, 2012), one of the University's first Presidential Scholars, recalls a diverse series of experiences she had while a student at Clayton State.

"I attended the American Chemical Society Conference in San Diego to present my research... something I would never have imagined doing when I first began college," she says. "Other great experiences Clayton State offered me were spelunking in Tennessee's largest show cave, studying abroad in Italy, and seeing a real-life autopsy at the GBI with the American Medical Student Association."



Gloria Le, Dr. Fran Norflus and Sotheavy Vann in a lab.

Another alumna who benefitted from study abroad is Colleen Walters (B.S., nursing, 2012).

"Since high school I deeply desired to travel to a Latin American country and become fluent in the Spanish language," she says. "At Clayton State this dream became a reality when I was inspired by Dr. Khedija Gadhoom from the Department of Humanities to elect Spanish as my minor. In the summer of 2011, I participated in a five-week study abroad program to Guadalajara, Mexico, and weeks after graduating with my B.S.N. in May 2012, I returned to Guadalajara to work in a local hospital."



Colleen Walters, second from right, in Guadalajara.

Hands-on, experiential learning takes place throughout the Clayton State curriculum. It's personified by dental hygiene major Lauren Cotton assisting patients in the University's Dental Hygiene Clinic. For mathematics major Michael Ngo, it was realizing the opportunity to participate in academic research with his professors. And for music major and pianist John Bennett, performing on the Spivey Hall stage was indeed a dream made real.

Of course, the fulfillment of these dreams leads directly back to the Clayton State faculty and their ability to equip students with the skills they need to succeed.

"I teach strategy, leadership, and communications," says Dr. Gary May, professor of management in the College of Business. "Everything we talk about in the classroom, I've done in the business world. My mission is to equip the students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will give them a competitive edge in the marketplace."

"I would like to thank my professors," says one of May's students, business major Juan Rosado. "You certainly had an impact in my life and played significant roles for me to take what I've learned to the real world."

Experiential learning at Clayton State is also part of the bigger picture of public higher education in Georgia. It's very much in keeping with Complete College Georgia, Gov. Nathan Deal's initiative to increase the numbers of Georgians earning a degree -- an ambitious goal of adding 250,000 postsecondary graduates to the state's rolls by 2020.

"The principal aims of Complete College Georgia are not new to us at Clayton State; we have been working on Complete Clayton State for quite some time," says Clayton State University Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. Micheal Crafton. "However, this statewide effort of which we are proud and excited to be a part will enhance the motivation and enlarge the network of those of us in the University System of Georgia working on the key theaters in this effort: recruitment, retentions, changes in remediation, changes in the delivery of instruction. This energy and activity will, then, stimulate new ideas, pedagogical innovations and applications that should benefit everyone, both on the various campuses and those in business and government working on economic development."

As Crafton notes, it is through new ideas, innovations and applications that both Complete College Georgia and Clayton State will make dreams real.

Michael Ngo (center) with Dr. Linda Nash and student Marcus Bartlett (p. 27)





# INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS BRING THE WORLD TO CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

By Sabrina Frang

**Thanks to its international students, the School of Graduate Studies at Clayton State University is part of the global mix.**

International graduate students at Clayton State create a diverse and dynamic campus environment inside and outside the classroom. By sharing their unique perspectives with others, international graduate students contribute to the educational experience of all students. They come from different countries, speak different languages, and have different customs, but international graduate students all share one thing in common; an unflinching desire to succeed in their graduate programs. This is even more impressive when one considers that some of our international students are also athletes and must divide their time between athletics and academic achievements.

The School of Graduate Studies welcomed seven new international graduate students into its degree programs in fall semester 2012. In all, Clayton State has a total of 15 international graduate students from all over the world, hailing from a myriad of countries including Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Ireland, India, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Finland, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Half of Clayton State's eight graduate programs have accepted international applicants -- the Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Health Administration (MHA), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) degree programs.

Clayton State's current international students are Ahmed Al Hussain (MHA) and Maher Balbaid (MBA) of Saudi Arabia, Zeynep Bagci (MBA), Serkan Saglam (MBA) and Taha Kir (MBA) of Turkey, Lorna O'Connell (MHA), Laoise O'Driscoll (MHA) and Donal Roughneen (MHA) of Ireland, Suvudha Khatri (MHA) of India, Marjorie

Katumba (MSN) of Uganda, Jabulani Nartey (MBA) of Zimbabwe, Karl Haggon (MBA) of the United Kingdom, Josefine Holsten (MALS) of Germany, Mu'az Nimer (MBA) of Jordan, and Juho Illi (MBA) of Finland.

The School of Graduate Studies can also boast of several international student success stories. Three international students from Turkey, including Sedat Memnun, Nevzat Saritemur, and Ahmed Ugur, plus Celest Mapri of Cameroon, have graduated from the MBA program, while former soccer All-American Nkiru Okosieme of Nigeria graduated from the MHA program.

"Our international students often tell us that they find our graduate programs challenging, rewarding and economical," says Dr. Robert Vaughan, Jr., interim dean of the School of Graduate Studies, who further remarks how important international students are to Clayton State.

"The School of Graduate Studies is committed to building a dynamic and diverse international population. Bringing the 'world' to Clayton State University via these talented scholars creates a wonderful learning opportunity for both domestic and international scholars as well as faculty members," he says. "One of our goals at the School of Graduate Studies is to provide positive educational experiences for our international students in an effort to promote and improve the global economy."

More information about the eight graduate degree programs offered at Clayton State University is available at [www.graduate.clayton.edu](http://www.graduate.clayton.edu) or call (678) 466-4113.

# JAMAICA

## A PLACE WHERE GREAT LEARNING HAPPENS

By *Samantha Watson*

**There is a place where great learning happens, a place without university walls, a place without precisely 75 minutes of designated educational time, a place where many go and see, but rarely notice.**

“Jamaica has changed my life in ways I’d never imagined that it could have or would have. I am sincerely grateful for the new perspective on life that I’ve gained,” professes Clayton State University student Tiffany Hailes.

Re-thinking education and letting not only professors, but also the world, shape the minds of students is the point of Clayton State’s Study Abroad programs. The University realizes the need for experiential learning in a well-rounded education and gives its full support to, among others, Dr. Rafik Mohamed’s Study Abroad Jamaica program. This year’s program takes place in Duncans, Jamaica, from May 29 to June 20 and is now in its fourth consecutive year at Clayton State.

The general focus of the program is on Caribbean culture, history, and society. It also seeks to challenge the notion that Jamaica is merely a tourist destination by exposing students to an alternative perspective. “The philosophical foundations of the program are rooted in the belief that the independent island nations making up the Caribbean are central to a comprehensive understanding of modern global societies,” says Mohamed, “We also want students to consider the largely ‘unearned privileges’ they have as citizens of post-industrial ‘first world’ societies.”

This year, students have the opportunity to earn up to six credit hours in three weeks. Classes tend to last about three hours each day, and range from sociology, to African-American studies, to English, communication electives, and a core science class. The

classes also require participation with the community partnerships Clayton State has with local Duncans schools and a shelter for abused and abandoned girls, since community interaction is a large part of this trip.

Dr. Mohamed tells his students all the time, “You’re going to learn a lot more from the people you meet in Jamaica than you ever will from me.” He encourages students to interact with local community members by grocery shopping at the local market; taking local public transportation; hanging out with local fishermen, craftsmen and musicians; and hosting a community potluck about once a week.



Dr. Rafik Mohamed



Dr. Rafik Mohamed and study abroad Jamaica participants.

Apart from the greater cultural competency and critical thinking objectives of this trip, it is designed to achieve several academic goals as well. Students will leave with an overview of Caribbean society and culture from the beginning of the trans-Atlantic slave trade to the present, and will have also evaluated the impact of colonization on the shaping of Caribbean society.

Coming home from the Jamaican Study Abroad program, students have a deeper appreciation for education, community, and diversity and have a willingness to engage with people who they otherwise might have viewed as “different” from themselves. Amanda Wilson states, “I will never travel without first learning about the people whose land I am to be a guest of, and never will I ignore the potential to build positive, lasting relationships with these people.”





## KATRINA SWAIN

# A CAREER CHANGING INTERNSHIP

*By Erin Fender*

Katrina Swain, a senior psychology major, has an active spirit of volunteerism and a strong sense of community.

She met Sonia Davis, coordinator of Homeless Education Programs for Clayton County Public Schools, during the Clayton State fall 2011 Internship Fair. This is an opportunity hosted by the Department of Career Services at Clayton State for students to network with employers and on-campus departments who offer internships in a variety of academic areas.

Katrina started serving a three-days-a-week internship with the Homeless Education Department (HED) in January of 2012, helping to organize supplies for homeless students, packing book bags and selecting uniforms and other available supplies requested by school social workers. She also helped with special projects for students.

“My internship with Sonia and this program has really changed my path. I was focused on obtaining my doctorate and spiritual counseling, but my path has really changed to help the homeless population. I didn’t realize how many homeless had psychological issues, and it is an area that I can help. My psychology degree will really help me to tie into their mental needs and well-being,” says Katrina.

For her dedication and hard work, Katrina was awarded a plaque honoring her service to the homeless by Sonia during the fall 2012 semester.

Katrina volunteered at one of the county’s homeless shelters, Calvary Refuge Center, to learn first-hand what happens to families in search of housing. During one of her nights volunteering, Swain met a family that had contacted HED for assistance.

“Having met them at the shelter made their requests for services at the HED office more personal for me,” Katrina says.

Fittingly for a student focused on making dreams real, Katrina was the initial contact to schools regarding a special project known as “Dreams Do Come True,” the inaugural project for First Baptist Church of Lovejoy, which provided free prom dresses, shoes and accessories to high school juniors and sen-

iors in good standing. More than 20 young ladies from CCPS high schools participated in the project.

Once the project ended, she used pictures taken by Homeless Education Department staff to create a special visual presentation showcasing the beautiful young ladies in their prom attire.

Katrina also volunteers with the Salvation Army every week to teach a “true love waits” class to middle and high school girls. She prepares food for homeless once a month; she assists with serving the senior citizens community at Phillips Tower in Decatur, Ga., and is an active member of her church, Glen Haven United Methodist.

“I really feel this internship has helped me reach my calling, to help the homeless. At one point in my own life I lost my job and had to move back in with my mom, which classified me as homeless at the time. When I started interning with Sonia, she explained my story would help these parents to understand and relate to me. I have not gone through half of the hardships that some of these parents are going through, but I can help to be an inspiration,” says Katrina.

Amongst many hours of community service, she also serves as the Golden Key Honors Society president at Clayton State. She encouraged the Honors Society to volunteer to serve dinner for the Calvary Refuge Center last year during the holidays. Ten students assisted as well as Associate Dean for Housing, Residence Life, and Community Standards Jeff Jacobs.

A non-traditional student at Clayton State, Katrina is prepared to make a difference once she earns her degree. She recently added starting a homeless shelter as one of her goals.



## Clayton State Welcomes Third Group of Presidential Scholars

Clayton State University's third class of Presidential Scholars began their full-time college careers in Morrow in August.

The Clayton State Presidential Scholars program consists of six, four-year presidential scholarships that continue annually. The Presidential Scholars supplement the University's long-standing Honors Program.

The six recipients of the 2012 Clayton State Presidential Scholarships are as follows:

**Abigail Jenkins**, Stockbridge, Ga., an honors graduate of Woodland High School

**Malcolm Hirsch**, Atlanta, a graduate of Tucker High School, and formerly a dual enrollment student at Georgia State University

**Mariah Hunter**, College Park, Ga., a graduate of North Clayton Comprehensive High School

**Shante Mowry**, Springville, Pa., a graduate of Elk Lake School

**Toren Carr**, Peachtree City, Ga., a graduate of McIntosh High School

**Tracye Lamar**, Ellenwood, Ga., a graduate of the Heritage Classical Study Center, and formerly a dual enrollment student at Clayton State



Foster

## Dr. Victoria Foster Presents on Capitol Hill

Clayton State University Assistant Professor of Nursing Dr. Victoria Foster was selected as a Nurse Faculty Scholar to make a presentation of her study, "Factors Associated with Risky Sexual Behaviors in Older Adults" to the Hartford Policy Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of the Institute, held from Oct. 17, 2012 to Oct. 19, 2012, was to promote development of practical advocacy skills including communicating with policy makers, building coalitions, and developing a rapport with staff/elected officials.

The mock hearing was held before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging, chaired by Vermont Senator Bernard Sanders. The title of the hearing was "Potential Savings with Expanded Prevention Services for Older Americans."

## Clayton State Ranks Third Among State Universities in Economic Impact

A report by the University of Georgia's Selig Center for Economic Growth in the Terry College of Business states that the combined economic impact of the University System of Georgia's (USG) 35 institutions on their host communities reached \$13.2 billion in Fiscal Year 2011, which is five percent higher than the \$12.6 billion reported for FY 2010.

The FY 2011 study found that Georgia's public university system generated nearly 132,000 jobs, or more than three percent of all the nonfarm jobs that exist in Georgia. The bottom line is that one job out of every 29 in the State of Georgia is due to the University System.

The Selig Center's data showed that Clayton State University's impact on the Southern Crescent was impressive – a \$252,426,600 output impact in current dollars, and 2,311 jobs. The output impact is third among the USG's 13 state universities, trailing only the much larger Kennesaw State and University of West Georgia. The jobs impact is fourth among the state universities, trailing only Kennesaw, West Georgia and Columbus State.

Last year's (FY10) figures for Clayton State showed Clayton State's output impact in current dollars at \$236.2 million, and employment impact at 2,169 jobs. This represents an increase in output impact of 6.9 percent, and an increase in jobs of 6.5 percent.

## Department of Information Technology Adds Computer Science to its Name

The Department of Information Technology in the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences (CIMS) at Clayton State University has undergone a name change.

According to CIMS Dean Dr. Lila Roberts, the Department of Information Technology is now the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology.

“The name better reflects our organization with programs in both information technology, since 1999, and computer science, since 2009,” says Dr. Byron A. Jeff, chair of the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology. “The public generally lumps all computing disciplines under computer science, so adding that to the name improves visibility of both programs.

“It also reveals both computer science courses and programs to both internal and external audiences.”



## Biology Professor/SEEDS Study of Jesters Creek Restoration Now in its Fourth Year

In 2008, Dr. Jere Boudell, associate professor of biology at Clayton State University, started a long-term study of the Jesters Creek restoration project an urban stream restoration. Four years into the project, Boudell, along with both current Clayton State SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity, and Sustainability) chapter members and alumni, are currently in the second round of the study, and the restoration project has expanded.



**Boudell**

Jesters Creek is an urban headwater stream of the Flint River and is located about five minutes from the Clayton State campus, Boudell explains. Her study is also investigating Little Falling Creek as a reference site.

Boudell’s study, which is being done pro bono, is funded by the Ecological Society of America’s (ESA) SEEDS program which is designed to increase the participation of underrepresented students in the ecological sciences. It has also been funded by the Clayton State College of Arts and Sciences and the Clayton State Department of Natural Sciences.



**Bonner**



**Hall**

The Arts & Sciences Scholar of the Year and Teacher of the Year awards are made possible by, and are named after, Dr. Eugene Hatfield, long-time (1976–2008) history professor at Clayton State.

## Bonner, Hall Named Winners of the Fourth Annual Gene Hatfield Awards

Clayton State University Associate Professor of Philosophy Dr. Alexander Hall has been named the fourth annual winner of the College of Arts & Sciences’ Gene Hatfield Scholar of the Year Award. Dr. Virginia Bonner, an associate professor of film and media studies who teaches courses in film, women’s studies and art history, is the Gene Hatfield Teacher of the Year Award winner for the 2011 to 2012 academic year.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities at Clayton State, Hall also serves as assistant director of the Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics, and as the Managing Editor of its Proceedings. In 2011, Hall co-edited the first nine volumes of the *Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics Proceedings*, which were published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. He has also been one of the organizers of the Southeast Philosophy Conference, which annually brings a variety of national and international speakers to the Clayton State campus.

Selected by a committee of professors within the College of Arts and Sciences, Bonner considers her teaching philosophy key to what motivates her in the classroom.

“I have a real passion for the material that I teach, and I’m extremely dedicated to the art of teaching and the science of learning,” she says.

## SAM Places First in National Business Competition for Second Consecutive Year

Tesla Motors may be checking in with the Clayton State University College of Business some day soon. That's because the Clayton State Chapter of the Society for Advancement of Management (SAM) recently took its second straight first place award at the SAM national business competition in Las Vegas, Nev., an honor based on a marketing campaign for the cutting-edge electric car company that's based in California.

Led by SAM advisor Dr. Reza Kheirandish, assistant professor of economics in the College of Business at Clayton State, the SAM team of students Roxanne Gonzalez, Jordan Bryant, Corey Wagner, Janice Jackman and Chris Cable won the national competition with what Kheirandish termed, "a stylish campaign."

In addition, Wagner, Gonzalez and Cable also received regional outstanding student awards and Wagner and Gonzalez received the national outstanding student award.



## Clayton State Ranked Fifth Among Public Regional Colleges in the South by U.S. News & World Report

Clayton State University has made its first appearance among the top five Southern public regional colleges in the current rankings by *U.S. News & World Report*. Clayton State is ranked fifth among public regional colleges in the South in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2013 edition of Best Colleges.

In addition, Clayton State is once again ranked in the first tier of the top regional colleges in the South, coming in at 55th overall. The rankings, which include evaluations of more than 1,400 schools nationwide, are currently available at [www.usnews.com/colleges](http://www.usnews.com/colleges), and were also published in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2013 edition of Best Colleges, on Sept. 18.

## Clayton State's Wi2STEM Thanks Georgia Power for Continued Support

Let's hear it for the women. And Georgia Power. Clayton State University's Wi2STEM, an organization that advances women interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines, thanks Georgia Power for their continued financial support.

Through the Metro South Region Georgia Power Office's faithful giving, Wi2STEM has received \$10,000 from the utility company since the Clayton State student organization was established in 2009.

"Clayton State University is very well respected, and we see the results in its students' successes and accomplishments via Wi2STEM and other noteworthy programs," says John D'Andrea, Georgia Power's Metro South Region Manager for Butts, Clayton, Henry, South Fulton, Fayette and Coweta counties. "Georgia Power is proud to partner with such an organization that is involved in the success of our community."

## Clayton State Selected as a Lead Institution In Civic Learning Leadership National Initiative

Clayton State University has been selected by NASPA -- Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, as one of the lead institutions participating in a national initiative on civic learning and democratic engagement.

As a member of the Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Network (CLDE), a group of higher education-related institutions that have come together with the goal of promoting engagement among college students, NASPA has made a commitment to encourage and highlight the work of student affairs in making civic learning and democratic engagement a part of every student's college education... much in the same fashion as Clayton State has done through its Strategic Plan. Clayton State's commitment as a lead institution will run through December 2013.



Deis

## Deis Serves as Interim Dean of The College of Business

Dr. Michael H. Deis, long-time faculty member in the College of Business at Clayton State University, became interim dean of the College of Business on Jan. 1, 2013.

Although Deis will now be serving in an administrative role, he feels that he will always be a teacher. Deis has taught at the middle school, high school, and college levels (16 years as a faculty member at Clayton State) and in 2006 was chosen from the regional and state universities' faculty to receive the University System of Georgia's 2005/06 Excellence in Teaching Award. He also received the College of Business' Professor of the Year Awards for 2002, 2005, and 2010, and the University's 2003 Alice Smith Award for Faculty. He was also the first director of the College of Business' highly successful MBA program.

Deis, holds a B.S. degree in Industrial Management from the University of Cincinnati, an M.B.A. from the University of Dayton, and an Ed.D. from Nova Southeastern University. He is a professor of management and will continue to teach some classes, primarily strategic management and performance/quality management.



Dadpay

## Dadpay Appointed MBA Director

Dr. Ali Dadpay, an assistant professor of economics and finance, was appointed director of the University's MBA program. He succeeds Dr. Judith Ogden, who will return to her regular faculty duties in accounting and business law.

According to former Dean Alphonso Ogbuehi, Dadpay will be responsible for the leadership, strategic planning, management and growth of the MBA program, and his energy and vision will be an asset for the program.



Garnes

## Garnes Appointed Director of Annual Fund

Clayton State University Vice President of External Relations Kate Troelstra has announced the appointment of Myisha Garnes as the University's first director of the Annual Fund.

Garnes comes to Clayton State from the Georgia State University Foundation Office of Annual Programs, where she was assistant director, Annual Programs.

"We are excited to have Myisha join our team," says Troelstra. "She brings a wealth of experience in annual giving, a passion for the profession, and a commitment to higher education."

"I am very excited about being a part of the Clayton State family and equally inspired by this rewarding opportunity at an institution uniquely positioned as a leader in higher learning," says Garnes.

## Enrollment Tops 7,000 For the First Time

For the first time since opening its doors as Clayton Junior College on Sept. 29, 1969, Clayton State University's enrollment has surpassed the 7,000 mark.

According to figures released by Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management & Academic Success Dr. Mark Daddona, Clayton State's enrollment for the fall 2012 semester was 7,145, an increase of 4.1 percent from the fall 2011 semester's total of 6,864.

"We are very excited about our increase in enrollment which is two percent higher than our original goal for this fall," he says. "This growth reflects months of planning and interventions at many levels of the institution in an attempt to increase enrollment of new and current students."

Clayton State experienced an increase in freshmen, transfer, dual enrollment, graduate, and current students. Daddona states that possible reasons include:

- Identifying more strategic freshmen recruitment locations and approaches to recruiting freshmen.
- Developing more intentional strategies to increase the number of accepted students who enrolled (yield rate) including a new communication flow of print materials, emails, and phone calls.
- A new freshman orientation model.
- Improvements in evaluating transfer credits sooner.
- Improving dual enrollment marketing and developed closer relationships with high schools.



## Clayton State Makes 440 Dreams Real

Some 440 dreams were made real at Clayton State University on Saturday, Dec. 8.

The University's annual fall commencement ceremony saw 440 individuals awarded their undergraduate or master's degrees as part of two ceremonies in what Clayton State President Dr. Thomas J. Hynes described as, "a very important day for our graduates and their families. This was a really exceptional event."

Speaking to the graduates from the colleges of Business, Health, and Information and Mathematical Sciences at the 9 a.m. ceremony was Dr. Willie Cochran, Jr., senior vice president, Medical Affairs/CMO at Southern Regional Medical Center.

The keynote speaker at the noon ceremony for the graduates from the College of Arts & Sciences was Roosevelt Giles, founder of IMS/EndPoint Consulting Group, and vice chairman of the Board of Atlanta Life Financial Group, Herndon Capital Management.

## New Traditions. Made Real. Clayton State Needs Your Help with Alma Mater

Clayton State University wants to hear from you! We are currently in the process of creating a new alma mater that will represent the heart of Clayton State, reminding us all of the special place it holds in our lives.

What are the words and phrases that remind you of Clayton State University? Please share them with us at the alma mater website: [www.clayton.edu/almamater](http://www.clayton.edu/almamater). Let your voice be heard!

## The Loch Shop Launches New Custom Fan Shop: [www.claytonstategear.com](http://www.claytonstategear.com)

Todd Smith, manager of the University's Loch Shop, has announced the launch of [www.claytonstategear.com](http://www.claytonstategear.com), the official online store for Clayton State Athletics devoted exclusively to selling Laker athletic gear. The new site should have between 300 to 500 products available online, and will continue to add new products throughout the year.

## Clayton State Strikes Gold Twice at the Chancellor's Customer Service Awards

Clayton State struck gold twice at the 2012 University System of Georgia's (USG) Chancellor's Customer Service Awards, held at Clayton State's Student Activities Center.

Pat Barton, Clayton State director of financial aid, won the gold medal award for Outstanding Customer Service Leadership Award. Clayton State's IT help desk, The HUB, won the gold medal award for Front Desk Support Excellence.

Although all 35 institutions in the University System submit nominations for the yearly Chancellor's Customer Service Award program, only nine were represented among the finalists, and only one other USG institution had two gold medal winners among the six award categories, meaning Clayton State won a third of the gold medals for 2012.



Pat Barton



The HUB

## Clayton State Welcomes New Director of Alumni Relations

Clayton State University recently welcomed its new Director of Alumni Relations: Leila (pronounced Layla) Tatum. Leila brings more than six years experience in higher education advancement and more than 10 years experience managing people and programs and building relationships.

In her new role, Leila will oversee programs related to Clayton State's 20,000 graduates. Among her duties as the alumni director are working with the alumni board to increase participation, volunteerism and community outreach; creating programs that connect alumni to current students and each other; planning and implementing events for alumni and friends to enjoy; and serving as a liaison between the University and its alumni.

"I look forward to meeting as many members of the Clayton State community as I can. I would love to hear from you. Please contact me at [alumni@clayton.edu](mailto:alumni@clayton.edu) or (678) 466-4477," she says.



Leila Tatum

## Constitutional Experts Expound at Clayton State

Some 150 students heard from a pair of constitutional experts as the highlight of the University's Constitution Week celebration. Georgia Attorney General Samuel S. Olens and former Georgia Governor Roy Barnes dedicated an hour of their time for a conversation-style discussion, "A Civil Discussion on Living Constitutionalism."

The audience, largely students from Clayton State history and political science classes, received some valuable lessons, not just on the Constitution and how and why it might be changed, but on civility.

While the record indicates that Olens is a stalwart of the Republican Party, and Barnes a former Democratic governor, the two constitutional experts engaged in an enlightening dialog that included questions from the audience, all without indulging in the rhetoric that both men agreed was often a part of, "both sides of the aisle."



Barnes meets students



## Clayton State Names Basketball Court in Honor of Former Athletic Director Mason Barfield

Clayton State's basketball arena at the Athletics & Fitness Center received a major facelift over the summer of 2012, and along with the renovation, the Laker home court of more than 600 games also got a new name.

Beginning in the 2012/13 basketball season, the Clayton State court became the "Mason Barfield Court," in honor of the Lakers' former athletic director. Barfield, who retired in the fall of 2011, founded the program 23 years ago.

The official naming ceremony was held Tuesday, Nov. 13, the first official game of the 2012/13 basketball season.

## Alumnus John Morrow Commissioned on Campus as Marine Second Lieutenant

John Lewis Morrow, a May 2012 honors graduate of Clayton State University with a B.S. in Biology and former tutor in the Center for Academic Success, returned to campus on Saturday, Dec. 15 to be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. The ceremony took place outdoors at the Judge Eugene Lawson Amphitheater, located between the Baker Center and Spivey Hall.



John and Anna Morrow



# CHRIS KLUTE

FORMER LAKER SOCCER STAR JOINS THE MLS

*by Gid Rowell*

**After an all-star season in 2011 for the Clayton State men's soccer team, former Laker standout Chris Klute made a name for himself at the highest professional levels of American soccer in 2012.**

Klute, the central defender for the Lakers in 2011, was acquired by the Colorado Rapids in Major League Soccer (MLS) on a one-year loan from the Atlanta Silverbacks on Sept. 14, 2012. He started one game for the Rapids in 2012.

"We've had tremendous central defenders over the last decade or so and Chris was one of the best," says head coach Pete Petersen. "I am very happy for him that he has had his breakthrough. He is such an athlete and so fast that with some game experience over the coming months he should turn out as an outstanding defender."

He will be on contract with the Colorado Rapids, who are based in Commerce City, Co., for both the 2012 and 2013 seasons.





**“This is the highest level of play a Laker (in the Major Leagues) has ever made, so we are proud to watch him on television!”**

*Pete Petersen,  
Laker Men’s Soccer Head Coach*

“This is the highest level of play a Laker (in the Major Leagues) has ever made, so we are proud to watch him on television!” says Petersen.

Along with Petersen’s excitement, Klute’s play has also garnered the praise of coaches in the professional soccer world, as Eric Wynalda, the interim head coach of the Silverbacks compares him to one of the best defenders to play for the U.S. Men’s National Team and in Major League Soccer.

“I think he’s going to continue to impress,” Wynalda says. “When you start comparing him to players, there’s a lot of Eddie Pope in him. But Chris Klute is faster than Eddie Pope. I’m looking forward to his future.

“Chris has tremendous speed,” Wynalda continues. “He’s got great feet for a big guy, very good vision, and an unbelievable engine – he can run for 90 minutes and doesn’t seem to be bothered. His link-up play is very good, but his strongest attribute is the fact that he doesn’t get beat very often.”

A sophomore from Grand Prairie, Tex., Klute transferred to Clayton State from Division I Furman. He was previously a U-17 and U-20 U.S. National Team player and showed that ability on the field for the Lakers in 2011.

Klute played every minute of the Lakers’ 18 games at center defender, becoming arguably the top defender in the Peach Belt and one of the best in both the region and the country. He was named to the Daktronics 2011 NCAA Division II All-Southeast Region team.

Peterson adds, “He deserves this and there were many people who have been involved with his coming along besides his mom: his friend Warren Creavalle (and family) who is in the MLS as well, his club coach Ray Tomlin, Doug Allison from Furman, his youth national team coaches, Ricardo Montoya of the Silverbacks reserves and Eric Wynalda and his staff from the Silverbacks senior squad for promoting him.”



## DREAMS . MADE REAL .

### OTHER LAKER PROFESSIONAL SOCCER PLAYERS

Over the years, a number of former Clayton State men’s soccer players have played professionally both in the United States and abroad. Below is a list of some of those players.

Adrian Drury	(England)
Josh Grenier	(Germany)
Jamal Geathers	(Turkey, USL II)
Tonny Madegwa	(Germany)
Hailab Habtom	(Sweden)
Chris Mahaffey	(USL I)
Macoumba Kandji	(MLS)
Mike Gustavson	(MLS)
Marijan Babic	(Bosnia)
Igor Lukic	(Serbia)
Kyle Timm	(South Africa)
Janny Rivera	(Chile)
Chris Klute	(MLS)

# ROSALYNN GRESHAM AND SARAH STEIN A TALE OF STRENGTH, DEVOTION AND PERSEVERANCE

By John Shiffert



Sarah Stein and Rosalynn Gresham

It's a story that proves the strength of the human spirit, the devotion of one Clayton State professor, and the perseverance of one Clayton State student. Rosalynn Gresham, a 33-year-old Clayton State University student from Hampton, Ga., is continuing her studies, despite a medical condition that will imperil her life if she cannot find a matching donor for a kidney transplant.

Gresham's on-going struggle is with lupus and, more recently, kidney failure. She needs a donated kidney to discontinue her three-times-a-week, for three hours and 15 minutes at a time, dialysis treatments. One of those volunteering to be tested as a match was Clayton State Criminal Justice professor Dr. Sarah Stein.

Life doesn't stop during the testing process, either medically or scholastically, and Gresham's fall 2012 semester was interrupted in October for colitis surgery. Undaunted, she returned to class, made up the work she missed, and took some steps on her own; including setting up a website (<http://www.giveforward.com/newlifenebeginnings>) for the purpose of fundraising and to raise awareness for people to get tested to see if they are a match.

Gresham has faced more than a decade of adversity. At age 17, she was diagnosed with lupus, an immune disorder that attacks the organs and has no cure.

"I found myself just sad and depressed," she says. "For me to try to accept it at that age was really hard."

She persevered. A year after her diagnosis, she graduated high

school and, four years after that, she graduated pre-law from Georgia State University. She went into the job market and got married, but she also became more ill. In January 2012, her kidneys shut down, and she had emergency surgery, spending three days in a coma. Since then, she has been on dialysis, alternating her time between her Clayton State classes and the hospital.

"Since Dr. Stein's genuine concern for helping me, I have been able to go to dialysis without feeling hopeless and depressed about waiting my turn on the kidney transplant list," she says.

Still, it's not an easy path, waiting never is, but waiting for a match for a transplant requires an entire different level

of perseverance. Thus, the importance of individuals volunteering to be tested as possible donors, and the need for "genuine concern" from as many people as possible.

"Physically, I'm drained and tired," Gresham says about the dialysis appointments. "I'm ready to get out when I'm in the lobby."

Stein hasn't heard anything about a possible match since she was tested some months ago, a not atypical circumstance in what is often a life-and-death scenario for potential transplant recipients. Stein, and Gresham's classmates, are encouraging others to reach out to Gresham so that they can be tested with the hope of ending the dialysis.

If there is any justice, in addition to that found in Stein's classroom, Rosalynn Gresham will one day be free from dialysis.



Gresham studying on campus.

# trustee profile

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## SUSAN HUNTER A FRIEND OF SPIVEY HALL AND CLAYTON STATE

**A**fter becoming Friends of Spivey Hall charter members in 2002, Dr. Susan M. Hunter and her husband Jeff Adams have become increasingly involved in supporting the mission of Clayton State's Spivey Hall. They have acted as concert sponsors for piano recitals as well as founding the Friends of Spivey Hall Council. Susan served as founding chair of the council and continues to serve as a member.

The Council develops initiatives to build community among the Friends of Spivey Hall, to expand membership, and to advance public recognition of Spivey Hall and Clayton State University. One such initiative - the Friends of Spivey Hall Summer Travel Program - provides opportunities for Friends to travel together to hear excellent music. In June, 20 Friends will travel to the Schubertiade in Schwarzenberg, Austria, where they will explore the Austrian



Jeff Adams (right) and Susan Hunter (left) from a Friends of Spivey Hall reception in the Harry S. Downs Center for Continuing Education Atrium with pianist Angela Hewitt, April 29, 2012. Here, Hewitt autographs a photo for Adams and Hunter, concert sponsors for her performance that afternoon.

Alps and hear concerts by internationally acclaimed classical artists.

Their active support has come to fruition with the Spivey Hall Endowment for Piano Artistry. This is a perpetual fund that Susan and Jeff created to maintain and advance the quality of piano artistry at Spivey Hall. The Endowment will support artists' fees, piano master classes, piano maintenance, and other needs deemed essential to piano performance of the highest quality.

"After I retired from academia in 2008, I wanted to stay involved with Clayton State and Spivey Hall, because I believe so strongly in their missions. Serving on the Foundation Board of Trustees and the Friends of Spivey Hall Council has given me a way to do so: I have been able to take a leadership role in advocacy for the musical arts, and I have come to understand how important it is to support making a difference in the futures of Clayton State students who are the first in their families to attend college," states Susan.

Susan retired as professor of English and head of the Language and Literature Department at Clayton State after 35 years of teaching undergraduate and graduate writing and literature. Prior to becoming department head, she had been the founding director of the Master of Arts in Professional Writing program at Kennesaw State University. She has been a part of the University System of Georgia since 1991 when she relocated to Atlanta from southern California.

— Erin Fender

**Since the first time we attended a piano concert at Spivey Hall in 1994, we have enjoyed beautiful music in the intimacy and acoustical perfection of Spivey Hall. We developed a passion for Emilie Spivey's vision and have continued to increase our support for its programming and our advocacy on behalf of Spivey Hall.**



# faculty profile

## DR. JOSHUA PARKER FROM HERPETOPHOBIA TO HERPETOLOGY

Once having a paralyzing fear of snakes (also known as herpetophobia), Dr. Joshua Parker, assistant professor of biology at Clayton State, currently has 60 snakes, many of them boas and pythons from all over the world.

How did this transformation take place? Parker describes the period after high school as a time in his life where he conquered his fears.

"I went through a period of trying to get over my irrational fears and phobias," he says. "First, it was bungee jumping, sky diving and cliff jumping to get over my fear of heights. Then, it was spending a lot of time swimming in the open ocean to get over my fear of sharks. I'm still not completely over that, since I have not encountered many sharks. Then, it was getting over snakes, followed by getting over the paralyzing fear of public speaking in grad school, which turned into another part of my career as a teacher."

Even before his high school transformation, Parker's biggest passion in life was animals; especially reptiles and amphibians.

"I was working in a pet store and decided to buy a baby python to tackle that fear," Parker explains. "It took a while at first, but I slowly got comfortable holding it. However, any time it would strike at prey or if I startled it, it would scare the crap out of me. That was until the final step, of course. After a couple bites I was completely over it, and it became a lifelong obsession."

"My master's thesis was based on my research of an endangered amphibian, but while I was working on that, I went out to help another graduate student from a different school collect rattlesnakes. I immediately fell in love with them, and knew I wanted to do my Ph.D. studying them."

Now, Parker says, he is "obsessed" with all snakes, but especially rattlesnakes and their venomous kin.

"You can say they have been my muse in life ever since, personally and professionally," he says.

In addition to teaching the first herpetology class at Clayton State, Parker's professional career includes a \$200,000 grant from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department received in 2009 and 2011 to study the genetics and to develop predictive models for the Midget Faded Rattlesnake, the same species he studied during his Ph.D.

"The product of that work was a high resolution understanding of their population in Wyoming that also identified current and potential threats to the popula-

tion that will help managers make conservation decisions," Parker explains. "The computer models we developed predict the presence of population with 85 percent accuracy."

He has since received an \$80,000 grant for 2012 and 2013 from the Colorado Bureau of Land Management to extend those predictive models into the Colorado range of the same species of rattlesnake to help them with their conservation and management decisions.

Parker is also collaborating with a friend at the University of Northern Colorado to study the population differences in venom composition.

"Although the research has kept me out west, I can't wait to get started with research in Georgia. With my teaching load, the only time I have for research is in the summer, otherwise I would have begun concurrent research in Georgia by now," he explains.



**I went through a period of trying to get over my irrational fears and phobias... After a couple bites I was completely over [my fear of snakes] and it became a lifelong obsession.**

— Ciji Fox

# student profile

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## MARCUS BARTLETT HOORAY FOR THE BARTLETT INDEX

**D**reams are being made real at Clayton State University by Marcus Bartlett. Coming to Clayton State by way of a GED and then transferring from Southern Poly, Bartlett is now double majoring in mathematics and chemistry with a minor in physics while also working for UPS, volunteering for the Center for Academic Success as a peer tutor and supplemental instructor, and raising his now five-year old son, Chase. Quite a resume for someone who says, "I did not choose these majors, but instead they chose me. I was never the best at math and science in high school and instead my interests lay in drafting and architecture."

It could also be said that this former budding architect has built some impressive accomplishments in chemical graph theoretic literature; recently Bartlett had a topological index for molecules representable by graph theoretic trees named after him – the Bartlett Index.

(In case you're not a math or chemistry major, the Bartlett Index is calculated by summing the lengths of paths in such molecular representations between leaf and non-leaf vertices. But maybe you knew that already.)

"Hooray for the Bartlett Index!" says College of Information and Mathematical Sciences Dean Dr. Lila Roberts. "Marcus is a shining star for Clayton State -- given his background, coming in with a GED, double majoring in math and chemistry, working like he has had to do, and raising his precious little boy, he is a poster child for 'Dreams. Made Real.'"

"I have had the chance to take classes with some great professors at Clayton State and would owe my success and my transition from going from a "B" student to a mostly all "A" student to these people," says Bartlett, singling out Dean Roberts, Dr. Elliott Krop, and Dr. Cathie Aust among the math

faculty, and Dr. Jonathan Lyon in chemistry. "I would like to give Dr. Lyon credit for introducing me to and heightening my interest in theoretical and computational chemistry. I plan on attending graduate school in these areas of chemistry. I have also been given the chance to work with Dr. Krop for four semesters of research now, and I have learned a lot about research from him and how to successfully go about gaining results and thinking outside the box."

In fact, Krop and Bartlett co-authored (along with Drs. Colton Magnant and Hua Wang of Georgia Southern University, and Fedelis Mutiso, a Clayton State graduate currently studying at Georgia Southern) the paper, "Variations of Distance-Based Invariants of Trees," which was accepted to the *Journal of Combinatorial Mathematics and Combinatorial Computing*.

"I plan on attending graduate school starting in the fall to study theoretical chemistry," says Bartlett. "I would say that both the mathematics and chemistry undergraduate educations I have obtained from Clayton State have been great in preparing me for graduate school. Clayton State has been amazing, and I have had the opportunity to work with some great minds."

That's undoubtedly true, however, it's also true that not many graduate students have a topological index for molecules named after them.

— John Shiffert



**Marcus is a shining star for Clayton State -- given his background, coming in with a GED, double majoring in math and chemistry, working like he has had to do, and raising his precious little boy, he is a poster child for "Dreams. Made Real."**

**- Lila Roberts,  
Dean of CIMS**

# staff profile

## RYAN WHITFIELD MAKING A DIFFERENCE

“I see the difference Mr. Whitfield makes in the lives of students every day,” comments Jade Salaz, student assistant in the Clayton State Office of Career Services. “Without him, it would be significantly harder for students to be informed of job openings and opportunities that can help their dreams be made real.”

Ryan Whitfield, assistant director of Career Services, serves the Laker community as a “direct link” to corporate America. He is responsible for managing the employer and student career management system and coordinates recruitment for part-time and full-time positions, on-campus recruiting and interviewing, and related job fairs. Whitfield also constructs and distributes a weekly newsletter, entitled “Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!” that offers valuable information to Clayton State students about job openings and career opportunities.

Whitfield was born in New York City and raised in Brunswick, Ga. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts (Mass Communication) and Master of Public Administration from Valdosta State University. Before finding employment at Clayton State, he worked as a job developer/career evaluation counselor for Valdosta State. Whitfield also spent time as a family independent case manager for Dougherty County Department of Family and Children Services, and a staffing consultant for Ranstad Staffing.

After moving to the Metro Atlanta area, Whitfield began serving as an academic advisor in the College of Professional Studies at Clayton State where he found that he loved interacting with students. In his current position he identifies, attracts, establishes, and cultivates relationships with diverse local, regional, and national employers that he then translates into career opportunities for the Laker community.

With more than 20 years of management, job development, and advising experience, Whitfield has developed a keen sense for how careers are launched.

“Understanding a person’s values, interests, skills, and character helps me to guide students to the precise resources they need for desired employment,” Whitfield remarks.

In recognition of Whitfield’s dedication to Career Services and his superb work at Clayton State University, he was honored as the 2010 Networking Guru at the Georgia Association of Colleges and Employers Conference and a 2012 award finalist for the Division of Student Affairs Infinite Mile Award.

Aside from his work at Clayton State, Whitfield enjoys watching sports such as football and basketball, traveling, attending concerts and plays, watching movies, dancing, and spending time with his son Haven (17) and his daughter Haille (13).

He is also involved in several organizations on and off campus including the Georgia Association of Colleges and Employers, Georgia Careers Consortium, Henry County Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Henry County Society for Human Resource Management, National Sales Network Atlanta, and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

– *Samantha Watson*



Without him, it would be significantly harder for students to be informed of job openings and opportunities that can help their dreams be made real.

– *Jade Salaz, Student Assistant*

# alumni profile

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## CLAYTON STATE HELPED NANCY CRAWFORD REACH HER DREAMS

**N**ancy Crawford, '89, came to Clayton State as a non-traditional student. Going back to school after being in the workforce was something she wanted and thought was important. She recognized Clayton State as the school that could help her reach her dreams.

"The counselors and instructors were encouraging and flexible and made me realize that going back to school was something that I could do," she says.

Most graduates have a pretty good idea of what they want to do with their degree; they just don't know how to get there. With the help of the job placement counselors at Clayton State, Nancy Crawford received information that led directly to a job offer right after graduation. On graduation day, she couldn't have been happier. She was one of the first graduates to receive a bachelor's degree at Clayton State, and she would soon be back in the workforce. Clayton State and its dedicated staff were the reason her dreams were coming true.

"I will be forever grateful for that fateful phone call from Clayton State. My career has been rich with opportunity since earning my degree, and my life has been full of incredible experiences and insight into the world," exclaims Crawford of her career with the federal government.

Crawford's career has stretched over many departments and states. She has held positions in Orlando, Fla., and northern Virginia. Because of her hard work and reliable attitude, she was promoted to workforce operations officer shortly after gaining her first position as an outstanding scholar intern at Fort McPherson. She later transferred to the Pentagon to work on the Army policy staff.

Crawford was in her office on Sept. 11, 2001 when the Pentagon was attacked. She remembers the day vividly and confesses that it was the scariest day of her adult life. One moment she was sitting in her office, watching the CNN coverage of the Twin Towers attack, and the next moment she felt her building

shake and started to see thick black smoke billowing from the hallways. She and thousands of military personal got out as fast as they could.

"Nothing would prepare me for what I saw when I finally made it outside of the building... I observed absolute mayhem; people lying on the grass covered in blood, people burned who were screaming and crying, and the smell of jet fuel that I will never forget."

In the midst of the trauma and commotion, all Crawford wanted to do was go home to her family. She made it safely to her car and offered a ride to a man that had

been walking with her. The next day she found out that many of her colleagues and superiors were missing, and they would soon be pronounced dead.

She eventually left the Department of Defense and assumed her first director of Human Resources position at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, but she asserts that the events of 9/11 did not influence her decision to leave the Army Policy staff. Crawford is currently the director of Human Resources at Mine Safety and Health Administration; she feels that it is an important and satisfying job.

"It's extremely fulfilling because it's an important mission—keeping the workplace safe for an industry that produces more than 75 percent of the resources required to provide electric power to the country," states Crawford.

Crawford is married with two children, loves fishing, snorkeling, sailing, and is a great cook.

With a balanced and satisfying life, Crawford has Clayton State to thank for her broadened opportunities, rewarding career, and accomplished dreams.

— *Samantha Watson*



**I will be forever grateful for that fateful phone call from Clayton State. My career has been rich with opportunity since earning my degree, and my life has been full of incredible experiences and insight into the world.**



# ClassNotes

## 1971

**Dora Sumner (A.S. Nursing)** became an RN. She had her first child seven months after graduation, and then went on to study at Georgia Baptist and received a BSN. She worked most of her career in nursing homes. She retired to Cleveland, GA, where she and her husband of 44 years built a log home. They have one grandson, Joseph, who is eight. Sumner adds, "I would love to know where all the graduates are from the first class, 1969-1971."

## 1978

**Joan B. Scales (A.S. Nursing)** is retired and celebrated 53 years of marriage in 2012. She enjoys traveling and most recently visited Scotland and England.

## 1984

**Kerry Doyal (A.A.)**, and his wife, Robin ('84), now live near Pittsburgh, PA, where he pastors Christ Community Fellowship. Kerry Doyal formerly held pastorates in Brooklyn, the Chicago-area and northeast TN.

## 1985

**Rita C. Dortch (A.A. Dental Hygiene)** is now living outside of Houston, TX.

## 1994

**Vibha Singla (B.A. Accounting)** is the 2012 Alumni Association Distinguished Award Winner in the School of Business. Along with her husband

Diwan, she is a resident of Jonesboro, Ga., and the owner of Vibha Singla, CPA, a firm specializing in tax services for small businesses and non-profit organizations. Her business is located in Hampton, Ga., with a satellite office in Forest Park, GA. She received her CPA license in 1997. Before founding her own business, Singla served as the grants and contract manager for the Clayton County Board of Commissioners. She and her husband have been married for 27 years and have two children. Their daughter Anchita is a UGA graduate and in her final year of optometry school, and their son Ankush is a graduate of Georgia Tech and working as consultant with Deloitte Consulting.



Singla ('94)

## 1995

**Sandra Kinney (B.B.A. Computer Information Systems)** is the assistant vice president for Institutional Research and Planning at Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS). She is responsible for the planning, evaluation, research, assessment, and reporting functions necessary to monitor progress in achieving the goals of Louisiana's Community and Technical Colleges. She also represents the system office in advising the commissioner of higher education, college chancellors, and Board of Regents staff on

**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 best methodologies for collection, cataloging, and utilization of new and existing data resources. In addition, Kinney coordinates and assists institutional staff in developing and monitoring the state mandated operational plans at their respective colleges, as well as identifying and monitoring the LCTC System performance objectives in accordance with the Board of Regents reported general performance information.

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## 1996

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**Dawn Gepfer (CER Paralegal Studies, A.S. Marketing)**, a resident of Locust Grove, GA, has worked for Turner Broadcasting and Turner Field for more than 20 years. She began with Turner Broadcasting System in 1991 working in real estate, sports production and network operations before returning to the real estate division in 1998 to develop and oversee a move management program. Currently, she is the facility manager for Turner Field and has served in that role since 2006. Her duties include: design services, furni-

ture and finishes installations, construction management and overseeing all contract services related to the upkeep of the property. She and her husband, Rick have one son, Cal, who intends to be a professional baseball player. (Dawn says she will never be able to leave her job until that happens.) She is also the 2012 Alumni Association Distinguished Award Winner from the College of Arts & Sciences.

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## 2003

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**Raechel Nebergall (B.S. Psychology & Human Services)** is a small business owner/partner with Vehiport ([www.vehiport.com](http://www.vehiport.com)) where she primarily handles logistics and supply chain.

**Lisa Williams (B.I.T. Information Technology)**, a resident of Riverdale, Ga., is the Clayton State Alumni Association's 2012 Distinguished Award Winner from the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences. She has more than 15 years of experience in classroom training and is the founder/owner of On-Site Computer Training, LLC, located in Forest Park, GA. Before starting her own company, she held the position of Reservations Training Manager in the airline industry where she was responsible for all aspects of computer training for more than 500 employees.

ation's Overall Outstanding Alumnus of the Year. After graduating from the University, she has earned both a master's degree and a doctorate degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, the master's in Nurse Anesthesia in 2010, and the doctorate in 2011 in Nurse Anesthesia Practice. For her doctoral capstone project, she developed an injectable model of the spine demonstrating the movement of local anesthetic in the intrathecal space to be used for teaching, practicing, and planning spinal anesthetics. This invention was featured on the cover of the August 2011 issue of the *American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Journal*. The invention is currently under review for a patent. Currently, Bastardi is employed as a nurse anesthetist with the Commonwealth Anesthesia Associates in Richmond, VA. She provides general, monitored anesthesia care, and spinal and epidural anesthesia care for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures to patients undergoing surgery and non-surgical interventional procedures requiring anesthesia and/or sedation. She and her husband, Anthony, have been married for 11 years. They have two children, a six-year old daughter named Zoe and a four-year old son named Anthony.

**Sheena Todd (B.B.A. Management)** married Trevor Todd in August of 2009, and they welcomed their first child together, Jackson, in November 2011. Todd is currently working on growing her landscape design business while staying at home with their child.

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## 2006

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**Lukeythia Bastardi (B.S.N. Nursing)** is the 2012 winner of the Clayton State Alumni Associ-



Gepfer ('96)



Williams ('03)



Bastardi ('06)



**Sawyer ('07)**

## 2007

**Nikki T. Sawyer (B.S. Biology)** was hired as a full-time faculty member in the Natural Sciences Department at Clayton State University. Sawyer says, "I am very excited to be teaching at my alma mater. I have always loved the environment at Clayton State University." Sawyer was hired ABD, and is currently finishing her dissertation work at Emory University with the goal of defending in spring 2013.

## 2008

**Nicole Turner (B.S. Psychology and Human Services)** married Rodney Hamm on June 11, 2011 and published a poem, "camera," on Nov. 4, 2011.

**Katherine Wolf (A.S. Pre-pharmacy, '05; B.S. Integrative Studies '08)** completed her doctor of pharmacy degree (PharmD) at Mercer University in 2011 and then completed a PGY-1 Managed

Care Pharmacy residency in Seattle, WA. She currently works as the manager of pharmacy services for a Medicare Healthplan in Seattle, WA.

## 2009

**Nancy Capponi (B.S.N., '06; M.S.N. '09)** has been working full time as a faculty member since fall 2010. She says, "I am excited to give back to the university and to contribute to the future of nursing. I keep up with what is going on with Clayton State alumni and maintain my membership. I realize the importance of having a voice in an important group such as the Alumni Association and encourage all of my students to become members after graduation."

**La Tonya Holloway Jones (B.B.A. Healthcare Management)** is married with two children. She graduated from Capella University in 2012 with a MBA specialization in healthcare management, and currently works as a clinical coordination specialist with Chamberlain College of Nursing-Atlanta.



**Capponi ('09)**



**Mechelke ('09)**

**Shawn Mechelke (M.B.A.)** is now the senior vice president strategy and operations - infrastructure for Schneider Electric, a global specialist in energy management. Mechelke is located in Schneider Electric's Burnsville, MN office and is responsible for the weather services business unit within infrastructure which focuses on providing software and service solutions to energy, aviation, transportation, and sports/recreation. He resides in Woodbury, MN with his wife Jill and two teenage children.

## 2010

**Rukayat Busari (B.A. Liberal Studies)** currently resides and works with an educational institution in Japan. Busari has also travelled to various countries in Asia and wants to become a linguist and an ambassador.

**Cedric Hendrix (B.I.T. Database Administration)** is advancing in his career at MARTA as a database administrator (DBA).

**Evie Lester-Brisco (B.B.A.)** enrolled in Walden University and was accepted into their master's program in July of 2010. She received a graduate degree in public administration with specialization in law and public policy on February 24, 2013. She is presently employed by the Social Security Administration, and owns and operates Brisco's Pre-Owned Automotive, Inc., a used car dealership in Fayetteville, GA.

She says, "I am passionate about social change within my community. I am in the process of implementing a focus group comprised of young black men between the ages of 18-25 called The Voices of Hope to build a safer community by using character building techniques."

**Isaac P. Onu (A.S. Marketing and Merchandising, B.B.A., minor in Supply Chain Management and Business Marketing)** is a financial specialist at New York Life Securities (investment management and insurance) and specializes in tax diversification, retirement planning, life insurance, and investments.

## 2011

**Debra Ann Brown (B.A. English)** shares, "Clayton State University actually saved my life, as I was diagnosed with congestive heart failure while attending the university in May 2006. By the time of graduation in May 2011, the disease had gone into its second and most detrimental stage; nevertheless, I persevered still with an attempt to somehow become a first/second-level English instructor for Clayton State University. Dreams do come true, and I refuse to give up my dream of becoming an educator until the very end. I plan to return to Clayton State University in fall of 2013 to obtain a Master of Arts in Teaching- English that my goal will be fulfilled. My milestone is to overcome my heart disease by trusting in the Supreme Being for a complete healing that I may be a positive example for not only students, but for other educators as well."

**Mindy Filien (B.B.A.; Minors: Marketing & Supply Chain Management)** became part of the Clayton State University staff and now works in the Office of Financial Aid.

**SueAnn Hollowell (B.B.A. Marketing, Spanish Minor)** is currently enrolled in the M.B.A. program at Mercer University and will graduate in May 2013. Hollowell's business worked with Clayton State Athletics during the new Loch mascot customization and unveiling.

**Page L. Johnson (B.I.T.)** began at DePaul University of Chicago in September 2012 in pursuit of a master's in information technology project management. She has been working at NASCO, an Atlanta-based company, since September 2011

and was promoted in October 2012 from a benefit support analyst to benefit analyst I.

**Pamela Rickels (B.B.A. Accounting)** is an auditor at Brown Nelms CPAs. She passed all sections of CPA exam and is enrolled in Florida Atlantic University's Master of Accountancy - Forensic Accounting program.

## 2012

**Jenny Dreasler (B.A. Communication & Media Studies)** is a Multimedia Journalist for WGEM News. While at Clayton State, Dreasler was a member of the women's soccer team, where she was a four-year starter and served three years as captain. She also hosted Clayton State's sports show, "Laker Zone."



Dreasler ('12)

**Carlis Hughes (B.S. Psychology and Human Services)** began Mercer University Atlanta's graduate program - M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling in August 2012

**Anthony Stephenson (M.B.A.)** of Lilburn, GA was promoted recently to assistant budget director of the State's largest school district - The Gwinnett County Public School System. He is responsible for managing the school system's 1.7 billion dollar annual budget.

**Lisa Taylor (B.B.A. Management)** is attending Mercer University Tift College of Education and will be ready to educate the minds of elementary school students when she graduates in 2014. Taylor is ready to teach in Georgia, because she feels the knowledge she received from Clayton State, along with what she is learning at Mercer, will enable her to be very successful in the classroom.

**Tony Yaacoub (B.S. Mathematics)** is the winner of the Alumni Association's 2012 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. Yaacoub is a native of

Lebanon and the 2012 Homecoming King. He graduated last spring from Clayton State with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a minor in finance. He is currently enrolled at Georgia Southern University, pursuing a master's degree in mathematics and statistics. At Georgia Southern his research will focus on "Cartesian Product of Graphs and the Roman Domination Function."



Yaacoub ('12)

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