

FALL 2015 • VOLUME 10 • NUMBER 2 • A PUBLICATION OF CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

THE LAKER CONNECTION

A young woman with long dark hair, wearing a white lab coat, is holding a glass flask containing a blue liquid. She is looking at the flask with a focused expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**THE
SCIENCES**
AT CLAYTON STATE

INTRODUCING OUR
NEW SCIENCE BUILDING



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Clayton State opens its newest building in fall semester 2015.

Cover photo by Kevin Liles

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THE LAKER CONNECTION

Vol. 10, No. 2, FALL 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Most of the works contained in this issue of *The Laker Connection* illustrates Clayton State University's commitments to science and science education. They reflect the belief that such efforts play a vital role in student, faculty and community learning requirements for the 21st Century.

The *Oxford English Dictionary*, along with other definitions, describes science as "The intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment."



"Science is not a body of facts," says geophysicist Marcia McNutt, who once headed the U.S. Geological Survey and is now editor-in-chief of *Science*.... "Science is a method for deciding whether what we choose to believe has a basis in the laws of nature or not."

Andrew Colgoni and Carolyn Eyles of McMaster University observed "...higher education needs to produce a new type of scientist — one who understands a broad range of disciplinary approaches, is able to ask creative questions, and is trained to answer those questions with a wide range of tools. This 21st Century scientist must have a skill set that allows him or her to probe and explore problems, to find and critically evaluate information, to work productively as a member of a team, and to effectively communicate research findings to others."

The section describing in some detail our new Lakeview Discovery and Science Center highlights many of the physical additions to our campus (with great appreciation to the Board of Regents, Governor Deal, and members of the Georgia General Assembly.) This building will dramatically advance the environment in which we are able to advance such learning. But as important as place is to this future, it is the careful interaction of place with people that will create the greatest opportunities for learning.

As you read material included herein, I believe you will conclude as we have that colleagues here work incredibly well with our students in the development of those skills—seeking and applying scientific learning, and drawing on the learning and success of other team members to advance that knowledge beyond what any single member might accomplish alone. They make dreams real.

Tim Hynes

DREAMS . MADE REAL .



THE SCIENCE BUILDING

Opening Fall 2015

BY LAUREN GRAVES



In 2013, the groundbreaking for a new science building put dreams into motion. In 2014, “topping off” celebrated the pinnacle of progress. And, in fall 2015, the Lakeview Discovery and Science Center became a reality.

Campus and community anticipation has been building alongside the \$24.8 million, three-story, 64,600 square foot facility.

With science and laboratory core curriculum requirements, a building dedicated to the sciences will benefit each of Clayton State’s 7200 students, as well as the growing population of

undergraduate research students. And with critical needs within Atlanta’s Southern Crescent for more grads with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) skills, the science building is a catalyst in the symbiotic relationship between Clayton State’s internal and external communities.

“Engaging undergraduate students in research is an essential part of their preparation for careers in the natural sciences and health sciences,” says Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Hynes. “The innovative laboratory teaching spaces in this building will expand our

VERY SCIENTIFIC SCIENCE BUILDING



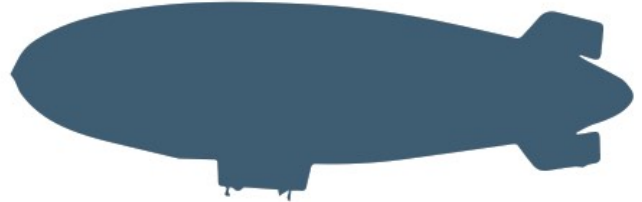
FACTS

Laboratory exhaust fans discharge 34,000 cubic feet per minute or just over

2 MILLION

cubic feet in one hour


Which is about 10 times the volume of the Goodyear blimp.



2,350

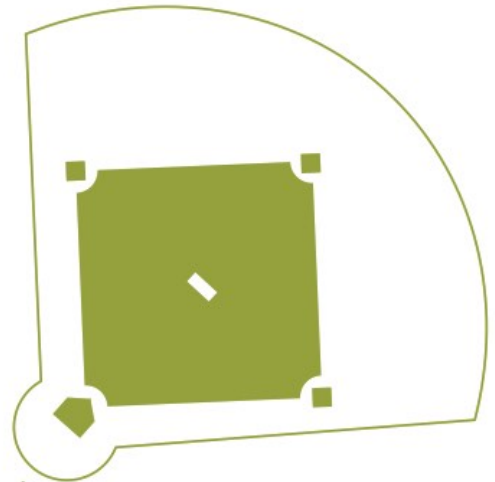

cubic yards of concrete

are included in the structure and sidewalks... enough to fill an Olympic size swimming pool.

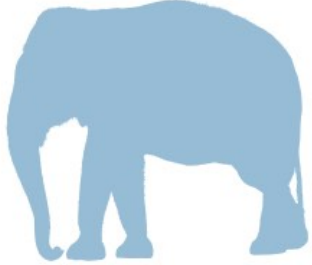


<1,000

electrical devices



395



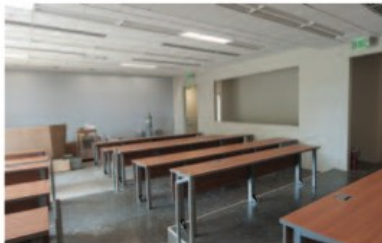
tons of structural steel

Which is about 50 times the weight of an elephant.

86,840

feet of rebar

Enough to stretch the driving distance between Clayton State and Turner Field.



5[▲] classrooms



16[▲] labs



2 conference rooms

5 prep rooms

support of undergraduate research projects where faculty and students work side by side in the learning and exploration process. Providing these opportunities not only benefits those in our science majors, it also impacts allied health students and every student on campus who takes a lab science course for their core requirements.”

INTRODUCING THE SCIENCE BUILDING

The state-of-the-art Lakeview Discovery and Science Center – which received its name via a nomination and voting process – is located directly behind the Laboratory Annex Building.

The first and second floors are home to classrooms, teaching and research labs, prep rooms, office and support space, as well as gathering spaces for students to study and collaborate. Windows stretching the width of the structure on both sides provide ample natural light into the space and sweeping views of the pond behind the building. The basement space will one day house state of the art research equipment and a vivarium. The building also has a mechanical penthouse and loading dock.

The building is Georgia Peach Belt Green Building certified. The Peach program recog-

nizes buildings owned or managed by the State of Georgia that optimize energy performance, increase the demand for materials and furnishings produced in Georgia, improve the state’s environmental quality, conserve energy, protect Georgia’s natural resources and reduce the burden on the state’s water supply.

In a tour of the building before the official opening, Dr. Michelle Furlong, chair of the Clayton State Department of Biology also explained some of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) advantages of the classroom and lab space.

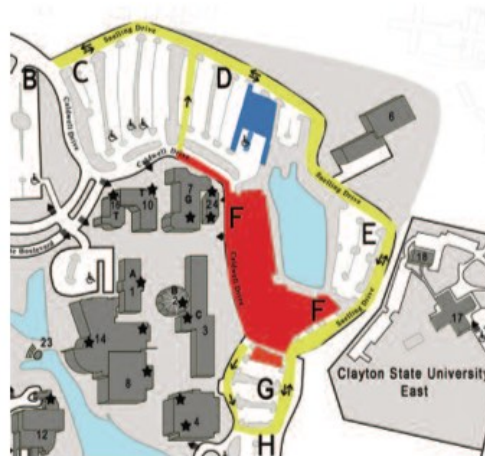
“The classrooms are designed with options for students who may be learning from a wheelchair,” she says. “There are different places within the classroom – seating at the front and the back of the classroom – to give students the choice of where they want to learn.” Furlong explains. Offering options for ADA seating follows along with Clayton State’s commitment to inclusive diversity.

She also shared, “We designed the building with input from Clayton State students. Students indicated they wanted more study and gathering space near faculty offices. In our design we included inviting spaces adjacent to the

IF YOU BUILD IT

To accommodate a building of this size and to locate it centrally on campus, the faculty parking lot and an adjacent lot near the Natural and Behavioral Sciences Building were chosen as the prime location (see red at right for Science Building footprint). Traffic was rerouted to Snelling Drive (see yellow route at right). The site makes the Science Building easily accessible for students and faculty who may also have classes in the Laboratory Annex Building (LAB), that opened in 2011, or the Natural and Behavioral Sciences Building.

TOTAL COSTS FOR THE BUILDING: \$2.1 million for design, \$19.8 million for construction, and \$2.9 million for equipment for a total cost of \$24.8 million



GROUND BREAKING

November 14, 2013

A standing room only crowd gathered at the future site of the Science Building. With friends of Clayton State, including senators and representatives from the Southern Crescent region, Board of Regents representatives, faculty, staff, administration, and representatives from McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. and S.L.A.M. architects present, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal delivered the exciting news of an additional \$2.9 million in funding to equip the new space.



A SOLID FOUNDATION

May 31, 2014

With the faculty parking lot removed, the footprint of the new Science Building begins to appear. Images from a camera on top of the neighboring Laboratory Annex Building posted on the Clayton State website shared the building excitement online with the campus and community.

"TOPPING OUT"

September 12, 2014

Clayton State and community partners, including Senators Valencia Seay and Gail Davenport, came together again to celebrate the "topping out" as the last structural beam was hoisted into place.





A PART OF HISTORY

A structural beam was placed near the construction site and the campus community was invited to leave their mark on history. The signed beam would then be ceremoniously placed during the "Topping Out" ceremony. At right, Clayton State staff, a student, and McCarthy construction workers sign the beam. A beam signing was also part of the Student Activities Center construction in 2008.



FINISHING TOUCHES

In summer 2015, small groups were allowed to tour the completed building before move-in. At left, McCarthy's Matt McMullan gives a small group tour in June before official occupancy.

FACULTY PERSPECTIVE

"I am thrilled when my students latch on to something I introduce to them and THEY get excited about it. Their excitement often encourages them to learn more about the topic and frequently inspires them to want to conduct research on it in the laboratory. When a student asks me to mentor them on a semester-long research project that I introduced to them, I feel pretty fulfilled!"

- Dr. Michelle Furlong
Department Chair of Biology



faculty office suite where students can study, work on collaborative projects and more conveniently seek assistance from faculty members. We also included a room for student organizations associated with Natural Sciences (Tri Beta, Chemistry Club, AMSA, SEEDS, etc.) to hold their meetings and organize club events."

A dream 10 years in the making, the science building was approved for construction in 2010, however state budget cuts delayed the start of the project until 2013. McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. along with Architect S.L.A.M. Collaborative, Inc., of Atlanta, GSFIC and Carter worked together with Clayton State on the project.

"After almost four years and \$10 million in revisions, we are so proud that this day is finally here," said Kevin Kuntz, McCarthy's Southeast Division President at the groundbreaking ceremony on November 14, 2013. "Despite the early setbacks with the state budget cuts, Clayton State will have the facility it desperately needs with-

out compromising any critical features. This project proves that with great teamwork and collaboration, anything is possible."

Senators Gail Davenport and Valencia Seay announced to area press that, "These funds give Clayton State a real chance to provide the best education possible for our state's future leaders, especially in the health and biological sciences."

"We owe much gratitude to our senators and representatives from the Southern Crescent," noted Dr. Hynes. "Without their support this project could not have happened."



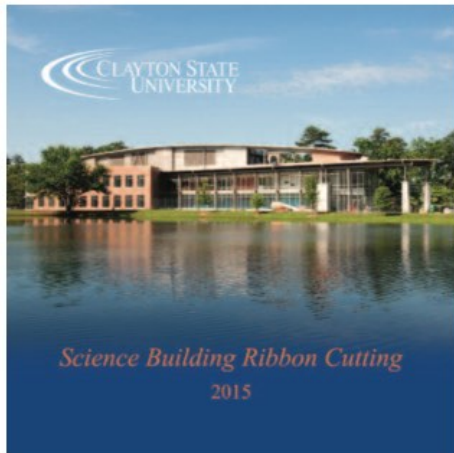
McCarthy's Southeast Division President Kevin Kuntz speaks at the "Topping Out" ceremony of the new Science Building.

Excitement grew at the standing room only groundbreaking ceremony when Georgia Governor Nathan Deal pledged \$2.9 million to equip the new facility. Concluding his remarks before a large gathering of Clayton State faculty, staff, students and most of the local state legislative delegation, Deal noted the importance of the building to the training of Georgia's future workforce, and added that an empty building would not be of much help to the students.

According to Furlong, the Furniture, Fixture and Equipment (FF&E) funds Deal spoke of were used mainly for scientific equipment for the new building's eight instructional labs and eight research labs, and to finish the classrooms and student spaces in the building.

The campus and community gathered again in 2014 near the Science Building construction site to celebrate "topping out."

Clayton State administrators, faculty (notably natural sciences faculty), staff and students gathered along with Mc-



RIBBON CUTTING

September 17, 2015

The dream of the Science Building will be made real on September 17, 2015, and attendees will celebrate with a dedication, ribbon cutting and tour of the latest addition to the Clayton State University campus. Guests received a commemorative coaster pictured at left.

Carthy employees for the topping out ceremony, with remarks by Clayton State then-Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Kevin Demmitt, McCarthy Southeast Division President Kevin Kuntz, and Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Hynes.

“This will impact our students for years to come,” noted Demmitt. “And our science and healthcare management graduates will meet the needs of the community for years to come.”

Demmitt also pointed out that the laboratory space in the science building will provide many more research opportunities for Clayton State students, “a critical need for students in science. Their dreams are one day closer to being made real.”

In his remarks, Hynes thanked the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the General Assembly, and Governor Nathan Deal, “all of whom created the conditions by which this day [was] possible.”

Excitement continued to build following topping out as the science building exterior began to take shape and finishing touches like landscaping were added in summer 2015 to prepare for fall semester classes.

On September 17, 2015, Clayton State will officially celebrate this dream made real with a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony, and the new building will, in turn, help make dreams real for Clayton State students and the economy.

A special thank you to the state officials who have helped to make this dream real.

Governor Nathan Deal
Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle
Speaker David Ralston
Sen. Ronnie Chance (retired)
Sen. Gail Davenport
Rep. Demetrius Douglas
Rep. Terry England
Rep. Virgil Fludd
Rep. Mike Glanton
Sen. Marty Harbin
Sen. Jack Hill
Sen. Rick Jeffares
Sen. Emanuel Jones
Rep. Darryl Jordan
Rep. David Knight
Rep. Ronnie Mabra
Rep. Matt Ramsey
Rep. Dale Rutledge
Rep. Sandra Scott
Sen. Valencia Seay
Sen. Cecil Staton (retired)
Rep. Pam Stephenson
Rep. Valencia Stovall
Rep. Brian Strickland
Rep. Keisha Waites
Rep. Andy Welch
Rep. John Yates



Black Holes and More

Boroson Brings the World of Outer Worlds to Students

BY SIERA BLASCO

Dr. Bram Boroson, assistant professor of physics at Clayton State, conducts hands-on research with students of all majors to yield scientific understanding.

His current research includes working with business major Katy Bell since spring 2015. Together they are observing the Cygnus X-1 black hole system, a system serendipitously named for the genus of the swan, a frequent flyer on Clayton State's campus. However, it is not the name which intrigued Boroson, but the irregularities in the black hole that Boroson had witnessed once before and hopes to develop a method to predict again. Boroson and Bell are using data from an x-ray telescope in orbit and studying how Cygnus X-1 changes its x-ray spectrum over weeks and months. They intend to create a better simulation that will predict the gas flow around the black hole.

"I offer a list of research projects on my website, but at times students will come up with ideas or as we start one idea, it will change into another," Boroson says.

He has also worked with students Diana King and Christopher Larry, on creating a computer method that would classify Galaxy Zoo images. Galaxy Zoo is a website which presents images from a variety of telescopes and allows the general public to help categorize images that are difficult for current programs to differentiate. Boroson took an algorithm to predict hospital records (and received 39th place against a thousand teams), and applied and adapted it for this project with the help of his students. The result was making the top 25 percent for the Galaxy Zoo project, even with limited technological resources.

Boroson, a former student assistant himself, enjoys the new perspectives that students bring. While he says that the core of science is taking theories and comparing them with observations, students who may not be as familiar with typical outlooks of science can offer fresh viewpoints.

"I enjoy seeing my students' confidence grow, especially when my colleagues rely on them," Boroson says. "It can

be intimidating. But once past the intimidation, taking it step by step, it can be done."

Boroson happily awaits Clayton State's new science building, not only for his office window, but to be a part of a greater meeting place for higher educational developments. Although the study subject of different fields varies, understanding data crosses into all areas of science, he says. Boroson has also worked with a lot of non-science majors, as many found the hands-on research and evaluations of data confidence building and intellectually stimulating.

Boroson collaborates with other scientists to offer alternative perspectives and methods of learning to his classes. This year he began his Skype interviews, in which the whole class would engage in a discussion with an expert through an online video interview.

Boroson believes it is important for students to understand that science is a growing and changing entity, that there will always be new ideas that go through different phases before accepted or rejected.

Aside from late night telescope educational escapades, Boroson also found a way to show students the stars without the need of an observatory. Stephen Ramsden, a former Clayton State student, visits the campus every semester to observe the sun with students through his non-profit Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project. Students learn about the nuclear fusion of stars and view the sun in two different wavelengths.

Boroson does his best to bring the world of outer worlds to Clayton State University through unique learning to keep his students engaged and intrigued. Through collaboration with students, fellow scientists, and the community, Clayton State students are given an "out of this world" experience to leave loving lore and starry eyed.



The SEEDS Program

Fostering Diversity, Experience and Community Service Among Biology Students

BY GANTT THOMAS

Established in 1996, the ESA SEEDS (Ecological Society of America Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Substantiability) program was developed to increase diversity in the field of Ecological Sciences. The program creates opportunities for students to actively explore the world of ecology both physically and professionally through community service, trips to research organizations and networking among other ESA SEEDS programs. Clayton State's SEEDS chapter was founded through the national organization in 2006. Jere A. Boudell, Ph.D. has worked in the development of the organization and has seen its impact on students first-hand.

"As an ecologist and educator, SEEDS allows me to work more closely with students as an organization mentor/advisor to promote the science of ecology and service to our community," she says.

Dr. Boudell has seen many students transition successfully into various scientific fields... "A number have gone on to work in environmental outreach and education positions at various preserves and organizations. Many have pursued graduate degrees in ecology and related fields..." As a professor of biology, she currently teaches many students who also are members of the SEEDS program.

When speaking about the program's benefits, Clayton State senior Courtney Caldwell remembers a specific growth opportunity she experienced in the program, "I was asked to join the board at the Reynolds Nature Preserve -- so that was a positive reward."

Both Caldwell and fellow SEEDS member Christopher Harper credited the program with providing opportunities for growth in their field. The two shared a significant experience in their volunteer service with Reynolds' Azalea Festival, which informs local youth about the study of ecology.

"Working on the Azalea Festival and speaking to the kids has helped me develop my public speaking skills," Harper

states. Caldwell adds, "that skill will be important as [in our professions] we will have to present research information to others."

Presenting to others is key in the SEEDS program, because of its attachment to community service.

"It's an essential element of our organization. Students and the general public often think of scientists as people locked away in labs or out in the field conducting their research. But the job of a scientist also includes mentorship, education and outreach. To teach others the value of science and its role in our society we must engage members of our community in important issues," says Boudell.

Desiring to pursue a graduate degree and work in wildlife conservation, Caldwell looks at the work as a benefit. "As a biology major, getting all the experience of working with professionals and networking can help set me apart from others while applying for graduate school."

SEEDS members are also able to work on areas that are not centric to scientific studies. In a recent project, some members of the organization participated in the Eco Hackathon, an event to learn about and develop Android apps for use in education, outreach, and research in ecology.

While the program has had success in its efforts to educate members in the past, Boudell is planning for the continued growth of the organization.

"This fall semester we are planning a research station field trip, outreach to local schools, the development of presentation skills via our five minute 'flash talk' meeting presentations, more community service at Reynolds Nature Preserve, and additional activities our dedicated, enthusiastic members plan."



Film Studio Opens

Clayton State Meets the Demand of Georgia's Growing Movie Industry

BY JOHN SHIFFERT

As the cameras rolled, Clayton State celebrated the opening of its new film studio in Lucy Huie Hall on May 12, 2015.

Atlanta's newest small studio space, it is the only space of its kind associated with a higher education institution in the state and one of the few in the nation.

The significance of the day was also demonstrated by a full house of state officials, local government representatives, entertainment industry leaders, Clayton State administrators, faculty and students, and even the hall's namesake, Clayton County civil rights pioneer Lucy Huie.

Although numerous representatives of the film and entertainment industry were present, the occasion was probably best

expressed by a pair of academicians, Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Hynes and Clayton State Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Kevin Demmitt.

Accentuating that Clayton State is very much in tune with the current needs of the local and metro workforce, Hynes stated, "from our initial discussions two years ago, we have been articulating a vision... How do we support the workforce needs of the State of Georgia in the film and digital media industry?"

Demmitt followed Hynes' remarks with a little history of Clayton State's workforce-related efforts on site at 9013 Tara Blvd., in Jonesboro. Demmitt pointed out that Clayton State first opened the building on land donated by Huie in

1987 as an aviation maintenance training facility, in an effort to meet demand for airplane mechanics in what was then a still relatively newly-booming field.

“It is fitting that we are re-purposing this building and we are now meeting another statewide demand for hands-on training. In this case, the demand for people on the set,” he said.

Lee Thomas, the state’s deputy commissioner, Film Music & Digital Entertainment, said she was looking forward to the training of the “next generation of storytellers,” and had some impressive statistics on the state of the film industry in Georgia... there are 28 movies now being filmed in-state, and 77,900 people are working in the industry in Georgia. Altogether, the film industry will generate \$5.1 billion in revenue for the state in 2015, she added. It was with good reason that Thomas opened her remarks by stating, “This is great! We’re very excited!”

In addition to Hynes, Demmitt and Thomas, several notables from throughout the state spoke, including Georgia Commissioner of Labor Mark Butler. Also speaking were Film and Digital Media Center Director Barton Bond, and Film and Digital Media Center Community Relations Director Janet Winkler, the retired executive director of the Clayton State Continuing Education program.

Butler, who may be as big a movie aficionado as Thomas or Bond, noted that the 20 percent growth of employment in the movie industry in Georgia over the past eight years beats almost every other sector.

“We’re very excited with what’s happening at Clayton State,” he noted, adding that the film industry wants to hire Georgians. “We want to be able to provide them with what they want. So, thank you, Clayton State.”

Among the other VIPs in attendance were Doug Hooker, executive director of the Atlanta Regional Commission, (“We always appreciate partnering and continue to look forward to doing so,” he said), Asante Bradford, global project manager of Digital Entertainment, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Kathy Tonkin Vazquez, widow of Bob Vazquez, former president of IATSE Local 479, and special effects supervisor for East Coast Films Inc., and Ed Richardson and Brian Livesay, founders and co-CEOs of Atlanta-

based 404 Studio Partners, and the creators and designers of the new Atlanta Metro Studios, to be located in Union City.

“There isn’t a better program than this program for below the line workers,” commented Livesay on the Film and Digital Media Center’s efforts.

“This program is a success only as long as we impact the lives of young people,” added Richardson, referring to the pilot program that will fund tuition for as many as six 2015 Fulton County high school graduates and enroll them in the Film and Digital Media Center’s Digital Film Crew Training Program.

The 10,000 square foot film studio will be used to support the University’s non-credit Digital Film Technician Training Program, which in its first year placed 12 students in the local film union (IATSE 479) with another 20 students who are working in the film industry... most of whom were in attendance at the opening. The studio will also be used by Atlanta area independent film productions who the Film and Digital Media Center partners with (more than 20 since July of 2014) and will be available for rent to productions and production companies.

Still, as Bond noted, the opening was just a beginning. In presenting 20 of his former and current students, Bond said, “You are looking at the future workforce in the State of Georgia. The opportunity is wonderful, but we have to keep after it, because this is just a beginning. The end is way out in the future.”

“We are here to celebrate a dream come true,” said Winkler. “Dreams made real came true today.”



PACE-i-fy!

PACE celebrates its first year of engaging students with their communities

BY ANTOINETTE MILLER

Year one of Clayton State University's Partnering Academics and Community Engagement (PACE) initiative has come to an end. This year, specific Clayton State students engaged with their communities while learning about such diverse topics as English composition, psychology, statistics, logic, political science, philosophy...and the list goes on.

We started small with four sections of our University Foundations course. Students in this first-year seminar worked with Rex Mill Middle school to get its LEGO robotics team ready for their competitions, helped to create an informed voters block on our campus by putting together a voter information guide, and crafted personal wellness advice for their fellow freshmen. Approximately 100 students went outside their classroom walls to complete projects in various community settings, setting the stage for the rest of their time on our campus.

In Spring 2015, PACE launched an additional eight community-engaged sections cutting across the Core Curriculum with a total enrollment of approximately 200 students.

Jennifer Parrott's English composition class worked with Noah's Ark, an animal sanctuary in Locust Grove, GA, to conduct primary and secondary research on both the animals that live at the Ark and the services the organization provides. The students created a variety of promotional materials to raise awareness of, and donations for, the non-profit. Sanjay Lal's critical thinking class worked with Clayton State's Athletics Department to write argument essays on topics relevant to the health and wellness of athletes as they train. Laura Dean's American government students created and delivered Saturday tutoring sessions for AP American government students from multiple Clayton County high schools. Aaron Rafter's introduction to statistics students collected and analyzed survey data with a Fayette County elementary school to support applications to further fund the school's Cultural Arts Week program. The class also worked with Henry County's tourism director to examine trends in visitor spending and the origins of those who attended the Atlanta Motor Speedway. Christina Grange's intro to general psychology students partnered with StoryCorps Atlanta to draft materials linking already-

published stories to concepts in psychology. Ben Buckley's ethics in a historical and contemporary perspective students completed service hours around the Metro Atlanta area, reflecting upon how philosophers including Aristotle, Kant, and Nagel would view their activities. And, after a presentation by a representative of Banking on our Future (Operation Hope), Gay Solomon's survey of economics students prepared educational materials on personal financial responsibility for local middle school students.

Year two will be very busy for PACE. PACE will offer a wide variety of community-engaged courses including Core and upper division courses. The first cohort of PACE Mentors will assist these new students to facilitate their project work while PACE continues to train and support faculty toward teaching community-engaged classes. We are also planning our inaugural Community Partner Roundtable and Networking event for October 2, 2015 in effort to grow our connections with our surrounding communities.



Clayton State Meets the Challenge

Thanks to the generosity of several donors, in mid-May 2015, Clayton State announced the Retention Scholarship Challenge, stipulating that all new gifts up to \$20,000 total, so-designated to the Retention Scholarship Challenge, and received prior to the end of the University's fiscal year, June 30, 2015, would be matched, dollar for dollar, thus doubling the impact of the gifts. Financial challenges are a frequent reason Clayton State students give for not being able to complete their education. Although Clayton State has made great strides to help students move past this challenge, there are still some 25 to 30 students who need help each fall, thus the need for the Retention Scholarship Challenge. As Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Hynes announced on July 1 at the annual Clayton State Happy Fiscal New Year celebration, the University and its generous contributors **have fully met and, in fact, surpassed the challenge total**, thus indeed making for a happy fiscal new year and dramatically impacting a couple of dozen Clayton State students for fall semester that started in August 2015.

Atlanta Music Project and Clayton State Announce Music Scholarships for Underserved Students

Clayton State University and The Atlanta Music Project (AMP) recently announced a joint program that will provide endowed funding for AMP graduates to continue their education with the Clayton State Music Department. Once the endowed effort is fully funded, The Atlanta Music Project Endowed Scholarships will provide monies for graduates of AMP, a music education program in metropolitan Atlanta for underserved youth, who want to continue their music education at the University. The scholarship funding will be utilized for students who major or minor in music at Clayton State. There will also be monies for Clayton State students who are assisting young musicians in the AMP program. The initial gift for the endowed scholarship was contributed from an anonymous donor.

Clayton State Receives \$20,000 Gift from Alonzo F. and Norris B. Herndon Foundation to Support Scholarships

Clayton State University has received a \$20,000 gift from the Alonzo F. and Norris B. Herndon Foundation to support scholarships, beginning in fall 2015. Herndon Foundation Board Chair William J. Stanley, III, was on campus on June 1 to present the check to Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Hynes. The University-managed scholarship is designed to assist undergraduate students pursuing a business degree who demonstrate academic commitment and excellence, financial need, character and leadership, and a personal understanding of the Herndon legacy. This gift will be used to create the Herndon Scholars Program. Students selected as Herndon Scholars will receive \$5,000 per year for up to four years. "We are grateful for the generous support of Clayton State students by the Herndon Foundation," say Hynes. "We hope this is the beginning of generational development here of Herndon scholars, who, through hard work and an enterprising spirit, will model the success and the values found in the Herndon family."





Clayton State Introduces Jimmy Link as Fifth Head Men's Basketball Coach

Jimmy Link, a veteran of 10 seasons of college basketball experience, was named the fifth head men's basketball coach in the 25-year history of Clayton State University by Tim Duncan, Director of Athletics, on Monday, May 11. Link, who has coached at all three levels of the NCAA as well as in the NAIA, joins the Lakers following a very successful run as head coach at Division II Paine College in Augusta, Ga. During his four-plus years in that role he compiled an 81-60 overall record (.574) and 59-41 (.590) mark in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Dr. Chris Kodani Earns Georgia Adopt-a-Stream's Legacy Trainer Award



It's a confluence of staff, board members and volunteers of Georgia Adopt-A-Stream. Every year Georgia's volunteer water quality monitoring program, Adopt-a-Stream, gathers at the Environmental and Heritage Center in Buford, Ga., for their annual meeting, known as "Confluence," as in what happens when streams merge together. For 2015, Confluence's award function included the confluence of the organization's top volunteer award with

Clayton State University Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Chris Kodani. The Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Legacy award goes to the Adopt-A-Stream trainer who has received and maintained certification from the state program as a trainer of our Quality Assurance/Quality Control workshops, and conducted workshops annually for at least 10 years. In the 23 year history of the program, only 16 trainers in the state have earned this honor.



Leonard Moreland Honored by USG

Leonard Moreland, one of Clayton State University's longest and most loyal supporters, and a former chair of the Clayton State University Foundation, was honored by the Board of Regents (BOR) of the University System of Georgia (USG). Moreland received one of three, first-time awards from the annual Salute to Education -- recognition as an honoree of the Regents Awards for Excellence in Education. This marks the first time the BOR has honored distinguished friends of USG

institutions at the Salute to Excellence, which was previously an annual alumni awards ceremony. However, the University System Board of Trustees decided this year to expand the awards to include friends of institutions who have made a significant contribution and impact.

Clayton State Ranked Eighth Among Georgia Universities for Best Value for Education

The SmartAsset.com website has ranked Clayton State University in the top 10 for best value in higher education in the State of Georgia, reinforcing the concept that Clayton State provides students with a good value to make their dreams real. Clayton State is ranked eighth, just ahead of Savannah State University and the University of West Georgia, and just behind Southern Polytechnic State University, which is now part of Kennesaw State University. SmartAsset looked at five factors to determine the best value colleges and universities: tuition, student living costs, scholarship and grant offerings, retention rate and starting salary. The sources for the SmartAsset rankings included 2013 National Center for Educational Statistics, 2014 Payscale, and 2013 College In-Sight.

Copeland, Fitzpatrick, Krop, Mohamed, Nakos and Zeller Named to 2015 University Professorships



Dr. Copeland



Dr. Fitzpatrick



Dr. Krop



Dr. Mohamed



Dr. Nakos



Dr. Zeller

Thanks to the generosity of several key donors and the Clayton State University Foundation, the University recently bestowed the title, “University Professor” for 2015 on six faculty members, marking the second year of Clayton State’s annual University Professorship program. Clayton State’s 2015 University Professors include: Dr. Susan Copeland, professor of English (the Jack and Sherry Hancock University Professorship); Dr. Peter Fitzpatrick, chair of the

Department of Health Care Management (the Kaiser Permanente University Professorship); Dr Elliott Krop, assistant professor of mathematics (the Clayton State Foundation University Professorship); Dr. A Rafik Mohamed, chair of the Department of Social Sciences (the Clayton State Foundation University Professorship); Dr. George Nakos, professor of marketing (Georgia’s Own Credit Union University Professorship); and Dr. Kurt-Alexander

Zeller, director of Opera and Vocal Studies (Clayton State Foundation University Professorship). Awarded faculty will carry the title of “University Professor” for two years allowing up to 12 faculty to have the distinction at any given time. This recognition comes with a \$5,000 annual salary supplement. The Clayton State University Foundation assisted in creating the monetary supplement by creating a matching dollar-for-dollar gifts program.

Dance Returns to Clayton State

The Dance Ensemble’s presentation, “Recrudescence: A Rebirth of Dance” in Spivey Hall in March marked the introduction of the Clayton State University Dance Ensemble to the community, and the reintroduction/rebirth of dance at Clayton State. “Most people don’t know we are now dancing at Clayton State, and we are!” says Katie Marie Kelly, assistant professor of musical theatre and dance at Clayton State. “However, what most people truly don’t know is that dance was present on the Clayton State campus since the University began. So, after 26 years of inactivity, we are dancing again and with a formal dance minor program.”



Bachelor of Arts in Film Production Approved for Fall Semester Rollout

The Board of Regents (BOR) of the University System of Georgia approved a Bachelor of Arts degree in Film Production at the BOR’s May 2015 meeting, adding another aspect to workforce development in the State of Georgia’s hottest industry. According to Dr. Susan Tusing, chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) in the College of Arts & Sciences, “We have many students inquiring about film and media production, and the production classes in our Communications and Media Studies program have been enormously popular. We anticipate the B.A. in Film Production to be a significant program in our department and at Clayton State, and to be a major contributor to the future of the film industry in Georgia. We expect the graduates of this program to make an enormous impact on the field in and beyond Georgia.”



Scholarships Gifts on the Rise

Clayton State's Development Office Celebrates Scholarships

BY KATE TROELSTRA

Retention Scholarships

In late April, thanks to the generosity of several donors, Clayton State was excited to announce a \$20,000 Retention Scholarship Challenge. The Challenge? To raise an additional \$20,000 by June 30, 2015. These gifts would be matched, dollar for dollar, through the Challenge thus creating a \$40,000 fund to support students staying in school to complete their degree.

Financial challenges continue to be the number one reason that students give for not completing their college education. The University has made great strides in the past two years to help students move past this challenge, so they are able to graduate with a college degree – with many of them being the first in their family to do so.

Each fall, 25-30 students end up dropping out for the semester, so they can earn enough money to pay for their education. They have exhausted their financial aid options which means that programs such as HOPE and Pell are no longer possibilities. History shows that many of these students won't re-enroll and will never see their dream of a college degree realized.

Thanks to an incredible response from the campus community, nearly \$21,000 was raised successfully meeting the Challenge creating a total pool of \$41,000 to support students staying in school.

Dream Makers Scholarships

Another program committed to making dreams real is the Dream Maker Scholarship Initiative which launched in fall 2013. Now in year two, this program has helped to raise more than \$346,322 in support of annual and endowed scholarships ensuring that the University can impact students both today and long into the future. The dollars raised represents an increase of 109% in two years, but more im-

portantly 175 students have been able to continue their education. This represents an increase of 60% more students each year.

Two new scholarship endowments were also created, ensuring that future students will be able to benefit from the generosity of our donors.

Scholarships, both need-based and merit, continue to be a focus for Clayton State University. Helping students realize their dream of pursuing a college education is an incredible opportunity to shape the future of our community and the world at large. With your help this program will only continue to grow, making it possible to impact even more students.



It has not been an easy road, but I am proud to say that I am finally nearing completion, and on track to graduate summa cum laude! I am also proud of the example

I am setting for my children and other family members....You are making a difference in the lives of not only the individual student, but also entire families affected by the graduate and her successes in the present and future.

- Candy, Clayton State Scholarship Student, 2015



An “A” In College

BY JOHN SHIFFERT

How do you turn a high school “D” in English into an “A” in college? If you’re Maia Kuhn, it’s all part of a long journey.

You see, Kuhn’s high school “D” was in Trier, Germany, at the start of a story that took her through Kimberley, British Columbia and a couple of changes in plans on the way to becoming one of Clayton State University’s most-accomplished student-athletes... in her professional field of psychology, in not one or two or three, but four sports (that’s right - soccer, cross country and indoor and outdoor track), and in becoming part of the Clayton State experience.

It’s a story that includes academic and athletic honors, being part of Clayton State’s supportive community in several organizations and committees, and a drive that allowed her to

complete an undergraduate degree in psychology with a year-and-a-half of athletic eligibility still remaining. Indeed, Kuhnen has accomplished so much in her years at Clayton State that it's hard to know where to begin... the dean's list, a standout in two different sports at the same time (soccer and cross country), Academic All-District for cross country and track & field, in addition to numerous academic honors from the Clayton State Athletic Department, five school records in track, graduating with honors in May 2014 and then continuing in the psychology master's program, attending the prestigious Sixth Annual NCAA Career in Sports Forum in Indianapolis, serving on the campus Tree Committee and as vice president of Psi Chi -- the Psychology Honors Society, a member of the ARC's Millennial Advisory Committee... the list goes on and on.

Perhaps it's best to let this graduate of Friedrich-Wilhelm Gymnasium High School and Clayton State tell her own story, starting in March 2011, when a big envelope, described by Kuhnen as a letter that has impacted her life tremendously, arrived at the hostel in Kimberley where she was staying for four months during a work-and-travel year in Canada.

"After careful reading, making sure that nobody was trying to fool me, I signed my scholarship offer from Clayton State. It seemed to be so professional and special to receive money for something I have been doing my whole life, being physically active. My original plans were to stay for one year to explore the field of health and fitness management and return to Germany to either finish my studies or specialize in something different."

However, Clayton State, its people and its programs, have a way of changing plans. And that's what happened.

"Here I am, four years later and still a current student and alumni of Clayton State. My freshman year, I was a regular student with 15 hours per semester, because I had no clue how this American institution 'University' worked. Safe to say, it is quite different compared to the German system, where university is separated from any other leisure activities."

Kuhnen persevered, as will any good runner who is in for the long haul.

"My sophomore year, I changed my major to psychology and started to be more and more involved within athletics as a four sport athlete, in the Student Activities Center as a challenge course facilitator, and as a volunteer student outdoor and adventure trip leader. I found interest in developing my skills as a fitness instructor and added more certifications to my already existing German track and field coaching license."

While injuries at that time slowed down her progress in her four sports, they didn't affect her academic pursuits. Going into what was her junior year athletically, she decided to graduate early, in just two more semesters.

"Despite running hundreds of miles over the summer and an overload of classes, my junior fall semester was a success in athletics and academics. I made the dean's list yet again and earned All-Peach Belt Conference Academic honors in cross-country and soccer. I supported the Laker community to my best abilities as a member of the cross country, soccer and track and field teams, served as a vice president of Psi Chi and as the student body representative on the Tree Committee, and I ran times I had not dreamed of since I was 17."

After getting her undergraduate degree in May 2014, Kuhnen originally planned to apply to other universities for pursuing her master's. But, once again, Clayton State had a way of changing her plans.

"The uniqueness of Clayton State made me reconsider my decision to conquer new frontiers. I like to be personal with my surroundings and so does Clayton State. The small-sized campus enabled opportunities for me. Everywhere I go the faculty and staff is eager to be helpful in many ways and supports my ideas and me," she says. That support also includes an internship in the PACE program. "PACE is a great way to bring community engagement into the classroom and show the other aspects of volunteering."

"Who would have thought that my ability to only run straight, as my high school physical education teacher stated as being my only positive strength, would let me reach such wonderful challenges I undergo every day."

Note to that physical education teacher in Trier. It's safe to say Maia Kuhnen is all about positive strengths. And, yes, in addition to being able to read Latin and Ancient Greek, she did get an "A" in English at Clayton State.

Trustee Profiles

“THE PROGRESS MADE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE THE LAST FEW YEARS HAS BEEN WONDERFUL. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RAISE MORE FUNDS AND GIVE MORE SCHOLARSHIPS. I LOOK FORWARD TO CREATING NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMITMENTS FOR CLAYTON STATE.”



Randy Hayes

Randy Hayes Appointed New Chairman

On June 30, 2015, Tim Crawford, class of 1984, wrapped up his two year term as Clayton State University Foundation Chairman with a very successful term having worked closely with the University. Now the board looks forward to welcoming the leadership of Randy Hayes as new Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He has played a significant role as member of the board since 2003 when he joined the board as way to reach out to a source of higher education for his fellow residents of Fayette County.

“What I have seen during my tenure on the Board of Trustees is a movement by the members to find ways to increase resources and increase commitments for more scholarships,” said Hayes.

His goal, along with the rest of the Trustees, is to continue outreach in surrounding areas of Metro Atlanta to reach new donors and supporters. “Ultimately our goal is always to support the students,” expressed Hayes.

“The progress made in partnership with the Development Office the last few years has been wonderful. We have been able to raise more funds and give more scholarships. I look forward to creating new partnerships and commitments for Clayton State,” said Hayes.

He has served as the Chairman of the Fayette County Development Authority since 1995. Governor Perdue appointed Randy to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Warm Springs Memorial Advising committee in 2010. He is Co-Chair of the Atlanta Region Workforce Development Board and a Board member of the Georgia Homebuilders Association.

“We have a great board that continues to grow. I am looking forward to leading,” said Hayes.

This year the Clayton State University Foundations welcomes four new members to the Board of Trustees:

Subrahmanya Bhat

“Clayton State University helps the community through educating and developing future leaders. It feels great to be a trustee and a part of this community. It makes me proud to be a community leader, because Clayton and Henry counties have been great to us. It is time for us to give back and serve,” said Dr. Subra Bhat.

Originally from south India, Dr. Bhat along with his wife, Annapurna, currently reside in Jonesboro, Ga. His practice is located in Stockbridge, Ga., and specializes in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine, critical care, sleep medicine and pain management. He is part of the Lake Spivey Rotary and this year was selected as one of the Consumers’ Research Council of America Top Physicians.

Education is very important to Bhat and his wife who have created multiple endowed scholarships in India as well as establishing a new, modern library at his alma mater high school in Perla.

Mike Vigil

“I have enjoyed working with the College of Business at Clayton State since 2012. Now, being able to serve the entire University is an even greater honor. I believe that Clayton State is a great institution that provides not only great opportunities and educations for its students, but also serves as a



Subrahmanya Bhat



Mike Vigil



David Worley



Patty Whaley

cornerstone for the Southern Crescent of Atlanta as well,” said Mike Vigil.

Currently living in McDonough, Vigil is Dealer Principal of Allan Vigil Ford of Fayetteville and Vice President of Allan Vigil Ford Lincoln (Morrow). He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors for The Bedford School and has served as a Board Member since 2004. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Arts Clayton as well as a Board Member for the Georgia Automobile Dealers Association.

David Worley

“As someone who grew up and lived for many years in Clayton County, and still lives in the Southern Crescent, I look forward to the opportunity to give back to an institution that has done so much to improve opportunities for students in our part of Georgia,” said David Worley.

Now residing in Peachtree City, Worley is Of Counsel at Harris Penn Lowry LLP in Atlanta. He currently chairs the Fayette District of Scouting and is a member of the Democratic National Committee and the Georgia State Election Board. He is former chair of the Georgia Democratic Party and served many years as a member and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Clayton County Library System.

“Although I did not attend Clayton State, growing up in Clayton County I was able to take advantage of many of the resources the University made available to the community. I have had many friends attend and teach at Clayton State, and enjoy contributing to the continued vitality of the University,” said Worley.

Patty Whaley

“I am proud of my degree from Clayton State. The faculty and staff at Clayton State helped me become who I am today; and, in turn, who I am able to help today. It is important that I support the University not only for these reasons, but also to provide the opportunity for other students to enjoy the same influence and support that I did,” said Patty Whaley.

As a resident of Henry County for more than 35 years, Patty has worked with several local non-profit organizations for the majority of this time. It is through these activities that she gained experience in accounting and business management. In 1992, she began her accounting career and became a partner at Whaley Hammonds Tomasello, PC in 1994.

Currently, she is treasurer for the Henry County Kiwanis Club and executive board member with A Friend’s House Inc., a home for children in crisis. In recent years, she has also been recognized with the Athena Award for Outstanding Business Women in Henry County and the United Way Volunteer of the year awards.

“The boards that I serve all share one common denominator – children and community. In fact, in the same spirit of the Kiwanis’ tagline - “Changing the World, One Child and One Community at a Time” - I, too, am an advocate for children of all ages. Serving on the boards that I do means a chance to help a struggling child who may be in need, or provide an opportunity for a teen to return to school or college,” said Whaley.

BY ERIN FENDER

DR. SHERYNE SOUTHARD

Associate Professor of Legal Studies

“ I AM NOT AFRAID TO TRY NEW APPROACHES AS LONG AS I BELIEVE THEY CAN HELP STUDENTS MASTER THE CONTENT. ”



Associate Professor of Legal Studies Sheryne Southard creates an award-winning innovative online approach to learning through Clayton State's first Self-Paced Online Course (SPOC).

Southard has taught at Clayton State for 12 years and has been recognized for her hybrid and pure online courses in many institutions, including the Grand Award Winner of the AAFPE Pearson-Prentice Hall Online Teaching Competition in 2009, the University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents' Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award in 2010, an honorable mention award for the National SoftChalk Lesson Competition in 2014, and the USG Board of Regents' Teaching Excellence Award in 2015.

The SPOC pilot project began in spring 2014 with an American government course, and included all of the Clayton State political science faculty contributing content in constructing the course. After only two months the SPOC was submitted to the 2014 Annual SoftChalk Lesson Challenge and was awarded fourth place out of 117 entrants including educators from K-12, colleges, universities, and medical programs across the nation.

What made Southard's course so unique was its catering to self-paced learning; the course's only deadline is the end of the semester.

Elaborating that her courses are in continuous progress to adapt to students' expressed needs, she says, "Distance education is a dynamic and changing learning environment where I am constantly learning and discovering new ways to improve."

Southard's collaboration with her colleagues aided to the success of the ever-evolving product, particularly with Dr. Rafik Mohamed, then-chair of the Social Sciences Department, who helped develop the vision of an online educational course that could be as academically rigorous as a traditional course, while self-paced. The main concept to conquer was a student's tendency to procrastinate

after the removal of deadlines. Southard decided to combat this with interesting interactive learning.

Not only were the students more engaged with this, as proven by her all-inclusive census that indicated that each student that enrolled in her SPOC course would enroll in another SPOC course in the future, but interactive learning also tends to result in better comprehension. Southard quotes Benjamin Franklin to capture the essence of her interactive approach to SPOC: "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

She worked with Christopher White, former Clayton State multimedia designer, to create the course as highly-visual and interactive course complete with animation and stop-motion video and role play simulations.

"I was going for things that would be mnemonic, including a virtual instructor that leads the students all through the course." She noted the importance of being able to navigate these online avenues with ease, particularly for students who may not be internet savvy.

One such student who evaluated the course wrote, "I thoroughly enjoyed this class. I am a full-time employee and a mother of three boys. Going back to school seemed impossible. This self-paced course was exactly the type of course I needed. I was able to complete my work after the children were in bed or on the weekend. I hope to have many more options of self-paced online courses while attending Clayton State."

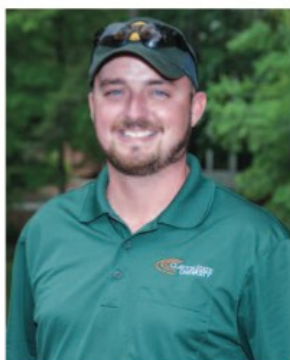
"I rely upon student feedback to guide me as to whether my approaches are successful or not, and make adjustments whenever needed to benefit the students," Southard says. "As the students are learning the content, I am learning how to best instruct them. John Cotton Dana captured my sentiments on this topic precisely, 'who dares to teach must never cease to learn.'"

BY SIERA BLASCO

JUSTIN BROOKS

Assistant Director of Landscape Management

“MOST OTHER COLLEGES ARE JUST CONCRETE, BUT CLAYTON STATE IS YOUR PERSONAL BACKYARD.”



Justin Brooks, assistant director of the Landscape Management Department, brings nature's beauty and awareness to Clayton State University's 192 acres, across the main campus, Lucy Huie Hall, and Clayton State East.

Brooks began working at Atlanta Botanical Gardens as a horticulturalist then moved on as a grounds supervisor for all of Fayette County in the Buildings and Grounds Department. With 20 years of landscaping experience, Brooks has been with Clayton State University for four years.

In 2014, Clayton State was designated a Tree Campus USA, an Arbor Day Foundation program partnered with Toyota and founded in 2008 which, "helps colleges and universities around the country establish and sustain healthy community forests." Every year, the University must renew their program accreditation by establishing and maintaining a Campus Tree Advisory Committee, developing a Campus Tree Care Plan, a Campus Tree Program with Dedicated Annual Expenditures, observe an Arbor Day, and execute a yearly Service Learning Project to engage the community in a tree-related educational project.

Brooks, chair of the Campus Tree Advisory Committee, enjoys taking part in the Arbor Day celebrations, which are observed on the best tree-planting time of the year, and are appropriately celebrated with a service learning project. This year, Clayton State held the "Trees Made Real" event, a play off the "Dreams Made Real" mantra which parallels bringing ideas into existence through hard work and dedication. Led by the Tree Committee, the group planted 54 trees and also had guided tours by biology professor Dr. Jere Boudell.

The Landscape Management Department maintains Clayton State's many trees by adding them to GPS to track when they need to be pruned and

what their ages are. This allows Brooks' team to know when trees need maintenance during the daily checks and up keep of the Clayton State campuses.

"It's great to be outdoors and not just in an office all day," Brooks says. "To take something, bare or overgrown, and redo it to be more colorful for the students... We live to please the students; compliments make my day."

Brooks says his pride is reflected throughout his Landscape Management Department, because many come to work with ideas and collaborate to put those ideas into action. "For 20 years I've done this, and this is the best group of guys I've had to work with," Brooks says, naming Rick Pascual, William Bedingfield, Trevor Barzey, Nick McCard, Jimmy McCard, Jose Diaz, Mike Balde-more, Austin Toland, Xavier Bryant and Phalando Lawson.

"Most other colleges are just concrete, but Clayton State is your personal backyard," Brooks says, proud that his team has added more than 200 trees to the campus last year. As of May, his team has already added 75 more for 2015.

BY SIERA BLASCO

JONATHAN BLAKE ANDERSON

Biology Major

“ I WILL ASPIRE
TOWARDS
BECOMING AS
AMAZING A
MENTOR TO
MY STUDENTS
AS MY
PROFESSORS
AT CLAYTON
STATE HAVE
BEEN TO ME. ”



Jonathan Blake Anderson, Biology major and Stockbridge native, graduated this spring 2015 as a Presidential Scholar from Clayton State University. Throughout his Clayton State career, he was always heavily involved and supportive of the University, having worked under Dr. Barbara Musolf, associate professor of Biology in the Department of Natural Sciences, in a scientific research project for several semesters, and at the Center for Academic Success (CAS) as a tutor and supplemental instructor.

CAS supplemental instructors tutor for historically difficult classes which the instructor has taken and received an A or B. They provide an in-depth analysis of concepts to work with students in regularly scheduled study sessions. Anderson provided students with this deeper understanding and sought his own through additional scientific student research.

His most recent project was with fellow Biology major Daniel Fort on a project classifying anxious behaviors of crayfish. Previous to this, Anderson had worked with Musolf studying the synthesis and regulation of 5-hydroxytryptamine (serotonin) in the hindgut of dragonfly nymphs.

“I began conducting research under Dr. Musolf, which sparked an interest in continuing research at the graduate level,” he says. “Soon after, I started working with the Center for Academic Success, which remains my most enjoyable experience at Clayton State, and has led to my current decision to pursue a career in higher education at the collegiate level.”

One of the second-year “class” of Clayton State Presidential Scholars, Anderson also is a trained classical saxophonist, having earned first chair alto saxophone in the Stockbridge High School wind symphony, and having played for the Clayton

State Wind Ensemble and the Clayton State Big Band jazz ensemble.

In addition to his academic achievements, he was also historian for Stockbridge High School Spanish Honor Society, a member of National Honor Society, and served as pastor and head assistant of Victoryville Children’s Ministry.

The Presidential Scholarship is presented annually to six graduating high school seniors who will be attending Clayton State University starting the following fall semester. Recipients of the scholarship must have demonstrated outstanding academic accomplishment and also are expected to continue their distinguished performance throughout their careers in higher education.

Anderson says of his variety of experiences: “I am very grateful for everything that Clayton State has offered me in my years here as an undergraduate. If not for the dedication and passion of each instructor and faculty member, I would not have had these opportunities that shaped my current career interests. I would like to thank everyone involved in my success as an undergraduate. As I continue my academic career at the graduate level, I will aspire towards becoming as amazing a mentor to my students as my professors at Clayton State have been to me.”

BY SIERA BLASCO

JAZZY MCBEE

Communications & Media Studies Alumna

“YOU NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AND, IF THAT’S YOUR PASSION, THAT’S YOUR CALLING.”



According to one of the most popular names in the urban radio market in Atlanta, it’s all about passion.

“You need to find out what you want to do and, if that’s your passion, that’s your calling,” says “Jazzy McBee,” who hosts a daily show from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Streetz 94.5 FM.

Although she graduated from Clayton State in 2009 under another name, Jazzy McBee is her on-air persona, and radio is her passion; a passion she discovered while she was originally a Liberal Studies major at Clayton State who was at the same time interning in radio. And, even though she started in the field, “cold, I had no knowledge of radio,” she soon found the depths of her passion in the Communications and Media Studies (CMS) program at Clayton State.

“I changed my major to enhance what I had at the station,” says McBee, explaining her decision to double major in both Liberal Studies and Communication and Media Studies. “My professors challenged me to look deeper into communications. They pushed me to my limit.”

CMS helped McBee achieve her ultimate passion, her ultimate dream... to get her degree.

“I keep that degree up on my wall, I worked so hard for that degree,” she says now with a laugh. A native of Decatur, McBee originally matriculated at Valdosta State University, but came back closer to home after two years to get that all-important degree, and did so, despite losing her mother prior to her last year at Clayton State.

“I ultimately wanted to finish school even after my mother passed,” she recalls. “My dream was to

complete my degree and to enhance what I knew of communication beyond radio. To know all types of communication.

“I didn’t always see that dream when I was in school, but I saw it afterwards.”

McBee appreciates the contributions of her CMS professors to her communication skills. Going forward, those skills have served her well, as she has worked her way from board operator to her current positions as an on-air personality, programming assistant, and executive assistant to the operations manager at Streetz 94.5 FM. She has also served as a weekly entertainment reporter for XM satellite radio, “The Buzz in the Streetz News.” At 94.5 FM, she moved from the morning show team to her own show, where she now dishes the latest in entertainment news and gossip.

And, she hasn’t forgotten her alma mater. At the invitation of Sanford Dennis, Career and Internship coordinator in the College of Business at Clayton State, she recently kept a classroom full of students entranced, speaking about careers in communications, marketing and radio, and taking part in a long Q&A session.

“There’s an energy, a certain feel, a freedom, to radio,” says this hard-working Clayton State graduate. “And music; music was always in me. It was right up my alley.”

BY JOHN SHIFFERT

1990

Rachel Crumbley (A.A. Journalism) has worked at Calloway Gardens for 18 years and is now the director of marketing and public relations.

2000

Cory Baldwin (B.S. Healthcare Management), now in his 9th season as head coach, led South Georgia State College to The GCAA Regular Season Championship. Baldwin was also named GCAA Coach of the Year and GABCA Coach of the Year. He now has won four coach of the year awards, won 185 games, two championships, and graduated 85% of his players during this time.

John Collins (B.A.S. Technology Management) was named vice president, consumer, at Textron Specialized Vehicles Inc. Collins will lead all customer-facing functions, including strategy development and execution, worldwide sales, marketing, product development and channel development.

2008

Christel Vinot (B.M. Music) composed *The Journey of the Toad*, which is a very charming, descriptive work written in memory of her cat, Toad.

2009

Ethel Lane (M.B.A. Business Administration) was accepted in the DBA program at Walden University. Lane is also a 2015 Global James McGuire Business Plan Competition graduate preliminary winner at Walden.

2010

Leonardo Martinez (B.S. Psychology & Human Services) has taken the role of chairman for the Board of Directors of Latino LinQ, a brand new nonprofit organization that he founded along with a group of Atlanta professionals to serve the Latino LGBTQ population of metro Atlanta. Martinez was selected to present at two conferences: the 2015 CLSSP Conference, organized by the Office of Violence Against Women and the 2015 Family Violence Statewide Conference, organized by The Georgia Commission.

In Memoriam

Shea Louise Haley '04 (B.A. Communication & Media Studies), a former intern at WSB-TV and freelance production assistant on the "Andrew Young Presents" television series, passed away at home on April 7, 2015. At the time of her death, Haley was employed as a bus driver for Gwinnett County Public Schools, a job she enjoyed and a responsibility she took seriously. She especially liked the children. She also took part in recent interviews with Rev. Willie Bolden, a former Civil Rights leader who worked with Martin Luther King Jr., and she had transcribed recordings of those sessions for his upcoming autobiography.

Lauren J. Lamar (Attended August 2008-December 2013) Our thoughts are with the family of Lauren Lamar, whose body was found at Matheson Hammock Marina in Miami, FL, this past May. She was previously reported missing after her boating companions allegedly returned from Biscayne Bay and discovered she was no longer on the boat. Lamar was working as an event promoter in Miami at the time. Lamar studied Psychology & Human Services at Clayton State University.

HEY, CLAYTON STATE GRADUATES!

Do you have news for THE LAKER CONNECTION? Contact the Office of Alumni Relations and share your life events with your fellow Lakers!



alumni@clayton.edu



(678) 466-4478



Clayton State University
C/O Alumni Relations
2000 Clayton State Blvd.
Morrow, GA 30260

Find us online!
www.facebook.com/ClaytonAlumni
clayton.edu/alumni

Jazzy McBee (B.A. Liberal Studies /B.A. Communications & Media Studies) recently spoke to a group of students at Clayton State. She has worked her way from board operator to her current positions as an on-air personality, programming assistant, and executive assistant to the operations manager at Hip-Hop Streetz 94.5 FM. At Streetz 94.5 FM, she continued to progress from the morning show team to hosting her own show.

2011

Michael Nguyen-Quan (B.A. Middle Grades Education) went on to teach for two years in Savannah and now currently teaches at a high school in Clayton County. He completed both his master's and specialist in mathematics education from Georgia Southern University in 2013 and 2015.

2012

Andrita Brown (B.A.S. Administrative Management) wants everyone to know that she recently discovered the Men's basketball team would be playing at a nearby university. She went over to the game, and was so proud as the team hustled back and forth on the court. Keep up the good work!

2013

Richard Penny (B.B.A. Supply Chain Management) owns The Penny Group, a freight brokerage company and it's doing quite well. Penny has even hired some of his fellow alumni.



HOMECOMING 2016 MARDI GRAS



A WEEK OF CELEBRATING
FEBRUARY 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

➤ clayton.edu/homecoming ⚡

Clayton State Alumni Board

What is the Alumni Board?

The Clayton State University Alumni Board is a group of Alumni Association members who serve in an advisory capacity to the University. Together with the Office of Alumni Relations, the Alumni Board works to enhance the relationship between Clayton State University and its alumni.

What is the purpose of the Alumni Board?

The purpose of the Alumni Board is to engage in meaningful discussions, consider issues related to alumni relations, and make informed and thoughtful recommendations to Clayton State University. Additionally, the Board assists the Alumni Director in the implementation of alumni programs.

What does the Alumni Board do?

The mission of the Alumni Board is to cultivate excellence and distinction through meaningful involvement with our alumni, University and global community.

In support of this mission, the Alumni Board and the Director of Alumni Relations work together to:

- Encourage alumni and friends of Clayton State to use their time, talents and energy for the advancement of the University and its programs
- Develop and promote alumni/student relations
- Create, promote and preserve traditions
- Communicate University accomplishments to alumni and other community members
- Provide opportunities for alumni to network and interact with each other
- Promote financial support of Clayton State
- Discover and recognize the achievements of Clayton State alumni
- Advocate for necessary programming and services for our alumni in support of their career and life goals

Your 2015-2016 Alumni Board

Officers:

Shawn Nelson ('06), Past President
 Jenny Rice ('91), President
 Lisa Wilkerson ('06), President-Elect

At-Large Members:

Justine Barnes ('13)
 Tammie Brooks ('12)
 Larry Jordan ('06)
 Chris Toler ('12)
 Lisa Wilkerson ('06)



Shawn Nelson



Jenny Rice



Lisa Wilkerson



Justine Barnes



Tammie Brooks



Larry Jordan



Chris Toler

Interested in getting involved?

There are many ways to get involved with your alma mater - from assisting with events or serving on committees, to connecting with and mentoring current students or ultimately serving on the Alumni Board in a leadership capacity. Interested? Visit clayton.edu/alumni or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@clayton.edu or (678) 466-4478.

Because of You!

FY14 ANNUAL GIVING

BY THE NUMBERS

**\$720
THOUSAND**



total in Annual Fund gifts

4/5



students receive
financial aid from
the University

Alumni Association
Membership has
increased by



200%

The Retention Scholarship raised over

\$23,000

to help Clayton State University students
complete their degree and see their

DREAMS . MADE REAL .

264

students made
a senior class gift



920

alumni
made gifts
to Clayton State

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MARCH 1, 2016

