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THE LAKER CONNECTION

A man in a dark blue suit and light blue shirt stands in a hangar next to a private jet. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The jet is white with blue stripes. The engine is visible in the background.

**ALUMNI DEFINE
SUCCESS**

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Clayton State alumni share their definition of success.



Cover photo by Patrick Heagney



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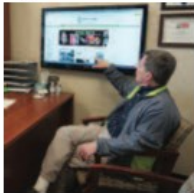
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THE LAKER CONNECTION

Vol. 10, No. 1, SPRING 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Success can be measured and achieved in a moment, in a career, or over a lifetime. Dictionary.com includes definitions capturing that range of success, whether as the favorable completion of attempts or endeavors, or the attainment of wealth, position, honors, or the like. I, for one, believe that we often measure our days based on successes large and small. More often than not, individuals, groups and organizations alike can point to illustrations or signs of success, rather than any final claim of that status.



Certainly this volume contains the stories of Clayton State people who present some extraordinary evidence of success. These stories include local small businesses advancing their futures with the support of our Small Business Development Center. Leonard Moreland, former chair of the Clayton State University Foundation Board, and University System of Georgia Regents Hall of Fame Friends and Alumni Award recipient, has demonstrated success in his personal and professional life, and has used those successes to support students, faculty and staff at our university. Spivey Hall will celebrate 25 years of successful sharing of classical and jazz music with the citizens of Georgia. Many of our faculty and staff have translated their own professional successes into opportunities for future measures of success for our students.

Geoffrey James in Inc.com poses a series of 10 questions that hopefully frame the daily successes of many of our students, faculty, staff and alumni. Some of those questions help me frame my own days: Have I done something today that improved the world? Have I reviewed and honed my plans for the future? Have I acted in private with the same integrity I exhibit in public? Have I accomplished something worthwhile? Have I collected some wonderful memories? Have I felt grateful for the incredible gift of being alive? Being part of a university named by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* for the fourth consecutive year as one of the top 100 workplaces in Atlanta, I am grateful to be able to read and observe the stories of so many who in their daily lives can legitimately lay claim to success now and into the future.

Tim Hynes

DREAMS . MADE REAL .



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

ALUMNI

TALK ABOUT

SUCCESS

Clayton State University alumni from across the university's colleges and disciplines share their definition of success.

photography by Kevin Liles ('11)
Steven Dunn photo by Patrick Heagney



Soaring Success

Steven Dunn

Chief Operations Officer, Priority Jet

Never give up on a dream, always think outside the box, and don't do what everyone else is doing. Success doesn't just fall from the sky...It is only earned through hard work and perseverance. Never forget where you came from and always be thankful. Create a respectable person and go get whatever goals you set to achieve.


Helping Hands

Antoinette M. Paragon-Singh

Research Assistant, Johns Hopkins University

Success is only achieved with hard work and commitment to whatever the task is. It is important to organize oneself and remain focused on what it is one wants to achieve. Constantly challenge yourself to do better than you did yesterday.



A man in a dark suit, light purple shirt, and patterned tie stands on a city sidewalk. He is wearing glasses and has his hands in his pockets. The background shows a modern building with large windows and a row of trees without leaves. The lighting is soft, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

Secure Future

Luis Andres Penafort

Specialist, Application Developer at
AT&T Digital Life

I believe there are three D's that people can follow to achieve success. First, desire. Desire falls in line with establishing goals. To have a goal can be simply put as desiring to arrive at or achieve something. Second, determination. Be determined and don't let anything deter you or distract you from pursuing what you desire. Even if something puts you off track, someone who is determined will do what is necessary to get back on track. Last, discipline. Be disciplined and develop good habits that will aid you in reaching your goals.

Medicine and Milestones

Clayton State biology alumni are now Morehouse School of Medicine graduates

Tolu Ashimolowo *Radiology*

Persistence and hardwork are the two most vital tools necessary for attaining success... Persistence will drive you to refuse to give up until you accomplish your goals. Hardwork will provide the basis for being able to achieve those goals.

Otega Edukuye *Psychiatry*


Find something [you are] passionate about. With passion comes purpose and goals. Being persistent in accomplishing these goals regardless of any difficulties will bring success. Surround [yourself] with people who are supportive and want to achieve success.

Latanya Gobin *Emergency Medicine*

Success means helping others as often as possible, accomplishing the goals that I set for myself, and living as an example of the type of person I want my children to become. Most importantly, success means fulfilling my dreams of becoming the best emergency medicine physician I can be,

while still maintaining a healthy relationship with my husband and family.





Self Portrait

Kevin Liles

Photographer

Have an impeccable work ethic. People will remember how hard you worked, even if the result was less than desired. Whatever job you have, do the very best you can. Do it with pride. No matter what job I've ever held, and I have had many — from packing cotton at a cotton gin to painting houses — I did my best. And most of all, I had to accept that failure was part of any successful venture.

A man in a dark suit and white shirt is leaning on a metal railing on a balcony. He is looking off to the side with a slight smile. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Banking on IT

Michael Freeman

IT Software Developer, EverBank

Success is waking up every day being able to do what you are passionate about. There is no greater reward than loving what you do every day...Before going to college, I struggled to find work, and I had a family to provide for. I've always loved computers, so I decided to go to college and get a degree in something I loved to do. As my professional life began to develop, I started making more informed decisions in my personal life.

This resulted in better financial decisions which improved the quality of life.



(L to R) Clayton State double major (math and computer science) Aziz Contractor and Clayton State Associate Professor of Mathematics Dr. Elliot Krop.

Krop + Ermakov + Contractor = Success

BY JOHN SHIFFERT

Success here comes in the form of presentations on double major (math and computer science) Aziz Contractor's work on infinite series at two mathematics conferences; the Kennesaw Mountain Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, and the 10th Annual University of North Carolina Greensboro Regional Mathematics and Statistics Conference.

Contractor, a native of India who came to the U.S. 10 years ago and graduated from Fayette County High School, was a student in Assistant Professor of Mathematics Dr. Elliott Krop's Calculus II class this past summer. In that class, Krop posed what he refers to as a "challenge problem" about the convergence/divergence of a special infinite series.

"In the latter half of Calculus 2, we learned about infinite sums," explains Contractor. "These are just sums of sequences that increase or decrease in a specific pattern. Think of a sequence such as $1/k$, where k starts at one and keeps growing. A sum of this sequence would simply add the consecutive terms."

Sounds simple enough, doesn't it? Well, Krop's challenge was anything but simple, and Contractor had to learn some advanced calculus tests, including the little-known Ermakov's Test, developed by the Russian mathematician in 1871.

"We had to find a pattern which showed us how many logs we could take of a specific k value," says Contractor, warming to the subject of advanced calculus. "This alone was a tedious task. Second, this was an infinite product inside an infinite sum and it was the first time I

looked at something like this, let alone trying to solve it.

"I tried many tests and methods that I was familiar with but none of the tests and methods we learned in Calculus II were meant to deal with such a complex infinite series. Then, we came across Ermakov's Test. It tests for convergence and divergence and is meant to be used on infinite series that contain logarithms."

"In order to solve the series Aziz had to learn a few more advanced tests as well as proof techniques from analysis to understand why those tests are true," adds Krop. "Eventually, he solved the problem by using Ermakov's Test."

Ultimately, success for Contractor means solving unsolved problems.

"Dr. Krop showed me that math could not only be as challenging as computer science but also just as rewarding," Contractor explains. "I see the work I do with him here at Clayton State as my first step on a long ladder toward success. The professors here at Clayton State, not just in the math department but also in computer science, English and other departments, have always guided me in the right way and taught me to keep moving forward and learning more things."

"Since solving the challenge problem from Dr. Krop, I have been working with him to solve some unsolved problems in the field of Graph Theory. We believe we have already solved one and written a paper about it, and I hope to solve a few more before I graduate."



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SPIVEY HALL IS TO MUSIC WHAT LIGHT IS TO PAINTING.

- legendary conductor Robert Shaw

Season Twenty-five

BY SAM DIXON

Clayton State University's Spivey Hall, which opened to widespread critical and popular acclaim in January 1991, will celebrate its 25th Anniversary Season in 2015-2016. Festivities began when details of Season 25 concerts were announced on March 22 to the Friends of Spivey Hall and invited guests at Atlanta's Piedmont Driving Club – where Emilie Spivey, the visionary founder of Spivey Hall, announced in 1986 the \$1 million challenge gift, made in memory of her late husband, Dr. Walter Spivey, that launched the Campaign to Build Spivey Recital Hall.

Season 25 shines a spotlight on the artists and audiences that have made Spivey Hall one of the nation's most respected concert series. The annual Spivey Series features renowned stars and exceptionally promising emerging talents performing classical, jazz, and world music. The Hall's superb acoustics are the gift that keep on giving. In the words of the legendary conductor Robert Shaw, "Spivey Hall is to music what light is to painting." The acoustics and intimacy of Spivey Hall provide ideal conditions for musicians to hear themselves in ways that inspire them – which in turn inspires the audiences. Guest artists performing at Spivey Hall repeatedly comment on how attentive and appreciative its audiences are, with music-lovers of all ages hailing from more than 50 Georgia counties and seven states.

Season 25 celebrations focus principally on the 30 performances by guest artists appearing in the Spivey Series, as well as the six concerts given by the renowned Spivey Hall Children's Choir. The Season Opening Celebration (Oct. 10) features Metropolitan opera soprano Christine Brewer and organist Paul Jacobs of New York's Juilliard School of Music. Other notable guest artists in Season 25 include superstar violinist Joshua Bell (Jan. 31), Welsh bass-baritone Bryn Terfel (Apr. 30), the Emerson String Quartet (Mar. 20), the vocal ensembles Chanticleer (Jan. 30) and the King's Singers (Nov. 22), and the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet (Mar. 19). Canadian pianist Angela Hewitt gives two

recitals (Oct. 16. and 18), including a rare performance of *The Art of Fugue*, a masterwork by Johann Sebastian Bach. In a "Haydn Discovery" concert (Feb. 21), the St. Lawrence String Quartet will dissect the "Emperor" Quartet by Franz Joseph Haydn with commentary and musical analysis from the stage, then perform it in its entirety, in a program that includes the Atlanta premiere of John Adams' *Second Quartet*. Jazz vocalist René Marie makes a welcome return to perform her tribute program *I Wanna Be Evil... (To Eartha Kitt with Love)*.

New in Season 25: Alan Morrison, son of Clayton State Professor Emerita of Music Jeannine Morrison, who heads the organ department at Philadelphia's distinguished Curtis Institute of Music, begins his first season as Spivey Hall's organist-in-residence with "Holiday Brass & Organ" featuring the Empire Brass (Dec. 12). Bryan Anderson, an alumnus of the Spivey Hall Children's Choir Program and recent Curtis Institute graduate, gives his first solo recital at Spivey Hall. Significant Spivey Hall debut artists include pianists Igor Levit (Feb. 20) and Behzod Abduraimov (May 7), Bavarian soprano Christiane Karg (Apr. 2), guitarist Miloš Karadaglić ("the hottest guitarist in the world" according to London's *Sunday Times*), and jazz guitarist Julian Lage (Apr. 23). The 2015-2016 season also includes special events and casual concerts, including comedy with music from the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain (Oct. 11 – be sure to bring your ukulele); Hot Club of Cowtown, a western swing trio from Austin, Texas (Nov. 14); and the outstanding German vocal quintet Calmus singing Christmas Carols of the World (Dec. 5).

Complete details of Spivey Hall Season 25 are available at www.spiveyhall.org. Clayton State faculty and staff receive a 50% ticket discount (limit two tickets per Laker I.D., subject to availability), and Clayton State students attend for just \$10 (limit two tickets per Laker I.D., subject to availability). For more information, call the Spivey Hall Box Office at (678) 466-4200.



SBDC and its Clients are a Success

BY SIERA BLASCO

Clayton State University's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has brought success to small businesses and entrepreneurs in the local community, namely Clayton, Henry, Fayette, and Spalding Counties, for 35 years through one-on-one consulting and educational programs.

A partnership program between the U.S. Small Business Administration and colleges and universities from around the state, SBDC has been at Clayton State since 1980, and is one of the 17 offices located in Georgia. SBDC offers no-cost, confidential consulting services to small businesses throughout Georgia, providing assistance in a variety of areas, including strategic planning, hiring and managing em-

ployees, obtaining financing, managing cash flow and budgeting, marketing, and even digital marketing.

Clayton State's SBDC Area Director, Alisa Kirk, says: "We are a success when our clients are successes. It's extremely rewarding to help businesses to grow, add employees, and expand and add locations."

One such success is Nelson Burke, who graduated from Clayton State with a Bachelor's in Marketing in 2004. He began his company, The Engineer Guy, in the summer of 2003, while he was still working on his undergraduate degree. He became empowered to apply his knowledge to his

dream in the present by the professors and instructors at Clayton State's College of Business, especially Dr. Michael Deis, professor of Management and Chair of Accreditation, who still continues to be Burke's mentor.

Burke's company, a distributor of moldmaking, casting, and special FX materials in Georgia and Tennessee, began with only 1,000 square feet of space in 2004 and has now expanded to 14,000 square feet. He has found this success through working with his customers to provide them with what Burke's competition would not or could not do.

Burke began his involvement with SBDC a few years ago, and defines them as partners with him now. He started out in the GrowSmart series of workshops, which helps business owners form a long-term vision and strategies, key business concepts, and provides a network of peers and professional resources. While these benefits helped Burke take on the next step, he says that his "day-to-day interaction with Alisa Kirk and Judiffier Pearson, SBDC business consultant, is the game changer."

I can call with questions, and I'll get heartfelt answers. It's really a partnership, and I'm honored and delighted to give back my time and resources whenever asked.

- Nelson Burke

Burke has embraced his passion by creating his company that follows his personal vision. For another SBDC client, Drexina Nelson, that pursuit is much the same.

Nelson received her MBA from Clark Atlanta University, a program she began when she was only 21. Her higher education experience helped gain her credibility, interview skills, and understanding how to give a proper presentation. Obtaining her master's matured Nelson from an artist into a professional artist.

Nelson's company, DNP Studios, began in 2005 and is a photography studio which focuses on the creative side of photography, including hair, make up, and wardrobe. DNP Studios has worked in magazine shoots and video productions alike. In 2014, Nelson created a full-service salon. Nelson enjoys the human aspect of the company, whether that is being able to authentically represent a client through photography or bringing her customers together for extra activities to help empower one another on living, loving, and learning.

Nelson began her business without much planning, and with only the desire to pursue her passion. Through SBDC consulting, Nelson was able to discover the right team and the right direction for her company.

It's very important to build the proper team; someone to understand your vision, and has that passion and dream behind them as well... All in all, it's about being happy and working with your passion, your purpose. If you focus on your passion, you'll succeed every time.

- Drexina Nelson

Nelson mentions that consulting with Judiffier Pearson helped lead her to be able to define her vision.

SBDC clients Burke and Nelson agree that happiness is the definition of success, Burke adding: "It's the satisfaction you feel when you take in how far you've gone with your dream."



Students Participate in Mediation Tournament

Forty teams from more than 20 schools from all over the United States competed at the 15th Annual International Intercollegiate Mediation Tournament held at Brenau University. The Clayton State group placed eighth as an Advocate/Client Team, and 10th as a Mediation Team. The team consisted of Sia Amadu, Legal Studies major from Lithonia, Ga., and Sirraaj Rhett, a Legal Studies major from Stone Mountain, Ga. They were joined by Matthew Martinez from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene Tex. The Mediation Team is supported by the College of Business' Center for Business and International Negotiation (CBIN), and the Office for Community Standards. Coaches include Dr. Judith Ogden, associate professor of Business Law and CBIN Director, and Alicia Myrick, assistant director for Community Standards and Case Manager.

Teacher Education MVP Day with Kendrick Middle a Success

"The Kendrick Middle School students were excited and truly engaged in learning from Clayton State faculty and students. This was, without a doubt, a total community effort," says Dr. Ruth Caillouet, department chair of Teacher Education at Clayton State University. "The brainstorm for this came from one of our Middle Grades graduates, Krista Lucich, so she certainly gets credit for the vision. She brought several other Clayton State alumni with her as many of our graduates are now teaching at Kendrick." The University's first MVP Day (Middle School Visit Program), the Kendrick Middle MVP day reached 200 middle school students.



A Dream Made Real for Clayton State Commencement Speaker Zac Bradley

For the past three years, Zac Bradley has been one of the most visible students on the Clayton State University campus, and not because he's in a wheelchair. No, the reason for Bradley's notoriety is because he symbolizes everything great about Clayton State and its students, including their ability to overcome adversity and make their dreams real. In part because of his accomplishments, Bradley was the speaker at the 9 a.m. ceremony for Clayton State's fall Commencement on Saturday, Dec. 13. The speaker at the noon ceremony, Dr. Holly Chatham, is a Clayton State graduate and has also made Clayton State proud over the years, following a unique path in the diverse fields of music, business and professional speaking.



Clayton State Inducts Four to Athletic Hall of Fame

On Friday, Jan. 30, 2015, Clayton State inducted its second class into its Athletic Hall of Fame. The group included (L to R) Allison Kreutzer of women's cross country and track; Charlie Frazier of men's basketball; special inductee Dr. Joseph S. Wilkes, who has served as the program's team physician since its inception in 1990; and Lisa Williams of women's basketball. Also pictured are Athletic Director Tim Duncan, Founding Athletic Director Mason Barfield, and President Tim Hynes.

Clayton State to Partner with Georgia Tech on \$861K State DOE Math and Science Grant

The Georgia Department of Education (DOE) has awarded Clayton State University a \$861,844 grant to partner with Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) and the Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISMC) at the Georgia Institute of Technology to implement a professional development program, Mathematics and Science Partnership Program (C3MSP) for a cohort of grades six-12 mathematics and science teachers. The overarching goals, and corresponding objectives, are based on professional development outcomes for increasing student academic achievement in mathematics and science; 1) enhance teacher knowledge, and 2) enhance quality teaching. The program runs through September 2015. The grant is for \$430,922 for each of the two years. This is Clayton State's third MSP award since 2012.



Clayton State Ranked in "Best Colleges for Vets" by *Military Times* Magazine

Clayton State's long-standing support of veterans was recognized by *Military Times* magazine in its "Best Colleges for Vets" issue. Clayton State was ranked ninth in the "Online & Non-traditional" category. Clayton State has approximately 400 student veterans.



Sailor Surprises Mom at Commencement

Individuals embracing graduates is a common site at Commencement. But, this time, it was a truly special occasion. Sailor LS 2, E5 Brandon J. Brown, stationed in Norfolk, Va., surprised his mother, Lisa M. Comrie of Rex, Ga., just before she received her Associate of Arts in Integrative Studies at the fall 2014 graduation ceremony. Comrie had no idea her son would be able to journey from Norfolk to Morrow for the ceremony, and, as a result, he gave his mother likely the biggest surprise of an already-eventful life, that has indeed included a published novel. Comrie is continuing to get her Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies with a minor in Corporate Communications.

VITA Free Tax Assistance Marks its 25th Year at Clayton State

Accounting students from Clayton State University again participated in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program hosted by the College of Business. Clayton State is the only college or university in the state that has offered this service consistently for 25 years. VITA is a national program that provides tax support for certain eligible taxpayers. The program, which has been in existence for more than 40 years, is also an experiential learning experience for Clayton State students, providing the volunteers with extensive IRS training and testing, enabling them to ensure that taxpayers will have their tax returns filled out accurately and timely and receive the tax credits they qualify for, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit.

Clayton State Adds Healthcare Informatics Concentration

The Department of Computer Science and Information Technology, in the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences, in collaboration with the Health Care Management (HCM) program in the College of Health, will add the Healthcare Informatics Concentration to the Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) program. Informatics is the study and application of information technology to disciplines outside of the information technology field and supports development of knowledge through multidisciplinary application of information systems. The new concentration provides opportunities for graduates to be better prepared for the workforce and to do so within existing programs. HCM students can minor in IT, thus preparing the two groups of individuals needed in the industry.

Clayton State Selected by Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching 2015 Community Engagement Classification

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching announced the selection of 240 U.S. colleges and universities to receive its 2015 Community Engagement Classification. Included in this important designation for the first time is Clayton State University. Of 240 institutions so-named, 83 are receiving the classification for the first time, while 157 are now re-classified. Five of the institutions, including Clayton State, are institutions of the University System of Georgia. “The receipt of the Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation reflects excellent work by our campus and so many of our colleagues and students,” says Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Hynes. “It also reflects the achievement of a goal of our strategic planning process that advances our mission, in part committing us to cultivate ‘...an environment of engaged, experienced based learning, enriched by active community service...’”



Clayton State University Earns 2014 Tree Campus USA® Recognition

Mary Sweeney, program manager for the Arbor Day Foundation, recently notified Clayton State that the University has earned 2014 Tree Campus USA® recognition. Tree Campus USA, a national program launched in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota, honors colleges and universities and their leaders for promoting healthy trees and engaging students and staff in the spirit of conservation.

“Your entire campus community should be proud of this sustained commitment to environmental stewardship,” said Sweeney in a letter to Clayton State Tree Advisory Committee Chair Justin Brooks. “Your diligence in improving the environment and quality of life at Clayton State University contributes to a healthier, more sustainable world for us all.”

Economics Faculty Receives Affordable Textbook Grant

Affordable Learning Georgia has accepted a proposal from the Economics faculty in the College of Business at Clayton State University that will lower the textbook costs in their courses. The \$25,800 grant will be used to switch to textbooks that are offered for free online in both Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 2105) and Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 2106). Students will also have the option of buying physical copies of the books at low cost (current prices are \$33.50 for either book). The current textbooks cost \$132.99 each at the campus bookstore. Clayton State Economics faculty members plan to make the switch starting in summer of 2015. “As we transition to using free, online peer-reviewed textbooks for these economics courses, we will be conducting regular assessment to measure student feedback and success that would help us to fine-tune and improve the online support materials to accompany the online textbook,” says Dr. Avinandan Mukherjee, dean of the College of Business. “We are eager to implement this program and save money for our students,” says Dr. Jesse Zinn, assistant professor of Economics and associate director of the College of Business’ Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and the coordinator of the project.

Clayton State Adds Two New Concentrations to MBA Program

Dr. Ali Dadpay, assistant dean of the College of Business at Clayton State University and director of the College of Business’ MBA program, has announced the addition of two new concentrations for Clayton State MBA students; Sports and Entertainment Management, and Human Resource Leadership.

The Sports and Entertainment Management: Tailored to the needs of those seeking employment in the booming entertainment industry, the concentration offers classes on sports and entertainment marketing, the economics of entertainment industry, and the surrounding legal issues.

The Human Resource Leadership: concentration builds on the established success of Clayton State business students and responds to a growing market demand. Clayton State’s SHRM chapter made history in 2012, winning the Best in Georgia Award (the Student Chapter of the Year) from the Society for Human Resource Management Georgia State Council.



Jessica Smiech of Fayetteville with her House Representative, Ronnie Mabra (District 63).

Dental Hygiene Students Participate in GDHA Lobby Day At the Capitol

A total of 51 Clayton State Dental Hygiene students participated in the fourth year of the Georgia Dental Hygienists' Association (GDHA) Lobby Day at the State Capitol in downtown Atlanta. GDHA Lobby Day is held for hygienists and students across Georgia to participate in the legislative process and discuss key issues. This year's GDHA theme was "Georgia, it's time to 'Catch-Up!'" and the focus was expanding the scope of dental hygiene practice to align with 44 other states that allow hygienists to give local anesthesia. All attendees had a photo taken with Governor Nathan Deal, who proclaimed Feb. 12, 2015 as Georgia Dental Hygiene Day.



Clayton State Day at the Capitol

The first Clayton State Day at the Capitol kicked off Wednesday, Feb. 18, bringing more than 100 Lakers, including President Dr. Thomas Hynes and the University's mascot, Loch, to the steps of Georgia's General Assembly. Students, faculty, administrators, and staff spoke with representatives and Clayton State alumni who also work with state government, toured the Capitol, and witnessed Georgia's representatives at work in the House and Senate Chambers on the creation of bills made real. Clayton State students were able to make the connection of the department and the process that brings the structure of their society into play. The connection that every dream made real will lead to another, whether this dream is for themselves or for another. The funding of Clayton State's new science building made real the dreams of future science and healthcare graduates, who will then create more dreams and opportunities for others in their communities. For that, and many others, Lakers echo the sentiment Hynes extended to Georgia's General Assembly: "We express our gratitude to this house of its continued investment in the future of Georgia."



Clayton State SEEDS Chapter and Biology Students Volunteer for Annual Reynolds Ivy Pull

Members of Clayton State University's SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity, and Sustainability) chapter and students from the University's BIOL2500 Introductory Plant Biology and BIOL3500 Ecology classes volunteered at Reynolds Nature Preserve on Feb. 21 as part of Reynolds' annual Ivy Pull. The event marked the fourth year that Clayton State students and faculty volunteered to control the spread of the invasive species English Ivy and Privet from Reynolds Nature Preserve.

Dr. Kevin Demmitt
Named Provost and
VP for Academic Affairs

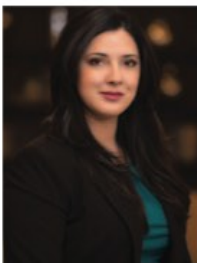
Dr. Kevin Demmitt, a 21-year veteran faculty member and administrator at Clayton State University, has been named Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. "His breadth of experiences, together with his strong commitment

to academic excellence, and collaborations across programs and divisions, make him an exceptional candidate for this position," said President Hynes. Demmitt, a long-time and well-known resident of Peachtree City, Georgia, looks forward to his new role. "I appreciate the support of President Hynes and the members of the search committee in giving me this opportunity to be a part of the leadership team at Clayton State. To me, it is all about preparing as many students as possible to achieve their personal and professional goals, and contribute to their communities. Working with so many talented faculty and staff who share this same passion makes it a joy to come to work every day."



Clayton State and Sri Krishna
Institutions of India Sign MOU

Clayton State University's international footprint took another giant step forward earlier this year with the signing of a comprehensive memorandum of understanding (MOU) for international collaboration with Sri Krishna Institutions (SKI) of Kuniyamuthur, Coimbatore, India. Signing the MoU for Clayton State was the dean of the University's College of Business, Dr. Avinandan (Avi) Mukherjee. Signing for the 12,000-student SKI was Ms. S. Malarvizhi, chairperson and managing trustee (in effect, SKI's president.) Mukherjee describes the signing and SKI's welcome as, "overwhelming... an event that attracted an auditorium full of students, faculty, administrators, trustees and press." The two institutions will jointly offer a four-year undergraduate degree in business, starting in June 2015 in India. According to Mukherjee, students will enroll in a cohort and spend the first two years at Sri Krishna Institution in India, taking courses approved by Clayton State as equivalent to areas A-F of the Clayton State curriculum, as well as some business core courses. The SKI students will then spend the remainder of their time at Clayton State to complete the 120 credits required by them to graduate with a Clayton State degree.



Maritza Ferreira Named Assistant Vice
President of Marketing and Communications

Clayton State University has named Maritza E. Ferreira as its first Assistant Vice President of Marketing and Communications. Ferreira strategically leads several critical areas including the overall strategic communications and marketing direction of the University, media relations, and she is the University's chief spokesperson. Her hometown is Lansing, Mich., and she is a proud alum of Waverly High School and Michigan State University.



Peach State Opera's "The Elixir of Love" had a
Clayton State Connection

Two Clayton State University faculty members and a staff member/alumnus helped bring the Peach State Opera's production of "The Elixir of Love" to the stage this winter. The 2015 tour of "The Elixir of Love" had a distinctive Clayton State feel, thanks to faculty members Dr. Christina Howell, Dr. Kurt-Alexander Zeller, and alumnus/Spivey Hall staff member Ivan Segovia. Peach State Opera is a touring company that serves small communities in Georgia and surrounding states. The company produces condensed, family-friendly versions of classic operas in English.

Keeping pace with PACE

It has certainly been an eventful year in PACE land! Since our official launch in fall of 2014, Partnering Academics and Community Engagement (PACE) has gone from four sections of the University Foundations (CSU 1022) course to eight sections of various Core classes including Intro to General Psychology, Statistics, English Composition and Critical thinking. Students in these classes have:

- prepared voters guides
- worked with Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary in Locust Grove and the Henry County Visitors Bureau
- prepared personal health advice for first year students and informational papers for student athletes
- and much, much more!



Partnering Academics And Community Engagement

Great things are on the horizon as well, with more than 20 courses in the Fall 2015 schedule that have been PACE-I-fied (we've even coined our own word!). We are in the midst of recruiting **our first cohort of PACE Mentors** to work with those students and faculty in the fall, and will continue to train additional faculty in the Community Engagement Academy (we're on track to have trained more than 30 faculty representing all of the academic Colleges by the end of this academic year). Be ready to hear more about PACE!

- Dr. Antoinette Miller

Clayton State, Atlanta Tech's 2+2 Supply Chain Articulation Agreement

Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Hynes and Atlanta Technical College President Dr. Alvetta Peterman Thomas signed a "2+2" Articulation Agreement on Mar. 3. According to Clayton State's Director of the University's Center for Supply Chain Management John Mascaritolo, the 2+2 scenario will allow Atlanta Tech students who graduate from the Technical College System of Georgia institution with a two-year A.S. degree in supply chain to transfer directly into the supply chain program in the College of Business at Clayton State for another two years to finish their supply chain bachelor's degree.



Atlanta Business Chronicle Publisher Ed Baker Featured in College of Business' Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series

Ed Baker, long-time publisher of the Atlanta Business Chronicle, spoke at Clayton State on Thursday, Mar. 19, as part of the College of Business' Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series. Baker has been publisher of Atlanta Business Chronicle (ABC) -- one of the country's largest business journals with more than 169,000 readers each week -- for 28 years. In addition to his local responsibilities, he is Chief Strategic Officer of American City Business Journals, ABC's parent company. He grew up in Atlanta and is very active in the community. The Atlanta Press Club and Atlanta Advertising Club have both given Baker their Lifetime Achievement Awards. Prior to joining the Chronicle, he was a senior marketing executive, having worked on the launch of The Weather Channel, cellular for Bell-South, and the Kawasaki Jet Ski.



Changing Lives for the Better

Leonard Moreland

BY ERIN FENDER

“The greatest reward for anyone on the Clayton State University Foundation is watching students receive their diplomas. We are here supporting the University to open doors for career opportunities, scholarships, and new building opportunities,” says Leonard Moreland.



It is this deep commitment to education that has brought recognition to Leonard Moreland’s extraordinary support of the Clayton State University Foundation. At this year’s annual Board of Regents’ Salute to Education, Moreland was one of three individuals recognized with the Regents Awards for Excellence in Education, as the University System Board of Trustees decided this year to expand the annual alumni awards to include distinguished friends of institutions who have made a significant contribution and impact.

“Mr. Moreland’s service to the University, his community involvement, and his excellent career advancements make

him an exceptional individual most worthy of recognition,” says Dr. Thomas Hynes, president of Clayton State University.

“In 2007, Leonard led a team in the formation of the first Foundation-related LLC which brought on-campus housing to the University. His tireless efforts to face the challenges of the construction of these projects and the continued oversight of these buildings are clearly an example of his unwavering dedication to the overall educational experience for Clayton State students. He noted that the opportunity for on-campus living positively affects the outcome for many students.”

“I have a passion to support students; really my work on the Foundation is all about the students. I truly feel that higher education is the one factor that can change the cycle of not only their life but their entire families. It did for me and it motivates me to help the students who are trying to change their lives for the better,” expresses Moreland.

Leonard, who is president and CEO of Heritage Bank, in-



sisted on becoming one of Clayton State's first Corporate Partners when the program launched. Now, two years later, the University's Corporate Partners Program boasts international, national, regional, and local members. He continues to encourage businesses he comes in contact with to become active members of this program.

Understanding that faculty is a precious resource that drives education for our students, Leonard also played an instrumental role in establishing the Clayton State University Professorship program. He led the Foundation investment committee to create a Trustee Quasi Endowment and designated the funds generated to be used as a donor match. His foresight, along with the efforts of the Foundation Board, and generous trustees, have enabled six outstanding faculty each year to be named University Professors -- a two-year honor with a \$5,000 per year salary supplement. Heritage Bank funded one of the first University Professorships.

He also has a long-time relationship with Clayton State Athletics, including sponsorship for the Heritage Bank Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament. In addition, some years ago Leonard realized the need for renovation of the locker rooms and Heritage Bank stepped in to supply the needed funding.

This outstanding friend of the University has taken his time over the years to present at seminars for students, speak to scholarship recipients and donors at the annual scholarship

"I have a passion to support students; really my work on the Foundation is all about the students. I truly feel that higher education is the one factor that can change the cycle of not only their life but their entire family's. It did for me and it motivates me to help the students who are trying to change their lives for the better."

luncheon and even to inspire Clayton State graduates as a recent commencement speaker saying, "This diploma will open a lot of doors, you have to find the doors, and risk making a mistake. Step through the door, the rewards are on the other side.

"I hope you will take the opportunity to step through that door," he said during that May 2014 address. "On the other side of that door will be a community with dreams of its own. You will have the awesome opportunity to make those dreams become real, as you have made your own dreams come real."

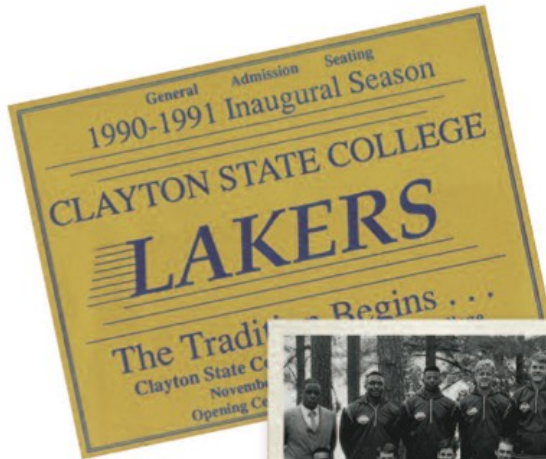
Currently he serves as chair of the Foundation Investment Committee, but he has also twice been the Foundation Board chairman. He also serves on the Advisory Board of the Clayton State University School of Business; as chairman of the CSU Real Estate I, LLC, and as a manager of LLC II. As a devoted supporter of the Laker athletic programs, Moreland served as a member of the Athletic Director Search Committees.

Elsewhere in the community, he is chair-elect and director of the Henry County Chamber of Commerce, along with being a board member of Life and Money Matters, a non-profit dedicated to providing financial counseling to individuals and couples struggling with financial challenges.

CLAYTON STATE ATHLETICS



Top 25 moments



No. 25

Founding of Clayton State Athletics (1990) and the Athletic Hall of Fame (2013)



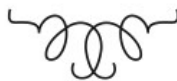
No. 24

2004 NCAA Division II Outdoor Championships 4x400 Relay -- Brian Etelman, Rother Heard, Carlos Guyton and Eric Simmons -- Men's Track's First All-Americans



Corey Johnson Sets Basketball Single Game Scoring (35) and Assist (17) Records in His First Two Games

No. 23



No. 22

Job Kemboi Becomes Men's Cross Country First All-American in 2014



FIRST 1,000 points

No. 21 First 1,000-Point Scorers in Basketball; Carlos Head (1682) and Candi Wyatt (1,315)



No. 19 Ayrton Azcue Finishes Second in the 800 at 2013 NCAA Indoor Championship; Earns All-American Recognition

No. 20

Bryce Rauhof Throws (Hammer and Shot) for Back-to-Back (2013-14) Peach Belt Conference Male Field Athlete of the Year Honors in Track & Field



40 drops

No. 18

Robert Conley Drops 40 on USC-Aiken on Jan. 27, 1999, Sets Men's Basketball Single Game Scoring Record



No. 17

1994-95 Lakers Women's Basketball Makes History with GAC Championship and First NAIA National Tournament Berth

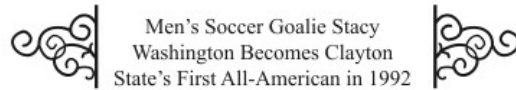
No. 15



Men's Soccer Goalie Stacy Washington Becomes Clayton State's First All-American in 1992

No. 16

Alison Kreutzer Delivers All-American Honors at 5K and 10K in 2007 NCAA Championships



Go Lakers

13-14 Lakers Men's Basketball Team Makes Improbable Run to 2007-08 NCAA Division II Southeast Regional Final

No. 14



ell

No. 13

Women's Basketball Wins 32
Straight to Highlight 2012-13
Elite Eight Trip



Eric Simmons Appears in Seven Men's Track
& Field NCAA Division II Championships

No. 12



No. 11

1999 Men's Golf Team Finishes 7th in Nation
and Produces First Two All-Americans, Dave
Kelly and Adam Short

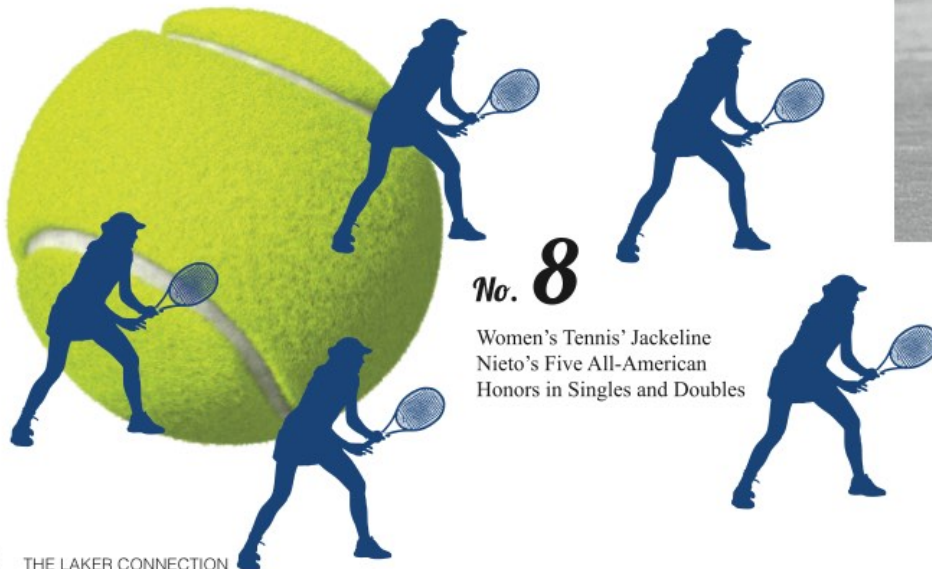
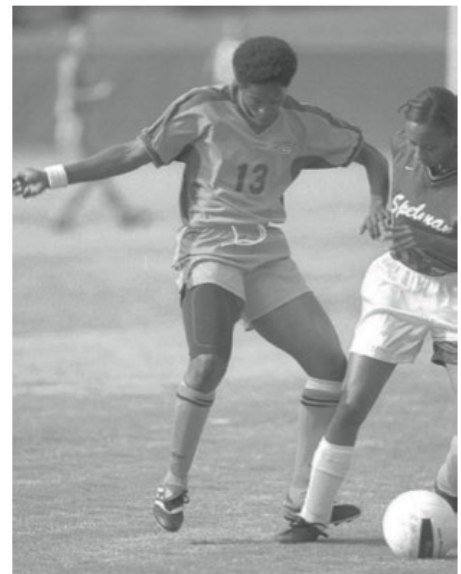


No. 10

2006-07 Women's Basketball
Team Becomes First Final Four
Program in Clayton State History

No. 9

Olaitan Yusuf Leads 2004 NCAA Division II
Women's Soccer in goals (35) and points (74)



No. 8

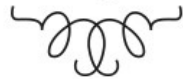
Women's Tennis' Jackeline
Nieto's Five All-American
Honors in Singles and Doubles

= 5



Jason Scott Sets the All-time, All-level Record for College Basketball with 19 Blocked Shots in a Dec. 10, 1994 Game Against Southern Wesleyan.

No. 7



No. 6

Freshman Allison Kreutzer Finishes Second at the 2004 NCAA Cross Country National Championships



No. 5

Lakers Deliver Amazing Run to 2010 NCAA Men's Soccer Division II National Quarterfinals with a 19-4 Campaign

No. 3

Feb. 10, 2011; Undeclared Number Two Clayton State Beats Undeclared Number One Lander 83-81 at a Packed Athletics Center



VS



No. 4

WORLD CUP PLAYER

Four-time World Cup Player (for Nigeria) Nkiru Okosieme is an NCAA Division II All-American in 2004 and a Three-time All-Southeast Region Selection (2001, 2002, 2003), Finishing the 2001 Season Second in the Country in Points per Game (4.0) and Goals per Game (1.83)



No. 1

THE GREATEST MOMENT

Lakers Women's Basketball Wins National Championship with 69-50 Conquest of Michigan Tech on Mar. 25, 2011; Ending a Tournament Run Wherein the Lakers Won Six Straight Games by an Average of More than 21 Points.



No. 2

Women's Tennis Reaches 2011 Final Four with Victories Over Queens (N.Y.) and California (Pa.)



DR. LEON PRIETO

Assistant Professor of Management

“IN ORDER TO LIVE YOUR DREAM, YOU HAVE TO BUILD YOUR DREAM. NO ONE WAKES UP ONE MORNING AND IS SUCCESSFUL.”



Assistant Professor of Management Dr. Leon Prieto finds success in helping students become better equipped to achieve their goals through confidence building backed by experiential learning.

Due to his engaging experiential activities, Prieto was awarded Outstanding Educator Award for Innovative and Creative Teaching by the Academy of Educational Leadership. He is also the faculty advisor for Society for Human Resource Management Chapter at Clayton State which he helped guide into winning 2014 Best Student Chapter in the State of Georgia.

Prieto has been with Clayton State for three years. Originally from Trinidad, he brings his life stories to the classroom to motivate students, particularly in the importance of having and becoming a mentor. He attributes his realization of becoming a scholar to his uncle in Trinidad, who was the first to recognize the possibilities in Prieto and urged him to achieve bigger dreams than Prieto had thought possible.

Prieto hopes to pay the encouragement forward by helping his students achieve their dreams. He exercises an open door policy with all his pupils, offering guidance to create and better student's action plans.

“In order to live your dream, you have to build your dream. No one wakes up one morning and is successful,” Prieto says, mentioning the importance of everyone having their own personal board of directors and of working together to accomplish goals.

Prieto works alongside colleagues Sanford Dennis, career advisor in the College of Business, and Dr. Margaret Thompson, another associate professor of Management, to help students acquire internships and ultimately become successful.

Prieto's focus on experiential learning allows students to become more confident in their fields by working with real world problems. He has worked with several corporate entities to bring these projects to the classroom and further the student's job readiness.

Prieto has also volunteered in the community to help further college and career readiness by visiting with Boys and Girls Scouts in Macon, Ga., in the “Money Matters” program, and with Henry County High School students to help improve their interview skills.

While his editorials and articles can be found in *Talent Management*, *Diversity Executive*, *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, and *Business Excellence* magazine, Prieto has also worked for his students to become published authors as well. One such prodigy is Xavier Smith, who Prieto guided to apply for Clayton State's Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) mini-grant to further his research that would ultimately lead to the paper entitled “Frances Perkins, Rose Schneiderman, and the Early Labor Movement: A Feminist Ethic of Care Approach to Labor & Safety Reform,” which was accepted by the Labor and Employment Relations Association's (LERA) 67th Annual Conference.

Smith attributes his success to Prieto, saying: “My experience with Dr. Prieto has been a life changer. Through countless meetings and mentor talks, I felt like he was truly grooming me to make my dreams of becoming a scholar real.”

“Success as a professor is seeing students accomplish their goals,” Prieto says. “Through diligence, discipline, and direction, all dreams are possible.”

BY SIERA BLASCO

DR. ANGELYN HAYES

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs

“TO ME, CLAYTON STATE MEANS COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE BECOME FRIENDS... AND HONORING MY PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS FOR THE VALUE OF EDUCATION THEY HAVE INSTILLED IN ME.”



Dr. Angelyn Hayes is retiring from her 27 years at Clayton State University after starting as an instructor and building her way up to Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs. Through her guidance for students and departments alike, Hayes has gained a greater perspective on what it means to help students become successful at Clayton State.

Hayes, an Atlanta native, began her Clayton State experience by first helping individual students in her classes discover opportunities on campus and from this Hayes ultimately discovered her own career. While her underlying priority has always been to serve students, she enjoys viewing the bigger picture of Clayton State by supervising or assisting the various departments that comprise the Division of Student Affairs..

During her previous years in the Office of Career Services, Hayes worked with students in experiential learning through workshops and individual meetings on internship and career goals. Hayes' first step is to identify the students' passion, and from there, "We have to have focus on what matters and give action to that focus."

"Success is individualized," Hayes adds, commenting that her main personal value is inclusiveness and how Clayton State shares this vision of giving every diverse student a voice no matter the age, gender, race, nationality, etc.

"To me, Clayton State means colleagues who have become friends, a huge chapter in my life, opportunity, and honoring my parents and grandparents for the value of education they have instilled in me," Hayes says.

Although holding an administrative title, Hayes defines herself as an educator. Her greatest satisfaction

is to see students gain an understanding or insight that indicates learning has occurred.

Hayes not only helps to hone students' educational and career focuses, but also is always certain to teach students how to perform a professional handshake. "Firm, connected, one up, one down," Hayes says, noting how she is avid to give even the smallest details to add to students' opportunities for success.

Hayes' most meaningful moment at Clayton State is to have the honor of leading students into graduation, a task she has performed many times over the years.

"They are taking a step to a new chapter of their dreams," she says.

Hayes will be leading graduating students one last time this May before she retires to play with her grandchildren, take care of her mother, volunteer in her new hometown of Clayton, GA, and write.

BY SIERA BLASCO

1996

Dr. Holly Chatham (B.M. Music Performance) is currently associate director of Strategic Research and a national meeting speaker at the Education Advisory Board (EAB), a higher education research and consulting firm. Prior to her work at EAB, she taught in the highly selective Master's vocal program at Yale University and was director of music at Marymount School New York.

1999

Eddie Wilkinson (April 1998-May 1999) is vice president of Quality and Product Safety at Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC. Under his leadership, the company's Mexican operations experienced outstanding business growth.

2004

Alexander Clark (B.A.S. Technology Management) was named the IT director of Information Services at Atlanta Public Schools in November 2014.

2006

Ben Hopkins (B.A. Communications & Media Studies) and his wife, Paige, recently welcomed a healthy baby boy. Sebastian Connor Hopkins was born on December 4, 2014. Ben also recently accepted a new position as the Conference Center and Events manager for the City of Stockbridge.

2009

Deidre McIntyre (M.B.A. Master of Business Administration) has joined SouthCrest Bank as vice president. Previously she served as Executive Committee board member for the Henry Council for Quality Growth, and was awarded 2013 Member of the Year.

Ivan Segovia (B.A. Music) along with two Clayton State University faculty members, helped bring the Peach State Opera's production of "The Elixir of Love" to the stage this winter. Segovia, a graduate of the Clayton State music program, sang the principal role of Doctor Dulcamara.



Shawn Mechelke (M.B.A. Master of Business Administration) is now the vice president, Software-as-a-Service Products

and Business Development for Navtech (www.navtech.aero). In this role Shawn is responsible for leading the production and delivery of exceptional software products and services to customers as well as developing external partnerships, channel and merger and acquisition strategy in support of Navtech's business plan. Prior to joining Navtech, he was the vice president and general manager of Schneider Electric's (formerly Telvent DTN, Meteorlogix, and Kavouras) commercial weather business, developing decision support software solutions for aviation, energy, and transportation markets. He resides in Minneapolis, MN.

2010

Darius Thomas (B.S. Psychology & Human Services) was selected by NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) and the African American Knowledge Community (AAKC) as the recipient of the "Kuumba" Award for New Professionals for 2014-2015. According to NASPA, this award is presented to an exemplary new professional in student affairs and services. This NASPA member has worked one to four years in the student affairs field and has developed innovative programs that contribute to African-American student development and success. The new professional nominated for this award demonstrates the principles of the Ku-

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

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clayton.edu/alumni

umba: Creativity makes use of our creative energies to build and maintain a strong and vibrant community. Darius currently serves as the coordinator of Second Year Success Programs in the Center for Academic Success at the University of West Georgia.

2011

Crystal Billingslea (B.S. Middle Grades Education) went on to obtain her M.Ed. in Curriculum from Central Michigan University. She is currently an educator in the Fulton County School District. Along with being an AVID teacher, she is the coach of West Middle School's cheerleading team.

2012

Vincent M. Smith (B.S. Integrative Studies) earned his Master of Science in Education degree this fall from Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. He is now relocating to New Orleans, LA, where he will pursue his Doctorate degree in Educational Administration at the University of New Orleans. Smith joined the Athletics Department staff at the University of New Orleans in January 2015.

2013

Aditi Patel (B.S. Health Care Management) is currently working as a Pharmacy Technician Supervisor at Market Pharmacy. Previously, she interned at the Clayton County Board of Health and the Clayton State University Center for Continuing Education. She credits some of her success to her participation in the Senior Career Academy and expresses appreciation

for the varied workshops and attributes this to the skills that she learned.

2014

Lisa M. Comrie (A.A. Integrative Studies) is continuing to get her Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies with a minor in Corporate Communications, with Dr. LaJuan Simpson-Wilkey, professor of English and chair, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, as her advisor. She is an accomplished journalist, communicator and author of "Jackpot: When Life is at Risk," the first of a three-part series of murder mysteries that was published on Dec. 12, 2012.

Samantha Watson (B.A. Communication and Media Studies) is currently working on a socially conscious web series with fellow Clayton State University alumni and Georgia State students. She hopes to be enrolled in a graduate program for political science within a year or two and plans to work on media projects and serving her community in the meantime.

Zac Bradley (B.S. Health and Fitness Management) was one of the fall 2014 Commencement Ceremony speakers (See page 16). During the past three years, he has become one of the most visible, active and well-known people on campus, serving as a Laker Orientation Leader, member of the Student African-American Brotherhood, and secretary of the Golden Key International Honor Society. In the community, he is a volunteer mentor at the Shepherd Center and is also a wheelchair rugby player of some renown. He graduated magna cum laude.



Drameka Griggs (B.S. Criminal Justice) joined the Forest Park Police Department.

Wakenia Holman (B.S. Sociology) joined Enterprise Rent-a-Car prior to graduation. She says that she received invaluable guidance from Career Services that gave her a greater level of confidence which led to her employment.

Elizabeth Oyeyemi (B.S.N.) accomplished her dreams of being a Registered Nurse and is currently at DeKalb Medical. She plans to return to school soon and get her DNP (Doctor of Nurse Practice).



Alexis Corley (B.B.A Management) secured employment with Green Mountain Coffee Roasters.

In Memoriam

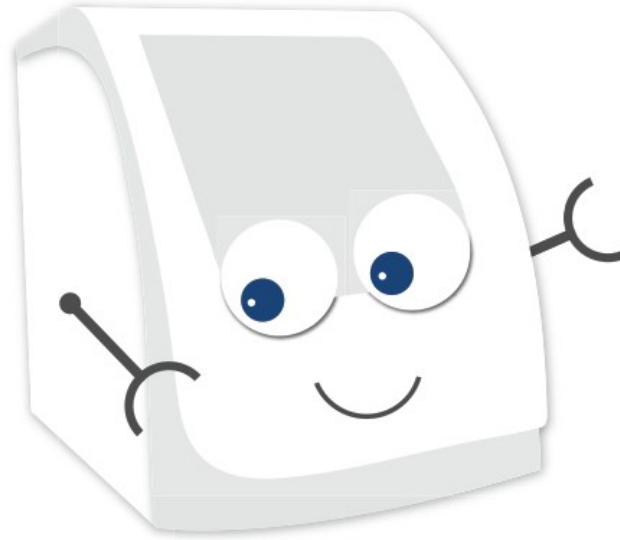
Lisa Williams '02 (B.I.T. Information Technology) passed away on November 5, 2014 after an extended illness.

Ms. Williams was founder and director of training for On-Site Computer Training, a learning center which provided her students with computer skills and certifications that enhanced job placement opportunities. She held leadership roles in non-profit and civic organizations such as Lupus Foundation, Clayton County Chamber of Commerce, Women in Business Council, and Southern Regional Foundation Women Connecting Women Committee. She participated in the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce Principal Partner Day since its inception and, as a result of her school partnerships, provided 25 weeks of computer literacy training (free of charge) for parents. In addition she served on CTAE advisory boards for Mount Zion and Charles Drew High Schools and worked in partnership with Unidos Dual Language Elementary School. She was the 2012 Distinguished Alumna for the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences.

Ms. Williams was deeply committed to making things better in Clayton County. She was a true Laker and loved Clayton State University. Even in illness, she was an inspiration to all with her undaunted spirit and broad smile.

Alyssa Braswell '14 (B.S.D.H.) lost her husband, 24-year old Timothy Braswell in a motorcycle accident. At the time, she was 38 weeks pregnant with their second child, a boy. Alyssa wants you to remember Timothy, and look twice, to hopefully save a life.





We **DREAM** of
GENE-Y

GENE-Y is Clayton State's name for the quantitative PCR (q-PCR) system that will revolutionize research projects and laboratory curriculum at Clayton State. This system will allow students and faculty to study gene activity in real time, which is critical in understanding how genes respond to toxins, drugs and other medicines; how genes behave in different types of cancers, bacteria, and in stem cells; and even the importance of genes within ecosystems. GENE-Y is very powerful, and we need your help to bring this state-of-the-art science equipment to Clayton State's new Science Building.

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THE SCIENCE BUILDING

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Find out more in our fall issue of *The Laker Connection*.