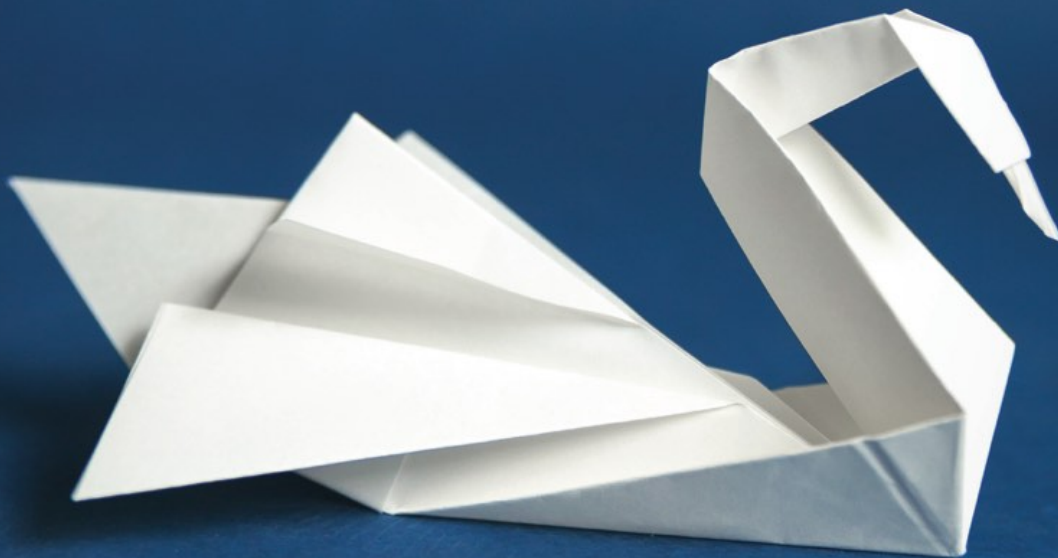


VOLUME
11
ISSUE 2
FALL 2016

THE LAKER

CONNECTION

A Publication of Clayton State University



ARTS

Arts/Clayton State

HEALTH EDUCATION

The ART of Nursing

POLITICS

#millenialsvote

ON THE COVER: Origami swan structure by Maritza E. Ferreira. Photographed exclusively for Clayton State by Kevin Liles '11.



12 COVER STORY

Theories help nurses expand their awareness of concepts and provide frameworks for understanding their role in patient care. Now imagine sitting down with a textbook that illuminates nursing theory with a bright, imaginative artistic approach.

FEATURES

4 Arts/Clayton State

For the second year in a row, students from Clayton State University have harnessed their creativity to team up with Arts Clayton for a special month-long exhibit.

8 #millenialsvote

The 2016 presidential candidates are deploying fierce social media strategies to reach millennials. Will millennials use their numerical clout to influence the election?

18 The Making of a Magazine

The Laker Connection magazine shares the stories of dreams being realized at Clayton State. What actually goes into the making of a magazine publication?

20 Little Family, Big Lessons

Grounded, creative, and adaptive describe Trent Johnston and his humble family who are the subjects of popular reality television show on the TLC network, The Seven Little Johnston's.

24 Champions in the Classroom

The academic component is sometimes overlooked in the world of college athletics. Not so among the Lakers – who have a made a commitment to true academic success.

What's your personal creative outlet?

"Salsa Dancing! I've danced since I was little – ballet, funk, jazz. Then 15 years ago I learned Salsa dancing in London - the rest was history. Teaching and dancing Salsa is my favorite creative outlet."

PRESIDENT Dr. Thomas J. Hynes Jr.

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Maritza E. Ferreira

MANAGING EDITOR
Kelly Petty

PRODUCTION EDITOR
Erin Fender '05

"Classic Hollywood films tap into my creative side. Be it an Alfred Hitchcock suspense flick or a haughty heroine played by Bette Davis, I'm inspired to think outside the box."

"Researching the history of athletics - For me it's a constant treasure hunt to find the pieces of our athletic history and bring it to life on the Clayton State Sports website for everyone to enjoy."

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"Whenever I want to relax and create, I turn to journaling. My love of journaling allows me to record memories, imagine and express myself artistically."

Leila Tatum
Nicole Watson '16

"Cooking and baking. I love trying new recipes and making them my own. Some of my most inspired creations were developed just by creatively utilizing the ingredients I have on hand."

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"Doodling is my creative outlet; it allows my mind a chance to do as it wants without having to think about it. It helps the most in a creative block situation."

"I love all things crafty! I love using found objects or supplies to create something useful or decorative. I even crafted homecoming Mardi Gras masks for Loch and Nessie!"

DEPARTMENTS

26 Campus Updates

31 Profiles

31 Student

32 Staff

33 Faculty

34 Advancement

34 Trustee Profiles

35 #Give4Dreams

36 Forever a Laker

36 Alumni Profile

38 Hats Off!

40 Milestones/Events

41 10 Ways to be an Active Alum

THE OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

publishes The Laker Connection twice a year. It is distributed to alumni, trustees, faculty, staff, retirees and friends. It is also published online at clayton.edu/news.

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Visit us online at www.clayton.edu.

**YOU CAN'T USE UP
CREATIVITY.
THE MORE YOU USE,
THE MORE YOU HAVE.**

MAYA ANGELOU



Message from the President

In general conversations about “creativity,” we might be prone to apply that concept to the creative and performing arts. Our work here associated with the emerging Georgia film industry is automatically associated with creativity. But we believe a broader framework is far more appropriate to the concept of creativity.

The BBC recently cited the work of Guy Claxton on creativity. He believes that “... creativity is a frame of mind and a set of attitudes that people apply when they encounter difficulties.” He argues, “Scientists, technicians and engineers who design websites, build bridges and fix machines are every bit as creative as writers, actors and anyone involved in the arts.”

They continue: “Creativity is what allows us to see fresh possibilities and alternatives; it teaches us not to fear difficulty and change. Without the ability to think creatively, we tend to close our minds and become entrenched in familiar ways of thinking.”

The Human Resources department of UK’s University of Nottingham describes creativity and its applications in similar ways: “This is about creating and identifying novel approaches to address challenging academic, technical or commercial situations and problems. It is about coming up with new or different ideas, or adapting ideas from elsewhere in the University or externally.”

And so it is here at Clayton State—these broad range of contexts in which our colleagues work with other colleagues and our students to develop new and different approaches to ways of knowing. Within this work, you will have a glimpse of some of the ways in which students and faculty apply creative approaches to a wide range of situations. Whether sharing creations in paint, in digital media, or in other ways, the creative ventures of visual arts students

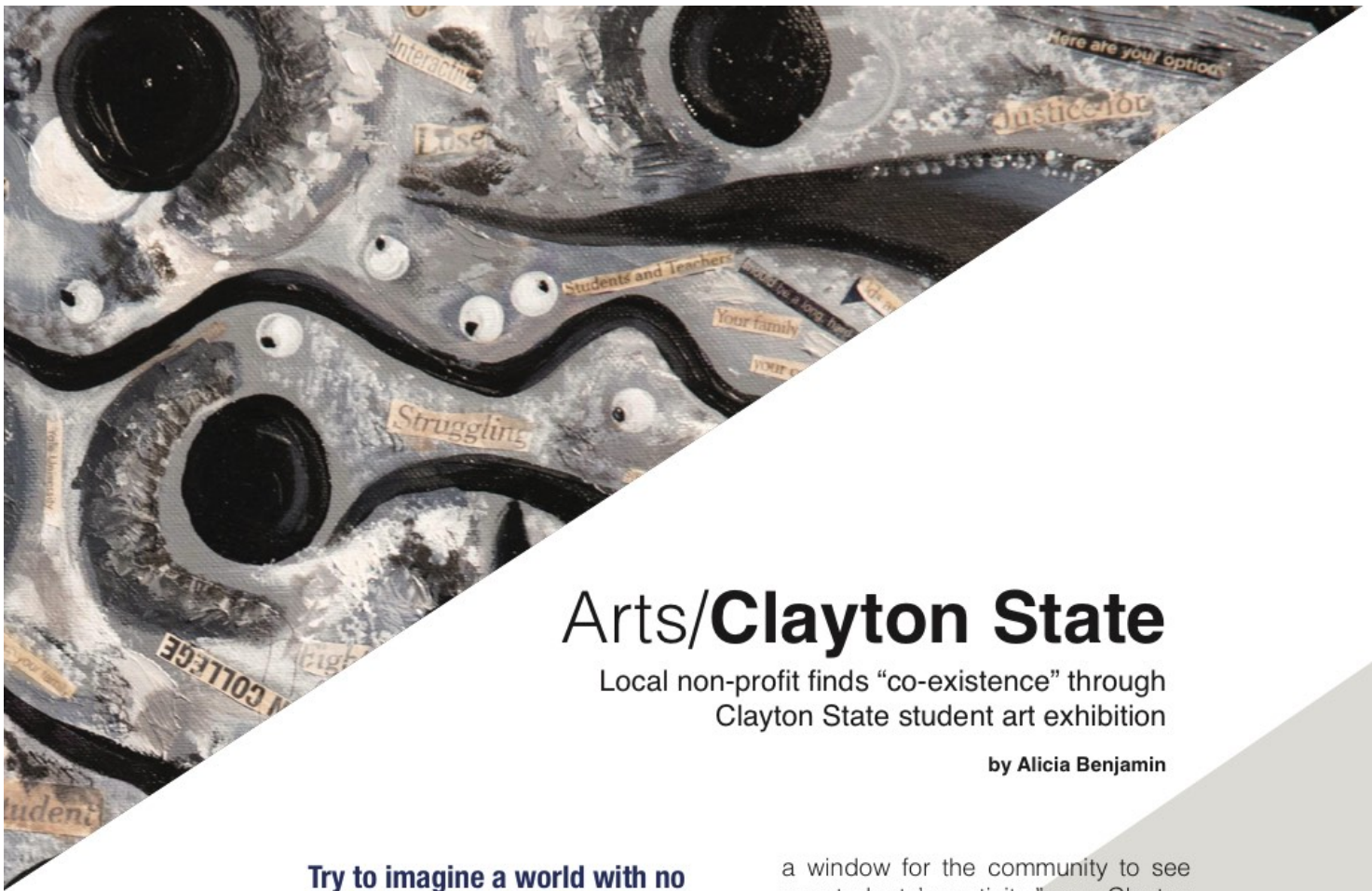
DR. THOMAS J. HYNES JR.

in cooperation with Arts Clayton is a traditional but especially community based demonstration of creative activity. The requirements for creative activities is also shared by political science colleagues, who indicate that creativity has a role in discovering ways to bring political messages to voters. Dean Lisa Eichelberger’s application of art as a means for framing understanding about theories of nursing is a wonderful example of broad applications of creativity here.

Creativity in its broadest sense—and that sense must indeed be broad within an academic environment—means looking at things in ways not usually applied to such situations. For 21st century learners connected through the Internet to our world each and every moment, fostering novel approaches to learning is and will remain an essential requirement for our university. Dreams are made real when all learners—faculty, students, staff and community alike—willingly commit to apply fresh perspectives to the ways in which we view our surroundings. We know you will enjoy this brief look at creativity here at Clayton State.



DREAMS . MADE REAL .



Arts/Clayton State

Local non-profit finds “co-existence” through Clayton State student art exhibition

by Alicia Benjamin

Try to imagine a world with no singing, no poetry, no paintings; a world with no dancing, movies, or stage plays. Art is an escape, and it can evoke an emotional response from those who encounter it. Perhaps author and dancer Twyla Tharp put it best when she said, “Art is the only way to run away without leaving home.”

For the second year in a row, students from Clayton State University have harnessed their creativity to team up with Arts Clayton for a special month-long exhibit held in the spring.

“The student art showcased at Arts Clayton creates the University’s attachment to the community. It is

a window for the community to see our students’ creativity,” says Clayton State art professor, Alan Xie. “Art is about celebrating and remembering the diversity of humans”.

Arts Clayton, a non-profit organization based in Jonesboro, GA, strives to enrich the community through the arts, and every March for the past two years, they’ve invited the University to participate in an exhibit as part of Art Education Month. While the exhibit itself doesn’t have a specific theme, Professor Xie says many of the pieces focus on coexistence.

“As an educator, I believe that art is an essential way for students to express themselves, launch their creative minds and relieve stress.”

Linda Crissey, Executive Director of Arts Clayton agrees.



Chazalon Respress | *Coexist* | mixed media & oil on canvas



Richard Martin | *Portrait* | pastel on paper

“Arts education is critical. It should be mandated in my opinion. We’re fortunate in this area because Clayton County has a pretty strong arts education program,” says Crissey. “I think the focus shouldn’t only be on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math). It should be on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math).”

Clayton State’s Film Production Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Film, Jonathan Harris, says he applauds Arts Clayton for allowing students an outlet to show off their hard work.

“Students create films not simply to complete class assignments. They do so to communicate their points of view, their stories, and information and feelings about the world. A film must be seen in order to communicate. Arts Clayton provides a space for our best student films to speak to a larger audience and community.”

In the past, Clayton County hasn’t always received the most positive media coverage. However, professors Xie and Harris say things are turning around, and art could be the catalyst that helps bring change in the community.

“Art can be used to engage people in neighborhood revitalization. Clayton County is regarded as a culturally less developed area in Atlanta. That’s the reason I believe we need more art activities in this area,” says Professor Xie.

Professor Harris adds, “Arts Clayton is an example of the power of the arts to positively influence community.”

Numerous research studies have revealed that students in grades K-12 who are exposed to the arts tend to score higher on standardized tests, yet school systems across the country continue to cut art education programs as their budgets shrink.



Jordan Cox | *Poster Design* | digital

Chazalon Respress, a Liberal Arts major and Art minor at Clayton State, had some of her work displayed at Arts Clayton, and she says schools have to rethink their knee-jerk reaction to cutting art and music programs when budget issues arise.

“The art education programs that I participated in strengthened my focus, confidence, problem solving and critical thinking skills as well as encouraged originality and helped to build my interpersonal skills,” says Respress. “Without an art education program growing up, I feel that I may have lacked many of the skills needed to be an engaged and successful student.”

As the next generation of Pablo Picassos, Steven Spielbergs, Misty Copelands and Carlos Santanas leave their mark on art, film, dance and music, galleries like Arts Clayton will be needed to showcase fresh, raw talent for many years to come.

Through the Lens

Kevin Liles, '11 Photographer

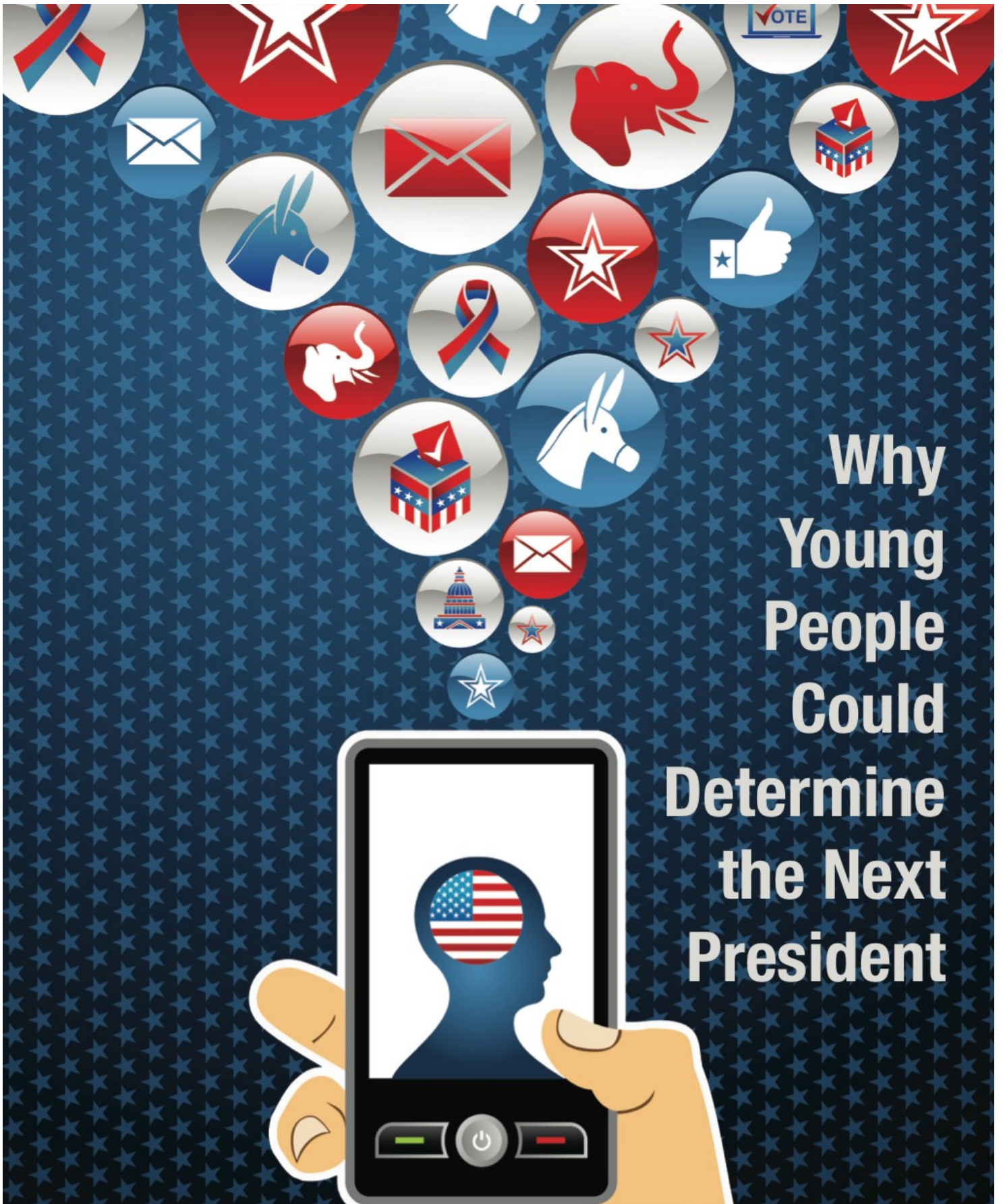


Creativity can come in so many ways.

When approaching a photo shoot and in need of creativity, I do a number of things. I first try to think of a unique way to tell that story. Is there anything visually interesting I can use that helps illustrate my idea? Or is there a particular way of lighting a subject that conveys the mood I want the viewer to feel?

I also look at how this story, if told before, has been illustrated in photos. This can sometimes be dangerous because it can fix an idea in my mind that can be hard to escape when shooting. When shooting portraits, I sometimes pull the well-worn books from my shelves that were shot by the masters: Avedon, Leibovitz, looss and the like. Their work, though on subjects often very different than mine, can stir up ideas and concepts that I work into the photograph.





**Why
Young
People
Could
Determine
the Next
President**

#millenialsvote

By Dr. Joe Corrado • Associate Professor of Political Science

If the 2016 presidential campaigns are any indication, the most vocal candidates are deploying fierce social media strategies to stay on top of the daily news feed and in the minds of American voters.

Whether it's a Twitter-generated #ImWithHer hashtag based off Democratic contender Hillary Clinton's campaign motto or a flurry of Youtube videos coming from Republican challenger Donald Trump on the campaign trail, political teams are building a tribe of supporters through social media engagement.

Millennials (those born between 1981 and 2000) are almost as large of a percentage of eligible voters as baby boomers (the generation that came of age in the 1960s). But in the year 2020, when the next president wraps up his or her first term, millennials will outnumber baby boomers, representing 34 percent of eligible voters. Seniors will shrink to a mere 28 percent of potential voters.

... when the next president wraps up his or her first term, millennials will outnumber baby boomers, representing 34% of eligible voters.

Since President Barack Obama mounted the first social media campaign strategy in 2008, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter have become go-to channels for political teams to connect directly to millennials—and adults to a lesser extent—where they are more likely to discuss elections.

The Obama campaign interacted with voters on Facebook during his first presidential election and sent out voting reminders on Twitter. Most importantly, it used social media and its webpage to raise money.

Obama generated around \$750 million dollars and attracted 66 percent of millennial voters in 2008 by his efforts. His Republican challenger, John McCain, fielded a more traditional campaign strategy that used some social media, but failed to garner traction with a diverse pool of millennials. McCain secured nearly \$370 million and roughly a third of young voters.

Since 2008, adults with internet increased their social media use from

29%  **76%**

While nearly two-thirds of social media users actively engaged in political activism online.

Presidential candidates at the time stepped up their online efforts, including Mitt Romney, who made it a central part of his campaign strategy unlike McCain in 2008.

Obama, who ended up winning a second term, maintained his followers well into his presidency. He held a Facebook town hall, published infographics about job creation and invited his wife to hold Q&A sessions on the official White House Vine page to change how the president interacted with the public.

TV, radio go head-to-head with social media in 2016

The political strategists in this year's election cycle are not shying away from traditional forms of media. Candidates still spend the bulk of their money on television advertisements since they can reach 87 percent of those over the age of 18 through that medium. And cable news remains the most common source of learning about the 2016 presidential election for all Americans.

But as the presidential election shifts from the nomination phase and heads to the November general election, so does the need to stay relevant in the eyes of voters, particularly the 18 to 34 year-old crowd that has made the biggest impact on candidate platforms as they demand action on issues ranging from immigration to police brutality to LGBT rights.

The candidates know that to clench the presidency, millennials and their use of social media as a public forum for the exchange of ideas plays an integral role in the electorate.

It's the reason almost two million young people cast votes for Bernie Sanders. Another 740,000 went to Clinton, while Trump boasted 746,000 votes by April 2016.

Newer forms of social media, including Snapchat, Instagram and the Facebook live feature, which was not around during Obama's run, are giving candidates another platform and greater freedom to spread their message.



Dr. Joseph Corrado is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Clayton State University. Corrado has taught courses on women and politics, African American political thought and the politics of film. Corrado earned his bachelor's at the University of Pittsburgh, in addition to a master's and doctorate from Temple University.

For the first time ever, Google launched a new feature that allowed candidates to post directly into search results by structuring their search engine so that presidential candidates could upload posts with videos, images or text. The feature can be found on the right side of a page when a candidate's name or platform is searched and gives campaigns the ability to directly answer questions or provide real time responses to hotly debated topics.

Social media could determine the next president

Trump appears to be garnering huge social media attention from his most loyal followers and ardent critics. The real estate mogul has made a name for himself for his bombastic tweets and his larger-than-life online personality.

Meanwhile, it is estimated that most of Bernie Sanders supporters will vote for Clinton this fall, while approximately 24 percent will vote for another candidate or will stay home.

Millennials once again have a chance to influence an election, despite typically having a low voter turnout amongst all generations. Sanders' call for free health care and free college education appealed to young people. Clinton must fold those ideas into her platform or select a vice-president that captures the spirit of Sanders' campaign.

The larger question for millennials is how they will use their numerical clout. Will they be able to sustain their political participation in midterm and local elections to help push for policy changes that will reduce student debt and increase wages? Or will their demands clash with Baby Boomers who seek the sustainability of retirement programs?

Additional contribution by Kelly Petty

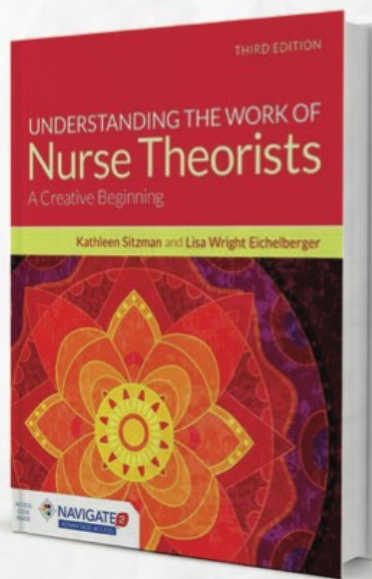
For the second year in a row, Clayton State University students, faculty and staff got a chance to see up close the daily workings of state government. The university participated in Clayton State Day in January at the Georgia State Capitol in downtown Atlanta. The group of more than 200 Lakers took a tour of the Capitol, spoke with legislators and learned about different jobs at the statehouse. A number of Clayton State alum that work in government agencies attended and offered valuable advice about the importance of chasing dreams. As alum Bobbie Davis of the State Accounting Office said, "Whatever your major is, stay with it. Don't let anyone deter you from your dreams."



THE **ART** OF NURSING

Textbook helps nurses explore theory and patient care





by: Erin Fender

For some, sitting down with a text heavy book trying to dive deep into multiple theories, learning their intricacies and how they apply to their educational and career path can be quite daunting.

Now imagine sitting down with a textbook that illuminates nursing theory with a bright imaginative artistic approach. Imagine the impact on a student receiving hands-on, creative instruction to understanding and applying such deep theory.

Clayton State's own Dr. Lisa Eichelberger, Dean of the College of Health, introduced this type of innovative teaching tool that makes nursing theory courses more interactive by incorporating various forms of art such as pointillism, origami and mandalas with the publication of *Understanding the Work of Nurse Theorists: A Creative Beginning*.

"There is no question this foundational textbook touches students. During these past twelve years, I have received so many emails and artwork illustrations from faculty and students telling me how the book has touched them or 'turned them on' to theory," says Eichelberger.

Nursing theory is the creative and rigorous structuring of ideas that project a tentative, purposeful, and systematic view of various aspects of the profession. According to the text, theories help nurses expand their awareness of concepts never before considered and provide frameworks for understanding their role in patient care.

"Typically, students go into nursing because they want to 'do skills or tasks.' They get excited when they can become competent at performing tasks. They really don't get excited about learning esoteric theories. It is a rare student particularly at the undergraduate level who truly falls in love with nursing theory. That is why allowing them to use their creative ability to engage with theory increases the chance that they will find the experience more enjoyable and not dull and dry."

How it all began

Coauthored with Kathy Sitzman of East Carolina University, the textbook uses art to teach nurses the often-intimidating task of learning nineteen nursing theories. Eichelberger and Sitzman open a creative side to nursing theory - one that makes learning a little less difficult, and a lot more creative.

Many years ago, Dr. Eichelberger began managing a now popular international nursing theory website through which she met her coauthor, Sitzman. Her ultimate goal for the website is to help others interested in nursing theory have accessibility to research, synopsis, and reference materials.

"Allowing them to use their creative ability to engage with theory increases the chance that they will find the experience more enjoyable and not dull and dry."

"I was sitting in my faculty office in the old Business and Health Science Building (now know as the Natural and Behavioral Sciences Building) when the phone rang and it was Kathy Sitzman. She introduced herself as a teacher of nursing theory and a user of my theory website. She told me that she had an idea for a nursing textbook and wanted to see if I would like to work with her. You could say the rest is history! It all began from there. We actually began collaborating in about 2002 and did not meet in person until 2010 when our 2nd edition was published," says Eichelberger.

Throughout the textbook, the authors tie together creative concepts such as Mandala Art and Pointillism to nursing theories. The book is sectioned into six parts, with each starting with the introduction of envisioning theories through art followed by chapters



About the author

Dr. Lisa Eichelberger has worked at Clayton State for 20 years, 11 of those as Dean of the College of Health. Eichelberger received her B.S.N., M.S.N., Ph.D. degrees from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and previously served as dean of Mississippi College School of Nursing from 1987 to 1995. Prior to serving as dean at Mississippi, she was the Assistant Dean of the School of Nursing at Auburn University and a faculty member at the University of Alabama and Auburn University.

Creative even outside of the classroom, Eichelberger enjoys French heirloom hand sewing, smocking, and watercolor painting.

Deepening theoretical understanding through mandalas

Mandala art is a creative tool used to illustrate the concept of nursing theory. Mandalas have a centralized focal point with many surrounding points of interests. This concept is much like many nursing theories. Using mandala art, students are encouraged to pull out the central idea and the supporting concepts. Students can then beautifully arrange these ideas artistically. This allows students to deepen their understanding of theory through analysis and applying it to the deeply concentric form of mandala art.



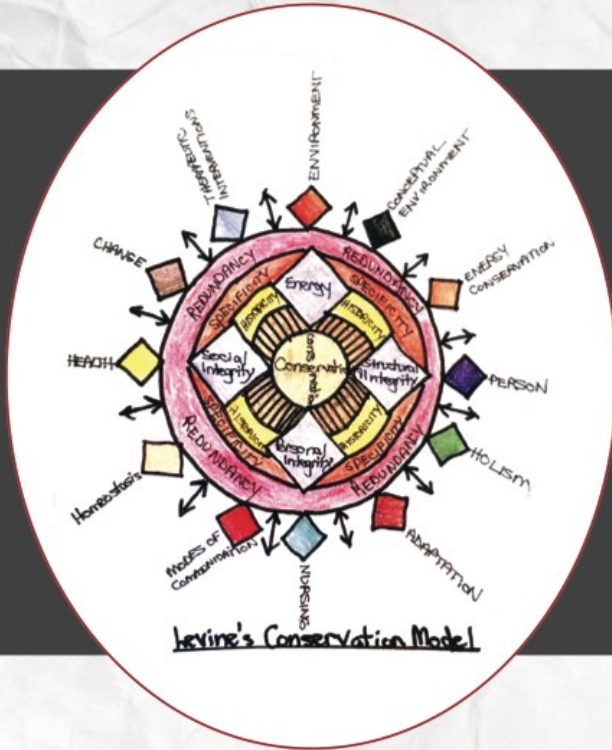
Student illustration, a Leiningering mandala. We really are a global community. Our cultures overlap and are interwoven. The shapes are identical and no one is better or more important than the other. The hearts represent caring, which is non-culture-specific. Caring is universal. Courtesy of Amy Davis Arreaza, MSN, FNP-BC.



This pointillism was created by an undergraduate student to illustrate beginning nursing student's impression of nursing philosophies, fall, 2004.

Close up and distant perspective through pointillism

Pointillism art is used to illustrate nursing theories that are considered philosophies, which reflect broad and multidimensional ideas of morality, ethical behaviors, and professional experience. Pointillism art is created with many points of color that seemingly merge together when viewed. Nurses often view the philosophical theories with a similar concept...they may have different impressions on the theory and often merge personal experience with the points of the theory. Pointillism is used in a couple senses with the close up and far away view. Students similarly are asked to approach the idea in a close up view with listing the individual points or ideas of the theory. After they have done this task, students approach the theory from a distance creating the overall idea and theory by creating the overall artistic representation using pointillism art.



“ I was taught with the 1st edition of this book as Dean Eichelberger was one of my MSN program faculty (at Clayton State). The text was a secondary book for the course. Some students do better with drawings, diagrams, algorithms, etc. than simple text. The book provides a visual representation of the nursing theories. ”

Nancy Capponi, MSN, RN, CEN, CCRN
Clayton Sate University, Assistant Professor School of Nursing

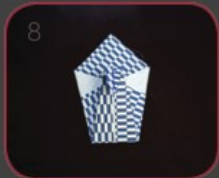
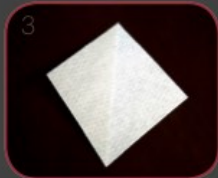
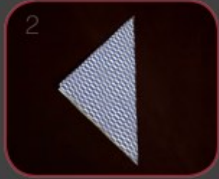
Illustrating theory through origami

The art of origami is used to illustrate middle-range theories, which consist of specific actions, activities and processes for particular patients or types of care. Middle-range theories often outline intentional actions such as the Theory of Comfort by Katherine Kolcaba that outlines specific activities to provide comfort to patients. Origami illustrates that idea by using defined techniques for folding paper to create a heart, an airplane or a swan. Both middle-range theories and the art of origami are built on the premise of carefully outlined actions that lead to the desired outcome, i.e. the patient's comfort or a beautiful swan.



Step-by-Step instructions how to make your own origami Swan

Put your creative origami skills to the test! The swan is a very traditional structure and simple to make. Make your own beautiful swan, snap a picture and share it with us on social media by using the University hash tag, [#ClaytonState](#). We will re-post images!



1. Get a square piece of paper, turn it over so that the colored side is at the bottom.

2. Fold the piece of paper in half diagonally, so that it looks like a triangle.

3. Unfold your triangle so that it looks like a square again.

4. Take the two edges across from the center crease and fold them to that crease. It should make a kite shape.

5. Turn your paper over.

6. Take the sides of your kite shape and fold those into the middle crease again. The kite should be thinner with triangular designs on one side.

7. Without turning the paper over, take the bottom point of the kite (the thinnest part) and fold it up to the top point of your kite shape, with the thin point along the middle crease.

8. Take the tip of the thin point and fold down a small portion of the point down, the portion should look like a triangle that is only about 1 or 2 centimeters (0.4 or 0.8 in) tall. The triangle formed by the previous step that was a triangle, should now look like a very tall trapezoid.

9. Remember that middle crease at the very first step? Fold the crease in half again. Except with the design side on the top.

10. Tightly holding the base of the triangle, pull up the thin point of the triangle (which will be the neck of the swan) to a desired height. It could be straight up, or at a sharp angle.

11. Pull the little part out to resemble a beak.

12. Decorate as desired.

www.wikihow.com



Inspiration, Creativity and Collaboration

The Making of a Magazine

By Maritza E. Ferreira

As we began working on this issue of the Laker Connection magazine, we thought, what better opportunity to share the creative process of how the magazine is developed?

The Laker Connection is a medium through which we have an opportunity to share with internal and external audiences the learning, innovation and accomplishments happening on our campus every day. It is one way that we demonstrate that dreams are realized here at Clayton State.

Every issue is unique, and the 12 to 18 month process incorporates inspiration, creativity and a whole lot of collaboration among

many individuals throughout our community. And it all begins by identifying a theme. The theme of each magazine is inspired by the amazing work we see and the stories we hear about our students, alumni, faculty and staff. This really is the foundation for the entire process.

To keep the magazine focused and on track, a production schedule is developed that maps out key deadlines throughout the process to ensure the magazine is produced and distributed on a timely schedule. Currently, the Laker Connection is published twice a year in the Spring and Fall, and in FY15 had a print distribution of 45,000.

Once the production priorities are established, we begin the editorial process. Content and story angles are discussed. We brainstorm how to communicate these stories through written and visual content in a way that is compelling and will make our readers want to engage more with the magazine. This includes decisions on story topics, paper, printing, colors, photography and design.

After these details have been planned, stories are assigned to our staff writers or we seek out guest contributors with expertise in a certain area that is well suited for a particular topic. When asked how we decide what stories will

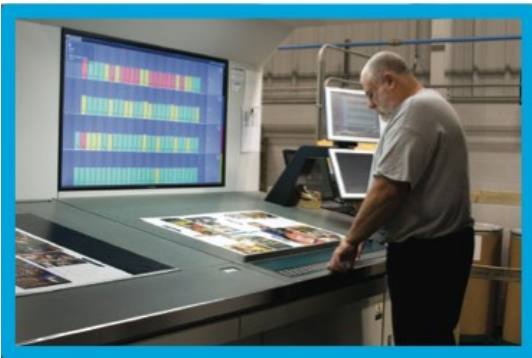
be featured in the Laker Connection, the answer is that we look for stories that clearly embody the theme of that issue and will present the University and individual contributors in the best light.

From here, a content matrix is created that tracks all of the visual and written pieces needed before the photography and design work can begin. This determines art direction for photo shoots, tracks the progress of editorial development and maps out the structure and layout. Once all of the content is compiled, it is handed over to the design team and that's when the magazine starts to really take life.

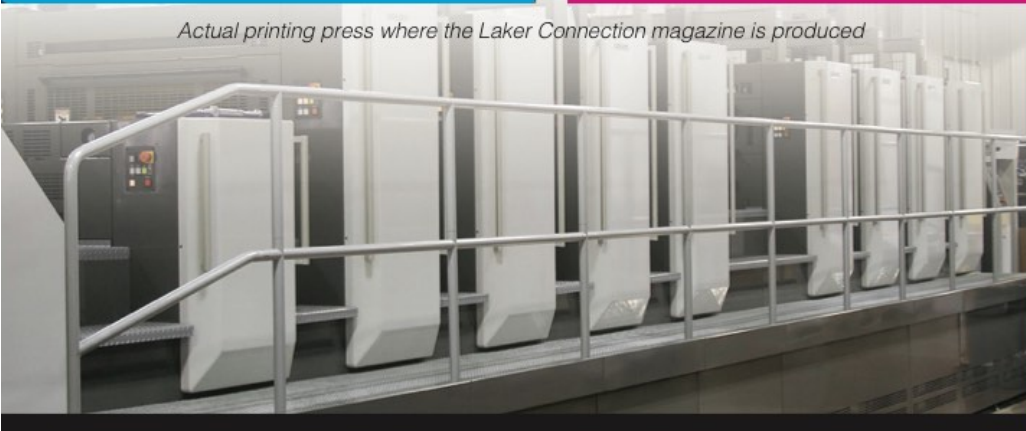
There are multiple input and feedback loops that take place and at least three rounds of reviews and edits.

It is a well-structured and yet creative process that takes a lot of teamwork throughout. The magazine would never reach completion without the collaboration and coordination of many contributors to the project. In this issue alone, we feature the work of approximately 19 students and alumni, two faculty experts, 10 writers and editors, six photographers and designers and more than 25 other individuals that have facilitated the process of producing, publishing and disseminating the magazine.

This issue on creativity has been quite fascinating to work on as we have learned about the many ways creativity is expressed throughout our Laker community. And as we wrap up this edition of the Laker Connection we are already well into the work of the next issue. We always look forward to sharing the stories that are happening all around us at Clayton State and we hope to continue to interest and engage our audiences through our magazine.



Actual printing press where the Laker Connection magazine is produced



Creative SPOTLIGHT

WEIGHTLESS

by April Evans, *Student*

The scale hates me. I know it. It screams with blue, lighted numbers. "You don't need that orange Fanta or those Oreos."

Chilled fruity tartness of the carbonated beverage seduces.

Addictive chocolate spheres overflowing with smooth sweet drugging cream.

Can't blame the victim.

Grinning with clear black screen. It sits in the corner mischievous disobedient child.

One step and the abuse begins. The numbers rise. For a few seconds I'm weightless.

Plummeting back to Earth. Silently cursing numbers. Sad looks sent



LITTLE Family, BIG Lessons

Clayton State's Landscape Management Assistant Director proves being small in a big world has no limits

By Erin Fender

Grounded, creative, and most importantly, adaptive are the three best words to describe Trent Johnston and his humble family whom are the largest known family with achondroplasia dwarfism. Trent and Amber Johnston, along with their five children, have a wildly popular reality television show on the TLC network known as The Seven Little Johnstons, which is entering into its third season this year. Trent also serves as Clayton State's Assistant Director for Landscape Management.

Trent, a very humble and family centric man, has worked for state institutions for 16 years now and recently came to Clayton State. He hasn't let the fame of the TLC show change his core values nor how he and his family live life.

"We raise our kids to live in the world, not to live at home...in the world around us - when you walk out there...it's not built for you. We live by the mantra to use your resources, to think creatively and be personable," says Trent.

Trent and Amber Johnston have two biological children, Jonah and Elizabeth. After having two of their own, they sought to expand their family and adopted Alex from Seoul, South Korea; Anna from Siberia, Russia; and Emma from China. All 5 children have the same form of dwarfism as their parents, which is a genetic disorder of bone growth.

Trent and Amber both grew up in homes that were not adapted to their stature and feel strongly that



it helped them to grow into strong, well-adapted individuals. Even with endless options to modify their home to be more accessible as they renovate their fixer upper, they have plans to remodel their home at standard heights doing almost all the work by themselves.

The Johnston family navigate the world around them using creative methods to meet their needs. When the children were younger, Trent used mini-blind wands to help the children be able to flip light switches easier. Now, the kids often help Amber in the grocery store by climbing in the shopping cart to reach higher items. They also use stools throughout the house to aide reaching the counter.

“We try not to be helicopter parents. We really want the kids to work out their problems themselves”

While pedal extenders for automobiles are commercially available to adapt the gas and break pedals for someone of smaller stature, Trent prefers to make his own. Even as his eldest child began learning to drive this past year, he took the time to create Jonah's pedal extenders.

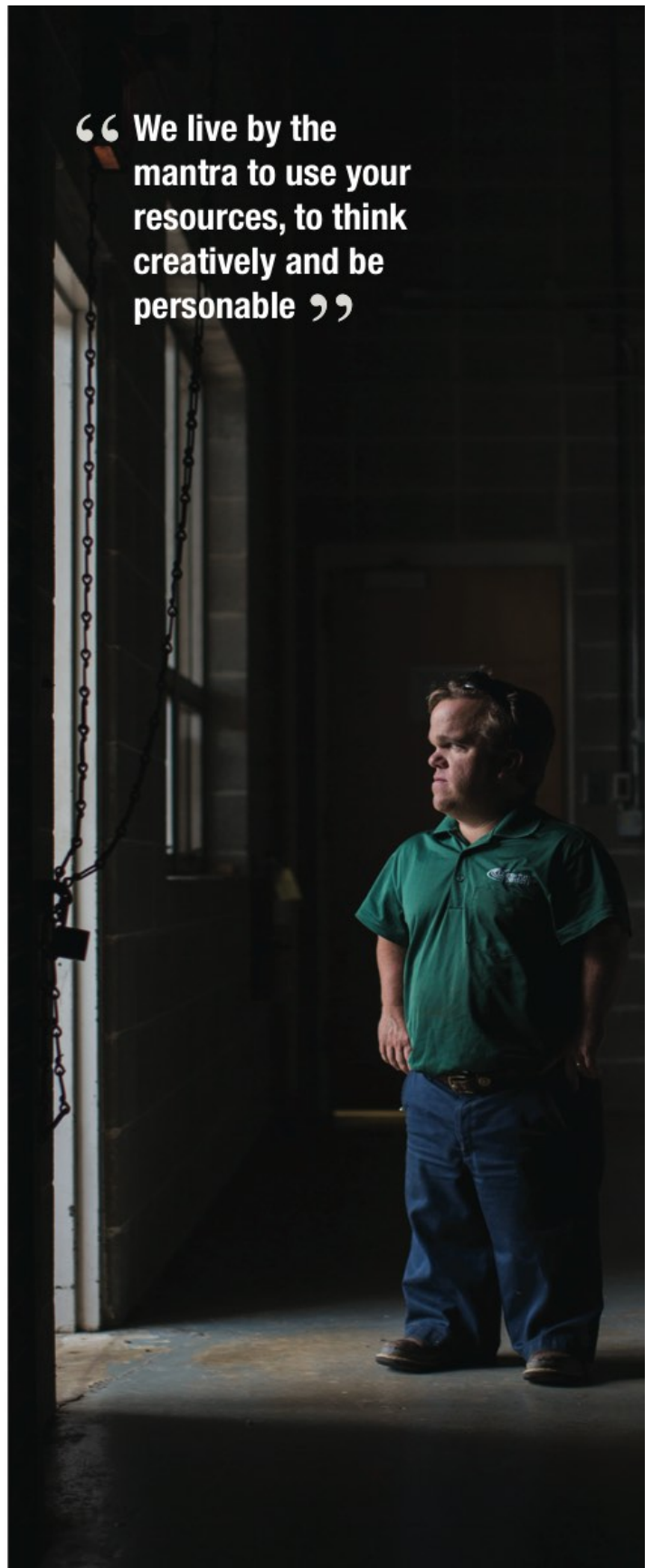
“We try not to be helicopter parents. We really want the kids to work out their problems themselves. If it's trying to reach something in a high cabinet and they come to me and say I can't get it, I always say, if you want something bad enough, you will figure it out. The kids have learned to grab a mop or a spatula to reach things. They are learning to adapt,” says Trent.

The parents have started guiding their children down their future career and educational paths by helping them channel their interests.

“There is nothing in this world that is free...you have to study and learn that material to make those grades...do the work to earn the money. I call it tough love sometimes, but it's lessons the kids need to learn. Like every parent, we want best for our children,” says Trent.

Trent says it's not only tough love, but also truly the love they have for each other and their children that is absolutely evident in every episode of their show. He says they simply keep it real with no script. Their show is built around what is actually happening in their lives.

“ We live by the mantra to use your resources, to think creatively and be personable ”



One observation that is clear, the Johnston family leaves a lasting impression that positively impacts the little people's community. A real family with strong values.

"I tell people, we are going to get stared at because we are different...we are abnormal to society. We know adults and kids are going to stare so we take pride in what we look like and how we present ourself. It's very important to us that we leave a positive impression. I tell the kids, it doesn't matter where you go or who you meet....you will be remembered. We need to leave a positive impact on the people we meet partly because we represent the little people's community. Our show is a tool and personal experience for us. It's entertainment for viewers, but it is also an educational opportunity," says Trent.



Creative
SPOTLIGHT

MONOPRINT
By Constance Arnold, *Student*

Champions in the Classroom

Clayton State Athletics commitment to academic success paying dividends

By Joshua Darling



It's very easy to point out the tremendous athletic accomplishments in the 26-year history of Clayton State Athletics. A total of 25 combined Peach Belt Conference regular season or tournament titles, 60 NCAA Division II Tournament appearances, 58 All-Americans and the 2011 women's basketball national championship.

However, what is sometimes overlooked in the world of college athletics is the academic component. Not so among the Lakers student-athletes and staff – who have made a commitment to true academic success, a plan to maintain it and a goal to surpass all previous expectations.

Since arriving on campus in August of 2014, Clayton State Director of Athletics Tim Duncan has placed a premium on the "student" part of student-athlete.

"The success of our student-athletes is a testament to the dedication of the coaches, staff and, of course, the students themselves,"

said Duncan. "Each of those groups immediately bought into creating excellence in their academic pursuits. The one thing that I am most proud of is giving the students the recognition they deserve through the creation of the Wall of Champions, Breakfast of Champions, Academic Recognition Nights and the Scholar-Athlete Graduation Stoll program."

Chief among the mission of the student-athlete is to graduate and the Athletics Department mission goes hand-in-hand with that with the goal to "promote the education and development of students through intercollegiate participation".

One of the best methods employed to achieve both of those goals is the Academic Support Policy, which ties in with mandatory study hall requirements based upon a student-athletes GPA. Guided by a goal of unwavering academic excellence, these two parts of the support structure empower student-athletes to take control of their educational experience and prepare them to achieve academic success at an institutional, regional and national level.

Each week student-athletes are required to complete a certain amount of supervised study hall hours based upon their cumulative GPA at Clayton State. Designed to set aside an appropriate level of productive study time for those that need it, the program also rewards those individuals who achieve a 3.0 or better by not requiring any hours.

In less than two years, the level of academic success has been unprecedented in Clayton State Athletics history. In a four-semester span, a total of 53 current or former student-athletes have earned their degrees, including a department record 20 this past spring. Four of those achieved their Master's degree.

That's not the only record Laker student-athletes have set during that time either. Consisting of 140 individuals from 12 teams, a program record of 75 achieved a 3.0 GPA or better in the Fall of 2015 and were recognized at the Breakfast of Champions. The third semester of the event, a total of 184 student-athletes have met or surpassed that mark, including a then record 67 in Fall 2014.

Laker academic recognition has not been constrained to on campus either. In just two years, 45 student-athletes have been named to the Peach Belt Conference All-Academic Team for their respective sports, with 20 in 2014-15 and an increase to 25 in 2015-16. Along with that are 85 individuals that have earned PBC Presidential Honor Roll recognition.

Perhaps the most impressive academic accolades

have come at the national level. Graduate student Maia Kuhnen (Trier, Germany) is a two-time College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-District selection in cross country/track & field and was joined by teammate Darina Drozdova this past spring. Men's soccer's Aleksi Tuominen (Helsinki, Finland) was also named Academic All-District this past fall.

Topping the list of academic accomplishments is women's soccer student-athlete Maria Marti Bartis (Girona, Spain), who in the Fall of 2015 became just the second CoSIDA Academic All-American in program history and the first ever First-Team selection. Prior to 2015, there had only been two Lakers to even earn Academic All-District recognition.

Not only is Clayton State Athletics committed to the responsibility of preparing our student-athletes to succeed in the classroom, this run of impressive academic accomplishments are a testament to the fact that the most important individuals – the student-athletes themselves - have bought in and are beginning to reap the rewards.



Maria Marti Bartis accomplished something no other individual in program history has as she was named a CoSIDA Academic All-America First-Team selection following an incredible season on the field and in the classroom.

She is just one of 11 Division II women's soccer student-athletes to earn First-Team honors and just the second individual in the 26-year history of Clayton State Athletics to earn Academic All-America honors. She joins cross country/track and field student-athlete Robert Spezzacatena, who was a Third-Team choice in 2012.

Marti Bartis excelled both academically and athletically in 2015, posting a perfect 4.0 GPA while pursuing a Masters in Health Administration and being one of the top goal scoring threats in the Southeast Region.

This year she was named to the All-Peach Belt Conference First-Team and was twice the league's Player of the Week after driving home 11 goals and finishing with 25 points. Four of those goals were also game-winners, which ranked 50th in the country.

On the year, Marti Bartis scored in 10-of-18 games, including six straight from September 11-30. Highlighting that run was a goal and an assist on the game-winner in a 2-1 overtime victory over No. 3 North Georgia on October 14. She was also named to the PBC All-Academic Team for a second consecutive year.

CAMPUS **UPDATES**

College of Business Maintains Prestigious AACSB Business Accreditation

The College of Business of Clayton State University has maintained its Business Accreditation by AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. AACSB Accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in business education, and has been earned by less than five percent of the world's business programs.

"It takes a great deal of commitment and determination to earn and maintain AACSB Accreditation," said Robert D. Reid, executive vice president and chief accreditation officer of AACSB International. "Business schools must not only meet specific standards of excellence, but their deans, faculty, and professional staff must make a commitment to ongoing continuous improvement to ensure that the institution will continue to deliver the highest quality of education to students."

Student Michelle York Selected for 2016 Academic Recognition Day Award

Michelle York, a student at the time and now a graduate from the College of Business, was selected for the 2016 Chancellor's Academic Recognition Day award. York was among only five students from the University who were nominated for the award from the University Board of Regents.

In March 2016, a special luncheon was held to honor this year's recipient at the University System of Georgia's Office.



Six Honored With Prestigious University Professorship Distinction



Six professors were honored as University Professors at the Annual Service Awards Ceremony for their commitment to their students and providing engaged, experiential learning opportunities in their every day work.

The University Professorship awards are made possible by the generosity of several donors, and the Clayton State University Foundation matched their gifts.

- Dr. Scott Bailey, Associate Professor of Mathematics
- Dr. Randall Gooden, Associate Professor of History
- Dr. Lou Orchard, Associate Professor of Accounting
- Dr. Kathryn Pratt-Russell, Associate Professor of English
- Dr. Patricia Todebush, Professor of Chemistry;
Chair Department of Chemistry and Physics
- Dr. Ximena Zornosa, Professor of Dental Hygiene

Clayton State Ranks in Top 5 in Georgia for its Education Degree

Future teachers in Georgia looking for a highly ranked education program can count on Clayton State to deliver. According to a ranking recently released by ToBecomeATeacher.org, Clayton State is in the top five institutions in the state. The announcement comes as part of its annual Best Teaching Colleges in Georgia Review.



Clayton State Students Selected as Regional Winners in Yelp Film Fest

Three students won the regional level of the Yelp Reel Local Film Festival. Rafael Salis, Angelina Servin, and Andy Francois were singled out for their short film, *Bad Review Man Takes H&F Bread Co.*, which is about a character that is notorious for only giving companies bad reviews. This was the first year Yelp has accepted applications from film students.

Yelp flew one student from the trio, Rafael Salis, to its headquarters in San Francisco, CA to participate in the Yelp Reel Local Film Fest Party. "I can't wait to see the other filmmakers films to see what kind of art my peers have created. As much as I love renowned filmmakers, I also really enjoy filmmakers that are on or around my level," expressed Salis before his trip.

Clayton State's Economic Impact More Than \$273 Million for FY15

Clayton State contributed \$273.7 million to the economic impact on its surrounding region in FY15 according to a report released by the University System of Georgia (USG). Clayton State's total impact on the Atlanta metropolitan statistical area in 2014 was \$214.5 million, which is an increase of 6 percent over the previous year. The total economic impact of all 31 USG institutions on their host communities was \$15.5 billion. This is an increase of 9 percent from FY 2014, which was \$14.2 billion.

The largest part of Clayton State's "output impact" is student spending. Students accounted for more \$134 million in impact. Clayton State is also credited with impacting more than 2,500 local jobs, including almost 750 on campus and more than 1,800 jobs that exist off-campus due to institution-related spending. The USG overall generated more than 150,000 jobs of which 48,785 are located on campuses.

Outstanding Faculty and Staff Awarded Alice J. Smith Awards

This year celebrated the 21st year of the Alice J. Smith Awards which were presented, on April 26th at the Annual Service Awards Ceremony, to the faculty member and staff member ranked most outstanding, as determined by their peers. The 2016 honorees were:

Scott Bailey, Associate Professor of Mathematics
College of Information and Mathematical Sciences
According to his students, he goes beyond what is required to help each student learn a complex subject, with one student saying, "He is a blessing to CSU. Hail his logical superpowers!"

Mike Mead, Assistant Athletic Department
Head Men's & Women's Cross Country and Track Coach - Athletics
Under Mike Mead's leadership, the Cross Country program has won a Peach Belt Conference title and competed at the NCAA Division II Cross Country Championships.

Lakeview Discovery and Science Center Wins AIA Merit Award for Design

Clayton State's Lakeview Discovery and Science Center, which opened its doors September 2015, won a Merit Award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The honor comes as part of the 2016 AIA Georgia Design Awards.



CAMPUS UPDATES

Dr. Alphonso O. Ogbuehi Receives Fulbright Award

Dr. Alphonso O. Ogbuehi of Clayton State's College of Business was offered a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program grant to Nigeria in Business and Entrepreneurship. Ogbuehi is one of over 1,200 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2016-2017 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

Students Partner with American Red Cross for Disaster Day



Life can change in an instant, and the American Red Cross wants everyone to be prepared. That's why the humanitarian organization decided to team up with Clayton State's Partnering Academics and Community Engagement (PACE) program for "Disaster Day" on Wednesday, April 20, 2016.

Students in Dr. Jacqueline Jordan's Human Anatomy and Physiology class, along with members from the Red Cross, held the simulation event in the Quad outside the James M. Baker University Center. Disaster Day provided event attendees the opportunity to learn more about emergency preparedness, and multiple drawings were held to give away disaster kits.

Clayton State's New Primary Health Clinic Serves Local Community

On Friday, February 12th, 2016, the University opened the doors of its new Primary Health Clinic, which will have a major impact on education and community needs. "A lot of people cannot find a primary physician. We're hoping to help that population meet its healthcare needs," said Grant Project Director Dr. Betty Lane of Clayton State's School of Nursing.

In addition to serving the local community, the Primary Health Clinic will treat staff and faculty, as well as provide care to students who have insurance or who are on Medicare or Medicaid. An added benefit of the clinic is it will allow nurse practitioner faculty and students to log their necessary clinical rotation hours for certification.

Leaving a Legacy for Clayton State's Library

With a family history rich in education—100 years' worth to be exact—it's no secret that it's a field Dr. Gordon Baker is passionate about. It's also an industry where his family's name will forever be linked. Dr. Baker, the first and current Dean of Libraries for Clayton State University, recently made provisions in his estate plans to benefit the school's library, which will be named the Newton-Baker Family Library upon realization of his estate gift.

"I look at it as a way to celebrate my parents and my grandparents for all the good that they have done in their lives. My entire family has always stressed the importance of education," said Dr. Baker.

Former Senior Advisor to President Obama Visits Clayton State to Talk Politics

A former Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama paid a visit to Clayton State to talk about the progression of politics in America. Dan Pfeiffer, who began his career during the Clinton Administration, was invited to the University as part of its William Woods Distinguished Lecture Series on Monday, April 4, 2016.

Pfeiffer told the packed room that working for President Obama was truly an opportunity of a lifetime. "In politics, if you get lucky, you find a once in a lifetime candidate that you really believe in. I was like 'this is the one.'"

Nursing Program at Clayton State Ranked in Top 50 of Most Affordable

According to nursing website TopRNtoBSN.com, Clayton State comes in at #26 of Most Affordable. The ranking is based on the least expensive online RN to BSN programs, and schools were ranked based on: the cost of core classes, the cost of taking both core and general education classes, and the net price.

“The RN-BSN program at Clayton State University provides access to quality learning experiences for professional nurses seeking higher education and career advancement,” says Dr. Debra Cody, RN Completion Program Coordinator for Clayton State.



Clayton State Professor Invited to China to Help Tackle Health Issues

Dr. Melanie Poudevigne, Professor and Program Director in Health and Fitness Management, was among a group of experts invited from the United States to train social workers and exercise science professionals in China. The October 2015 invitation was a collaborative effort between the American College of Sports Medicine and Wuhan Sports University. The purpose was to educate the Chinese on exercise testing and prescription. “I was invited to present at the very first international Exercise Science and Fitness Summit organized by WSU to promote Exercise is Medicine,” says Dr. Poudevigne.

The four-day event was sponsored by the Li Na Group, which is funded by famous tennis player Li Na.

2016 Winners of the ‘Making Things Better’ Awards

Four individuals and two organizations/departments were recognized by President Dr. Thomas Hynes in the annual “Making Things Better” awards ceremony on Wednesday, February 24. It is the President’s way to publicly thank faculty, staff, and organizations/departments for going the extra mile to make a difference at the University.

The 2016 recipients are:
 Faculty: Dr. Debra Cody & Dr. J. Celeste Walley-Jean
 Staff: Deborah Carey & Ruth Scandrett
 Organizations/Depts: AmeriCorps & Student Activities Center



Clayton State Named Top Workplace for 5th Consecutive Year

For the fifth consecutive year, Clayton State University was named to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s “Top 150 Workplaces in Atlanta”. The University is listed at number 15 of 25 in the Large Workplaces category. It was the only institution of higher education to make that list.

Accounting Students Participated in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program

VITA is a national program that provides tax support for certain eligible taxpayers. This program, which has been in existence for 40 plus years, provides volunteers with extensive IRS training and testing. Clayton State is the only university in the state of Georgia that has successfully participated in the VITA program for 26 consecutive years.

Professor Judith Ogden, faculty member, who is spending her eleventh year with VITA at Clayton State, and her eighteenth year with VITA nationwide, enjoys working with the program. “It gives our students hands-on experience, and provides a valuable service to the public. We have taxpayers who return every year.”

CAMPUSUPDATES

Clayton State Ranks in Top 25 Safest Schools for Women

When it comes to school safety, Clayton State University has once again been recognized as one of the best at maintaining a secure campus environment, especially for women. A report released by Campus Circle places Clayton State on the list of Top 25 Safest Schools for Women. The website references data from 2011-2013 obtained through eCollegeFinder such as crime rates, sexual assault prevention programs, and enrollment numbers. Clayton State comes in at #21 on the list.

President Hynes Named to Georgia Trend 100 Most Influential Georgians List for 2015

President Dr. Thomas Hynes has been named among Georgia Trend magazine's "100 Most Influential Georgians".

Presented in the January 2015 issue, the magazine featured "Georgian of the Year" University System of Georgia (USG) Chancellor Hank Huckaby on the cover. According to the magazine, the list is a year-round process, beginning with an initial working list of far more than 100 distinguished Georgians. It's a list that includes leaders in government, education, business, healthcare, economic development, non-profit management and religion.

The Campus Welcomed Nessie at Homecoming



The campus welcomed a new member to its family this spring, Nessie. Originally from the Loch Ness area in Scotland, Nessie was looking for a University with tons of school spirit and joined the campus through a mascot exchange program. She is a world traveler and an excellent student. Nessie's arrival took place at the Homecoming tailgate party in February where she arrived in style and was welcomed by a drum line and a cheering crowd. Laker fans will have a chance to meet Nessie as she helps Loch cheer on the Lakers at sporting events and attends special events across campus.

Clayton State's Library Undergoes Major Renovation

On Wednesday, January 27, 2016, a special ribbon cutting ceremony was held as the University's Library officially reopened its doors to reveal a new and improved layout. The total cost of the project was \$3.8 million, and it enabled the library to go from zero study rooms to ten. It also added about 13,000 square feet of space, which increased seating by approximately 400 seats.

June 21, 2016 Proclaimed G. Robert Oliver Day



Clayton State University, in partnership with the Clayton State University Foundation, proclaimed June 21, 2016 as G. Robert Oliver Day. The late G. Robert Oliver, charter member of the Board of Trustees for the Clayton State University Foundation, was among those who signed the charter in 1974 creating the then-Clayton State Junior College Foundation.

He served as chairman in 1999, was granted emeritus status in 2001, and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Clayton State among some of his distinguished honors and contributions. Oliver emphasized the importance of education, leadership, and the legal profession in his every day life. Through his commitment and generous contributions, he forever changed Clayton State University for the better and positioned the University for future success.

Marcia Taylor of Bennett International Group Receives Honorary Degree

Marcia Taylor, President and CEO of Bennett International Group, received an Honorary Degree from Clayton State during the Spring Commencement ceremonies held in May. Under her leadership, Bennett has grown into a global logistics solutions provider with annual revenue of over \$315 million, has been named the number one women owned company in Atlanta for 12 consecutive years. Taylor is only the 10th person to receive an honorary degree from the University, which recognized her for her many generous contributions to the University and her role as a respected community and business leader.

Dholi P is the stage name for Pritul Patel, a London native who mastered the traditional Indian drum, the Dhol, at an early age. He's traveled around the world with his drum performing for the likes of Queen Elizabeth II and also at many events including weddings and concerts.

But Patel sought a new journey in America, and came to the states in 2008 to pursue higher education at Clayton State University in Atlanta, GA.

He was drawn to Clayton State because of the small and intimate classes, allowing him to establish a more personal relationship with his colleagues and professors. And in 2012, Patel graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics with a minor in Business.

He also earned a teaching position at Martin Luther King Jr. High School in Lithonia. When he is in the classroom, he finds that his family remains the number one inspiration for his teaching career.

"What drives me to become a better person and a better educator as a whole would be my parents and family," Patel says. "They have supported all of my endeavors, and helped me grow as a professional."

Not long after taking on the teaching job at Martin Luther King High Jr. School, Patel found himself returning to

Clayton State to work as an interim tutoring coordinator.

In addition to his tutoring, Patel also is completing a Master of Arts in Liberal Science (MALS) with a concentration in mathematics. He is set to graduate from his Master's program in the spring of 2017.

"I chose to return to Clayton State because I genuinely enjoyed the culture and environment here on campus. I have developed strong relationships with many staff and professors here at the University. Even though Clayton State is a 40 minute drive I feel like I am at home."

Patel has had to make a few adjustments upon leaving his home country of England and living in the states. But he has come to appreciate the differences of living so far from home.

"One of the main things I appreciate about living here in the United States is the southern hospitality. People here are so welcoming and friendly," Patel says. "The food, the weather and quality of life are amazing too. I am lucky I have been given this opportunity."



PHALANDO LAWSON

by Nicole Watson



In the last twenty years, Atlanta has earned its moniker as the “Hollywood of the South” and has also become a major player in the music industry. The homegrown talent seen on the big screen can be found at Clayton State University, not just among students, but staff as well.

Meet Phalando Lawson. The Atlanta native can be found working in the setup crew for campus events as part of the facilities management department. But outside of work, you can find Lawson starring in local television projects and producing hip hop music.

Lawson has worked in the entertainment industry for more than 15 years. He has made appearances in productions such as Tyler Perry’s *Meet the Browns*, Disney’s *The Odd Life of Timothy Green*, USA Networks *Unnecessary Roughness*, BET’s *Second Generation Wayans*, and feature film *The Change Up* starring Ryan Reynolds and Jason Bateman. He has also starred in a variety of television commercials as well as indie movies all of which were filmed in the Peach State.

He is a Hip Hop artist and producer, owner of New P.L. Publishing and co-hosts a show on WIGO 1570 am. He is the owner of Faceoff Records. Going by the name “Mr. Flamboyant,” Lawson has worked with the likes of Lil Jon, Jermaine Dupri, and Sean Diddy Combs.

“I have worked with producers such as SoForReal Productions, ClayTown Productions, and WIN Productions who is associated with Block ENT and Bad Boy Records,” he says.

Many wonder how they can be a part of the entertainment industry. Lawson chalks it up to maintaining local connections to get a heads up on potential opportunities. He credits Clayton State as a stepping-stone for his successes and advises people to dedicate a lot of hard work toward their goals.

Much like those who inspire him, including Denzel Washington, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, Russell Simmons and Sean “P. Diddy” Combs, Lawson said putting in effort helps one achieve their dreams.

“These entertainers have set an example on the benefits of hard work,” he says.

Lawson has been with Clayton State for the last two years and in that time he has grown to appreciate the positive people he interacts with daily. The campus’s facilities management department is a tight-knit group that is dedicated to creating and maintaining the university’s physical resources to provide a healthy and safe educational environment for the campus community.

Lawson said the relaxed and laid back atmosphere of the university makes it an enjoyable place to work. He credits his partner at work, Xavier Bryant, as being one of his most influential colleagues.

“The two years that I have been here has been an amazing experience,” he says. “I’ve met a lot of wonderful people and learned new skills with other departments.”

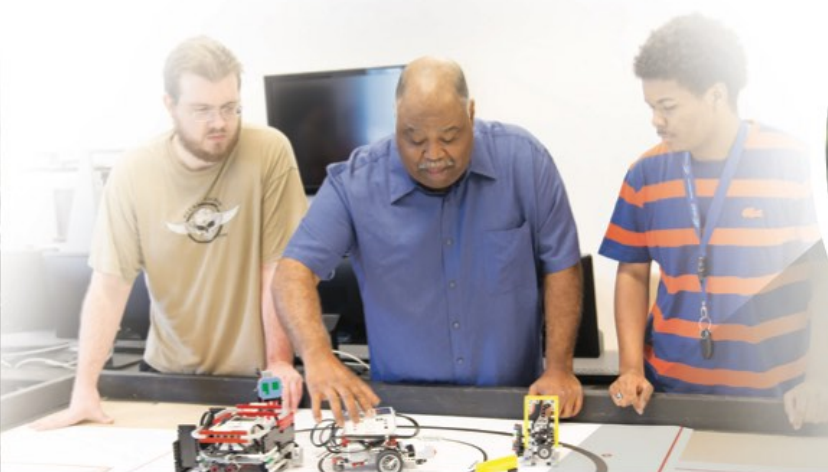
The Big Easy, also known as New Orleans, Louisiana, is where Professor Byron Jeff was born and bred. He is the ultimate Saints fan and a prominent member of the Computer Science and Information Technology Department at Clayton State University. Professor Jeff graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1983 with a Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, and Ph.D. in Computer Science Technology. He recalls being acquainted with his first computer at about eleven years old, describing the experience as "Love at first sight." Dr. Jeff quickly developed a deep fascination with computers and technology. That same fascination is what led him to Clayton State University thirty-three years ago.

Here at the University he applies creative, engaged learning experiences for his students. For instance, he teaches students about Information Technology through programming mind storm robots in Java to navigate through mazes. During my conversation with Dr. Jeff, he informs me that the robots he programs are a single element to a much larger concept. "Robots are one aspect of physical computer technology. They are a vehicle used in teaching artificial intelligence concepts." His department also works on the programming of Raspberry Pies, which are used for all sorts of activities such as managing lights, pumps, and other physical items. Raspberry Pie Zero can be considered the little brother of the original Raspberry Pie.

It contains all of the same components of its predecessor, however the Raspberry Pie Zero is programmed to take appliances in your home and connect it to the Internet to manage them.

Dr. Jeff often asks his students, "How many computers do [you] think are in the room?" They usually respond with the total number of laptops or monitors in the room. Professor Jeff enlightens them to the fact that they are omitting computers that they are unaware of, including their cellphones, watches, tablets etc.

When asked what advice he would have for young scholars in pursuit of an education in Information Technology he states, "Students building projects with robots are a part of computing that I really do encourage." Jeff also stressed the importance of retaining information through trial and error rather than just simply looking up an answer via the web or other means. Dr. Jeff works toward showing students the difference between being familiar with information and being able to apply the information they've learned to enhance their computing skills. "The most important theory for computing that people need to understand is just because you can look up the answer on the internet does not mean you know it well enough to use it".





The Honorable Ronnie Chance:

Ronnie Chance has been a leader in the boardroom and at the Georgia stathouse for more than 25 years. Chance is a senior advisor and consultant at The Hudson Group, LLC, a government relations consulting firm with clients ranging from The Home Depot to Zoo Atlanta.

The Atlanta native founded his own public relations firm two decades ago, Chance Public Relations, offering services to Fortune 100 companies as well as elected officials including Georgia U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson and former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole.

Chance entered into politics in 2004, when he was elected to the Georgia State Senate to represent four counties in the South Atlanta area. He served as the Chairman of the Senate economic development and finance committees while in office. He was selected to assume one of the most important positions in the General Assembly, Senate Majority Leader, which he held from 2012 until he retired from the Senate in 2014.

Chance has been acknowledged for his leadership by being named Legislator of the Year by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the 2009 "Champion of Economic Development" by the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

"Leadership is helping others realize and accomplish their goals. It is about providing guidance and support during adversity which allows others to make their own decisions and achieve their own success," Chance says. "As Thomas Carlyle stated, 'No pressure, no diamonds.'"



Lisa Smith:

As the region manager for Georgia Power's Metro South Region, Lisa J. Smith leads operations and sales to serve more than 250,000 customers on the southern side of Atlanta. Her roots in the energy sector began back in 1993, when she worked for Mississippi Power under Southern Company.

She eventually moved to Georgia Power in 1997 and led regional operations, distribution and sales in the Waynesboro and Newnan communities. Smith last served as an assistant to the senior vice president of the Metro Atlanta Region for Georgia Power, handling sales, operations, customer service and external affairs for 1.2 million customers.

Smith is also a leader in the local community serving as a board member for the Newnan-Coweta Chamber of Commerce and Fayette Education Foundation, and as vice president of the boards of both the Central Educational Center and Communities In Schools.

"Clayton State University is a great school for students because of the strong leadership and the progressive approach to learning. Clayton State University does an excellent job of being engaged in the community," Smith says. "The curriculum is relevant to what is needed for developing our workforce today."



Bonnie Wilson:

Atlanta native Bonnie Wilson is the Vice President of Sutherlands Foodservice, Inc. and has been associated with the company since she was 12-years-old. She has served on many different boards dedicated to promoting education, business and conservation in the Atlanta community.

Wilson has been a member of the Forest Park Business Coalition, Henry County Cattlemen's Association and Board of Directors for Christian City, Inc., in addition to being a mentor for Clayton County Public Schools.

Wilson also served as board chairman of the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce, where she served on the Women in Business Council and helped with the creation of the mentoring program.

Wilson and many of her close relatives are alumni of the former Clayton Junior College. She graduated decades ago and continues to support Clayton State University today.

"Clayton State offers so many opportunities for people to broaden their vision and realize their potential," Wilson says. "The influence it has on our community, and the lives of so many cannot be matched. It's continued growth and strength are vital to the area and the entire State of Georgia."



#Give4Dreams

24-hour day of giving provides 90,000+ reasons to celebrate by Maritza E. Ferreira

When it comes to advancing a University, fundraising is an integral part of the process. Donors and friends are the heart-beat of what drives scholarships and other types of financial aid to many students in the pursuit of their dreams. From July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, Clayton State was able to award \$516,584 in scholarship funds, in part through the generosity of financial gifts from our generous supporters.

And while you may see many expected fundraising tactics through our annual giving campaign - like mail, email and phone outreach - that are the foundation and underpinnings of this type of work, every once in a while you need to step outside of the box a little.



Lisa Eichelberger
@DocLisaEich

"Thanks College of Health donors!!! We won the BIG \$2,000 prize at @11-1 today!"

That's exactly what Clayton State did with #Give4Dreams, the University's first annual day of giving that provided over 90,000 reasons to say "thank you." It was an ambitious endeavor that will help make the dreams of many students a reality. The 24-hour event took place on March 1, 2016 where over \$90,000 in financial gifts were garnered from over 300 generous donors—exceeding its goal at 102.19 percent.

An eight-hour portion of #Give4Dreams featured a live broadcast that was streamed via YouTube with multiple hosts and interviews with faculty, staff, students, alumni, supporters and corporate partners.

Kate Troelstra, vice president for University Advancement, and the visionary behind the #Give4Dreams project, hoped the event would help cast a spotlight on Clayton State.

"Dr. Hynes and I had talked about a day of giving for a while. It was something he felt strongly about doing at Clayton State," she said. "I wanted to make sure that what we did would not only generate gifts, but also increase awareness of the University throughout metro Atlanta and beyond."

And it sure did! From over 600 live stream viewers to an active social media presence, donors tweeted out their support throughout the event with messages like, "I gave up Starbucks to be part of a community of giving back! I'm part of #Give4Dreams!"

Dr. Lisa Eichelberger, Dean of the College of Health, tweeted after the College won an incentive challenge, "Thanks College of Health donors!!! We won the BIG \$2,000 prize at @11-1 today!"

And although #Give4Dreams provided a day full of entertainment and fun, everyone remained focused on the goal at hand and raised an impressive \$91,947 - just in time to exceed the \$90,000 goal set forth before the event.

Troelstra added, "Gifts to Clayton State have an immediate and life-changing impact on our students. Scholarship gifts can literally mean the difference between whether or not a student can complete his or her degree, and supporting one of the many campus departments or programs ensures that we're able to offer our students an engaging educational experience that positions them for future success."

Funds raised will advance several projects at the University. From study abroad programs, to scholarships, to conferences and emergency funds for students, a variety of areas will reap the benefits of the huge initiative.

The day may be over, but its impact has just begun and the campus is already planning for #Give4Dreams 2017. The event is currently slated for Wednesday, March 1, 2017 and is sure to bring as much, if not more excitement, and opportunity to help students make their dreams a reality.

AlumniProfile

JERALD BUTLER

Out of the box thinking, imaginative, groundbreaking, and original; these are the characteristics of someone who is creative. And when you combine creativity and innovation - this not only can foster individual success, but also help that individual become a meaningful contributor to an organization or company. Clayton State University has helped foster and nurture creativity among its students through over 50 student organizations and annual programming opportunities. The students that join these groups ultimately fuse academia into their post-grad lives and they go on to become enriched alumni, transitioning their creative processes into the workforce.

Jerald Butler, a 2014 Clayton State graduate and proud Laker shares, "My creativity has taken me pretty far career-wise. It started off with graphic design, and eventually, blossomed into video production. The further I delved into the



latter of the two; I began to find myself on the technical (broadcasting) side of media. Currently, I am in the corporate arena helping my company develop creative methods of engaging audiences through digital media,” says Butler.

Butler currently works as a Digital Content Engagement Specialist for Cox Media Group (CMG), a division of Cox Media Enterprises. CMG is an integrated broadcasting, publishing, direct marketing and digital media company headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. The company’s operations currently include 14 broadcast television stations and one local cable channel, 59 radio stations,

seven daily newspapers and more than a dozen non-daily publications, and more than 100 digital services.

While attending Clayton State University, Butler majored in Communications and Media Studies at Clayton State’s College of Arts and Sciences and was a part of a “budding” student organization, Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB), and nationally and internationally recognized organization, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Post-graduation, he made a conscious decision to give back his time and talent to a “budding” alumni organization, the Young Alumni Council. “Clayton State, granted me the opportunity to be a part of budding organizations. Joining organizations at their earliest stages challenged me to create branding, develop innovative methods of leadership, and to deliver programming that had never been experienced by the student body. In most cases we had no true ‘blueprint’ for how things should be done, so we had to put our talents to use,” says Jerald Butler.

Newly minted and talented alumni with broad skill sets are usually challenged to pinpoint their passions and then utilize their talents and education to translate it into a lifelong career. Butler says,

“Having a pretty broad spectrum of skills, I had to identify those avenues in which I had the most interest in. I knew that regardless of how much money I could potentially make in a given field, pursuing something that I was passionate about was a top priority.”

Whether professionally or in our everyday lives, individuals express creativity not only through their profession but their individual style.

“I believe in simplicity. There’s always a way of expressing an emotion, message or thought through creation by using the bare minimum...”

A lot of my recent work, graphics and videos, fall under that same standard. As it pertains to my fashion sense, it is truly a reflection of my style of art,” says Butler.

When asked, what were some of his other skills he developed during his time at Clayton State and that have been most beneficial in his current role he says, “When I think about my other attributes that have proven to be valuable in my career; there are quite a few. Particularly the two that I’ve found the most useful is my ability to produce effective written content and working well with consumers or clients. In this digital age, you must be able to provide clear and concise written communication. And lastly, you simply cannot avoid people. You must know how to confront, resolve, and learn from conflict with others.”



DREAMER

CLASS OF 2016
of Knox
6/19/16
8:03
DREAMER
ALL SHAPES BE.

without music, Life would be an error

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS!!!

JUST 20 DID IT

I LOVE KNOX'S BEST



Hats Off!

Clayton State graduates go out in style

Newly minted alumni celebrated with family and friends, while showing off their creative graduation cap décor at the May 2016 graduation ceremonies

MILESTONES:

Marcia Blane

B.S. Psychology & Human Services, 2011
Earned her Master's degree in Mental Health Counseling, December 18, 2015.

Alexander Clark

B.A.S Technology Management, 2004
Graduated from the University of Maryland College Park with a Master of Technology Entrepreneurship. He is an inaugural member of the program's first graduating class.

Letitia Naghise

B.A. Liberal Studies, 2010
Was selected to join the Delegation to the 2016 Democratic National Convention in July 2016. She will be representing the 13th Congressional District.

Have a special milestone you would like to share? Tell us about it now at clayton.edu/alumni/Services

SAVE *the* **DATE**

October 20-22, 2016

Alumni Weekend

February 11, 2016

Homecoming

Stay up-to-date on all our upcoming alumni events by visiting our website at clayton.edu/alumni.

In memoriam

Michele Kathleen Thompson

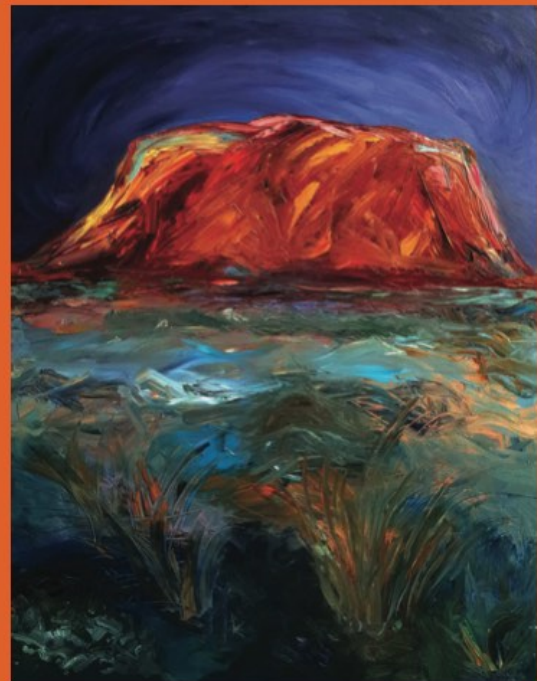
AS Nursing, 1994



Passed away on 12-27-15 in Kingsland TX. Born 5-22-48 in Chicago. In high school, she was an "A" student, won the Illinois state championship for public speaking and played the clarinet. She graduated with honors from both Southern Illinois University and Clayton State University.

She is survived by her husband Robert, two sons, Arrian and Brekke, two step-daughters, Tracy and Kelly, three brothers, Mitchell, Wayne and Craig and 6 grandchildren.

Creative **SPOTLIGHT**



By Robbin Elaine Smith, Student

DOWN UNDER

10 Ways to be an Active Alum

From day one, as a graduate of Clayton State you become part of a network of continued support throughout your personal and professional life. You are Forever a Laker! Our more than 23,000 alumni are making a difference in their communities and pursuing their dreams. We are here to help! Stay connected, give back and get involved.

1



VISIT CLAYTON.EDU/ALUMNI Our redesigned alumni website is easy to navigate and packed with relevant content. It is easier than ever to learn about our current programs and find out about upcoming events.

2



STAY CONNECTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA
clayton.edu/news/social-media

3



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION
clayton.edu/alumni/services

4



SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS
Did you land your first job or get a promotion? Get married? Have a baby? Tell us about it!
clayton.edu/alumni/services

5



TELL US YOUR STORY We want to hear how our graduates are using their Clayton State degree to realize their dreams. You never know, your story may end up on the website, in our social media or event printed in the Laker Connection. Send stories to alumni@clayton.edu or submit through the Class Notes form at clayton.edu/alumni/services.

6



MENTOR A FELLOW LAKER Whether you're looking to build a long-term mentoring relationship or only have time to swing by campus for an hour, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved and provide guidance and advice to other Lakers. clayton.edu/alumni/mentor-program

7



HELP MAKE A DREAM REAL Make a financial gift so that future Lakers can realize their dream of attaining a college degree. clayton.edu/alumni/give-now

8



ATTEND A CLAYTON STATE EVENT There is always something going on at Clayton State! Come cheer your favorite Laker sports team to victory. Enjoy a musical performance in Spivey Hall. Network with fellow Lakers at an alumni event. Engage in insightful discussion at one of our speaker series'. clayton.edu/alumni

9



RECRUIT FELLOW LAKERS
Post job openings on the Laker Career Zone, host an informational session on campus or participate in the annual Career Fair. clayton.edu/career

10



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL YOUR ALUMNI BENEFITS AND SERVICES
Members of the alumni association can access a number of great perks like discounted admission to Clayton State sporting events, library privileges, periodic discounts at the Loch Shop, discounted auto and home insurance through Liberty Mutual and a whopping 10% discount on continuing education courses. clayton.edu/alumni/services



We are an institution that empowers individuals to see their dreams made real.

Our community is characterized by individuals of diverse backgrounds and life experiences who want to make a positive impact on society and their communities. The engaged learning and practical preparation that our students experience here at Clayton State University make them that much more effective as tomorrow's leaders, thinkers and doers.

