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THE LAKER CONNECTION

THE ROLE
OF FILM

AT CLAYTON STATE





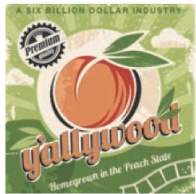
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THE LAKER CONNECTION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nearly ten years ago, Thorsten Botz-Bornstein wrote that the works of Bergman, Kubrick, and others established the essential link between the study of dreams and the study of film. In our own way here at Clayton State, we are working to establish links between student and community dreams made real, and links with the growing and important presence of the film industry in Georgia. Over the past few months, we witnessed the approval of BA and AA degrees in film production, and the announcement of a new relationship with the Georgia Film Academy (a collaborative enterprise that will leverage academic programs throughout the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia). Each of these actions build on work done by Clayton State colleagues over the last several years. In every instance, it reflected the University's focus on the preparation of the next generation of Georgia citizens, and the ways in which those citizen graduates can contribute to the state's future workforce needs.



This issue features just a few of the ways and a few of the colleagues working to address these current and future needs. Akil DuPont has assumed a leadership role at the Film and Digital Media Center in Lucy Huie Hall, and its part in the Georgia Film Academy's certificate program in film production. This is the work that will help provide the growing Georgia film industry crew members that will be needed to sustain this growing industry. Enrollments in this program have been strong, and the partnership with the Georgia Film Academy can only help to make this already strong demand grow.

Our colleague Jonathan Harris coordinates the film production program in our department of Visual and Performing Arts. As will be reported here, he has helped expose our students to film production experiences, not only in Georgia, but internationally. His travel with students to the Health Institute of Technology in Daejeon, South Korea, and their work there, provides an international flavor to this important work.

But as the essay featuring our Supply Chain Fellows program illustrates, our academic programs consistently seek to match academic programs in ways that meet current and emerging knowledge so needed for Georgia's economic future. And as observed above, all of our academic programs are at heart a commitment to provide learning for citizens to work, to become part of a community, and to share collaboratively to advance Georgia's future.

Tim Hynes

DREAMS . MADE REAL .





THE ROLE OF FILM AT CLAYTON STATE

BY LAUREN HALLER

As the film industry continues to grow in Georgia, Clayton State University evolves its academic and non-degree offerings to meet the workforce demand. Check out what type of careers are attainable through our Continuing Education and academic programming.

NON-DEGREE OPPORTUNITIES

The Film and Digital Media Center's Film Technician Training Program is part of Clayton State's Division of Continuing Education. Participants earn non-academic credits and receive certification in as quickly as six months. Graduates exit the program with a comprehensive skill set covering lighting, grip, sound, art, camera, make-up, wardrobe and other below-the-line crafts and are prepared to immediately enter the film industry.

"One of the things we are passionate about is equipping our students with all the tools that they need to go into a film production and be able to join the set without skipping a beat," says Interim Director - Film and Digital Media Center Director Akil DuPont.

The speed at which program graduates enter the workforce makes Clayton State a key player in filling below-the-line roles in Georgia's \$6 billion dollar film industry.



Governor Deal speaks at the HDCl event at Clayton State.

In a High Demand Career Initiative (HDCl) meeting hosted on Clayton State's campus in August 2015, Governor Nathan Deal spoke about ways the state can meet the demand for a quality film workforce and solidify its presence on the national film stage.

"There are two ways to have permanency. One is to have the actual physical facilities that actually produce the films...that's the multi-million dollar capital investment that gives you the permanency," shares Deal. "The other permanency is to have a workforce that the industry can rely on and not have to bring them in from other parts of the country to do a production."

DuPont agrees. "We want our graduates out and working in the film industry in Georgia. Our hope is that many of them join the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees (IATSE) film union, so that we can convince the producers coming from Los Angeles with their projects that they don't need to ship their crews from Los Angeles. We have talented, trained film workers right here in Georgia!"

SPECIAL VOCABULARY



Film sets use lingo unique to the film industry. For example, the fuzzy cover over the boom mic is called a "dead cat." =(

BLOCKBUSTER VALUE

Clayton State's Film Technician Training Program



Program length = **Six months**
Program cost = **About \$2,500**
Earning potential = **\$50,000/year+**

BELOW-THE-LINE



Critical crafts people working with a production who are not actors, director, producers, and writers. Examples include lighting, camera, grip, and make-up.

How Film First Came to Continuing Education

Thanks to a special commission through the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) to explore ways to train Georgia workers for careers in the film and digital media industry, Clayton State's Division of Continuing Education, under the leadership of former Executive Director Janet Winkler, began offering a certificate program in Voice Over and Digital Entertainment, Music and Entertainment Business, Graphic Design, and Web Design and courses in preparing for commercial auditioning, acting, and new courses in communication.

In fall 2011, Clayton State President Tim Hynes met with local film union (IATSE Local 479) president Bob Vazquez. Vazquez asked if Clayton State would be interested in working with the union to develop a training program for their members and for young people interested in working on set as film crew. With plans to build out the program from non-credit to degree, Winkler was tasked with the initial plan for a non-credit program.

"For the next two years I spent a great deal of time researching, networking and working with the film union and other industry experts to determine how best to meet the needs of the entertainment industry that was exploding in Georgia," Winkler recalls. "Clayton State University

through the Center for Continuing Education was recognized for taking the lead in trying to address the training needs of the film and entertainment industry."

Through Vazquez, who passed away in May 2013, Winkler learned of a film crew training curriculum used in New Mexico under the auspices of Barton Bond, one of the two faculty in charge of developing the program.

"At that time, I flew out to meet with Barton Bond, tour the college facilities, tour film studios, and determine if he would be interested in coming to Georgia to help Clayton State launch the first film crew training program in the state," says Winkler. "Barton and his family moved to Georgia in October of 2013 and the first film training classes began with 80 students in February of 2014."

With support from the film union and the many key partnerships she established, the stage was set - a realization of Winkler's vision, Bonds expertise, and Vazquez' dream to develop below-the-line training and degree programs at Clayton State University. The Bob Vazquez scholarship fund has been established by Winkler and generously supported by the film union to help make Vazquez' dream real.

The Clayton State University Film Studio

- Atlanta's newest small studio space
- Located at Lucy Huie Hall in Jonesboro
- The only space of its kind associated with a higher education institution in the state and one of the few in the nation
- 10,000 square foot film sound stage
- 3,000 square feet has 15-foot high lighting grid with power and a 6,000-pound capacity steel superstructure with 200 amps of power available, with an additional 200 amps of cam-lock connectors on-line
- 25 foot high ceiling and 30 feet wide by 20 feet tall sliding hanger doors for entry of large vehicles, sets and props
- 2,000 square feet of prop and set storage
- Adjacent to the studio are rooms that can be used for hair and make-up, dressing rooms, extra holding, craft services and meeting and office space
- Parking can accommodate 250 cars and has been used as a basecamp for a medium-sized production
- Supports Clayton State's non-credit Digital Film Technician Training Program which in its first year has placed 18 students in the local film union (IATSE 479) with another 50 students who are working in the film industry
- Also supports Atlanta area independent film productions through educational partnerships - over 50 since July 2014 - and is available for rent to productions and production companies

Alumni in Entertainment

Before the film production program began in fall 2015, Clayton State alumni were already playing roles in the entertainment industry...

Theatre is what exposed me to producing and management and that is what I do now. I manage artistic events for the City of Atlanta, the Atlanta Jazz Festival being my main project. In addition to my theatre training, getting field experience through internships and volunteering definitely helped to prepare me.

Colby Wilson

*Project Coordinator, City of Atlanta
Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs
Degree/Major: Theatre
Year of completion: 2012*

My degree from Clayton State has prepared me to walk on set or anywhere and be confident. From the range of classes such as public relations, social media, film production, lighting, and film studies, I know I can handle the tasks of what comes to me.

Jemonique Miller

*Personal Assistant, QR Media Productions
Degree/Major: Communication and Media Studies
Year of completion: 2015*

The theatre program at Clayton State emphasizes working directly with professionals. It built for me the skills necessary to jump directly into the industry with a wealth of existing relationships to leverage and connect with after graduation. I can honestly say that I would not be where I am without Clayton State's theatre program.

Timothy Hand

*Artistic Director, Ex Somnium
Degree/Major: Theatre
Year of completion: 2010*



I had my own radio show on Clayton State Internet Radio (CSiR) and with that I was forced to teach myself many of the programs that I use on a daily basis. The mandatory interning was also a big help - that was one thing that helped put me in the position that I currently hold. I interned, was hired shortly afterwards, and things took off from there.

Darren Sturgess

*Radio Producer and On-Air Personality, Podcast Host
CBS Radio V103/1380 WAOK, Cumulus Media Blazin 92.3
Degree/Major: Communication and Media Studies
Year of completion: 2013*

At the time I was attending Clayton State, the communications and media studies major was very broad, but it worked in my favor because I have a broad skill set from editing, producing, and writing. In addition to marketing, public relations, and even a bit of legal background (always a good thing in this industry), Clayton State gave me the knowledge, and I simply applied it; I used it.

Makai Willis

*Owner/Founder, URBAN ISSHOES MAGAZINE, LLC
Degree/Major: Communication and Media Studies
Year of completion: 2011*

Georgia Film Academy Certification

The film industry continues to boom in the Peach State, and Clayton State University is one institution where Georgians with a dream of gaining certification to work on set can get on the fast track by enrolling in new, specialized classes for the Georgia Film Academy.

The Georgia Film Academy (GFA), a unique-in-the-nation, statewide effort to train Georgians for lucrative jobs in the film industry, began offering classes in January, in partnership with the University System of Georgia (USG) and the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG). The pilot certification program is comprised of two courses specifically designed to provide students with on-set film production skills:

- The first course combines classroom instruction and hands-on experience with industry standard equipment.
- The second course is a semester on-set, where students learn and hone their craft while working on the crew of a professional production.

Clayton State is the only institution that offers a degree program that includes GFA Certification, as well as non-degree options. Space is limited for the Spring 2016 semester, but there are plans to expand the program in the Fall. For more information on registration, or to learn more about the Georgia Film Academy programs at Clayton State, please visit clayton.edu/georgia-film-academy-certification.

The Georgia Film Academy is a collaborative effort of the USG and TCSG supporting workforce needs of Georgia's burgeoning film and digital entertainment industries. The academy will certify workforce ready employees in needed areas, connect students and prospective employees with employers, and offer a unique capstone experience for top students that will provide them a path to employment in Georgia and to remain in the state. Read more about the GFA at georgiafilmacademy.org/.

To prepare for work on film sets, students in the Film Technician Training Program team up in partnerships with experienced independent producers, immersing students in film culture and giving them real-world working experience for their resumes. The 10,000 square foot Clayton State Film Studio in Lucy Huie Hall - steps away from the classroom - gives students the opportunity to move quickly from classroom learning to hands-on application. The studio also at-



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

tracts local independent productions to film at the University.

In addition to its six-month track and valuable real-world partnerships, students are also able to complete their certification without breaking the bank.

“Other training programs in film might leave you \$100,000+ in debt,” explains DuPont. “If a student took every class in our current program, it would be for a very reasonable cost of around \$2,500.”

Clayton State's Film and Digital Media Center will partner with the Georgia Film Academy for the spring 2016 session, and plans to expand its current offerings by adding a visual effects course and make-up course among others.

For more information or to attend an information session, visit <http://www.clayton.edu/film-and-digital-media>.





UNDERGRAD OPPORTUNITIES

Clayton State University's Department of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) in the College of Arts & Sciences began enrolling students in the new Bachelor of Arts in Film Production program - which is the only program of its kind in the University System of Georgia - in fall 2015.

"Students are absolutely thrilled about the new B.A. program," shares Jonathan Harris, coordinator of the Film Production program and an assistant professor of film. "When they heard we were offering the largest number of hands-on production courses in a film degree program in the University System of Georgia, you should have seen the looks on their faces!"

Excitement about the program has given way to an excellent start in Film Production enrollment. In just two months, the program met its enrollment goal for the entire year.

The B.A. in Film Production focuses on preparing students for above the line film work such as directing, producing, and other critical creative team roles. Coursework includes 16 production courses at the beginning, intermediate and advanced level including the basics of video, how to write, shoot, light, edit and add special effects to narrative and documentary films.

"Our degree has a unique focus on post-production - what happens after the video is shot," explains Harris. "By the time they leave the program, students will have produced a demo reel and a portfolio of projects and will have significant experience directing, producing, editing and working in a variety of positions on the collaborative teams that create films."

Students will also have a well-rounded view of not only the film industry, but also the performing arts, since students in other Clayton State VPA programs such as music and theatre

STUDENT FEEDBACK



So far, the program has been great! This has been the first semester that I plan to keep every one of my books! I hope to have my own independent film crew when I graduate.

- Tori Sanders, film production major

Student Spotlight: Film Study Abroad in Korea

In Clayton State's efforts to expand the opportunities and experiences of its Film and Communication students, the Department of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) hosted its first study abroad program to Daejeon, South Korea.

If you're wondering why that intro was so grand... It's because I was a part of the first group of students who were allowed to participate in the venture! In what has easily become one of the best experiences of my life, I learned so much about culture, film and communication, but I also learned about myself. The trip also allowed me to grow my perspectives on film and media culture.

Our trip course focused on developing the student knowledge of film as an international form of artistic expression. The course was titled National Cinemas and led by Assistant Professor of Film Jonathan Harris. Covering a wide range of information in a very short time span (about three days, averaging about two to four hours per day.) Harris introduced us to the development of Korean Cinema from its early days of heavy censorship under Japanese colonization to the climate of the current Korean film industry. Not only this, but students who were unfamiliar with the use of video and photography equipment got special, hands-on training with live cameras and editing equipment. This information prepared the participants to create their very own documentaries on their individual experiences in South Korea.

The partnership of the two schools (Clayton State University and Daejeon, South Korea's Health Institute of Technology) was the catalyst to Clayton State allowing the program to progress. Daejeon HIT has been sending students from various fields of study to Clayton State, but



Jonathan Harris (left, front row), Gantt Thomas (left, second row), and fellow Clayton State study abroad participants pause for a picture in Korea.

none of them had been related to the media industry. So to break new ground on the partnership, the VPA department developed the trip for media students at Clayton State and media students at Daejeon HIT to work together. The marriage of media students in South Korea and America was the best part of the trip.



Gantt Thomas

As a student who primarily studies Communication/Media, my skills were put to the test. Working with Korean students in Korea was definitely a challenge to my communication experience. While I had worked heavily with Korean students in the past, the burden of communication did not rest on me primarily. But in Daejeon, my job was to communicate artistic ideas and create specific imagery through collaboration – with students whose native language I did not speak. However, the one thing about the art of creating film that makes it universal is that the eye knows no language barrier. Working with the Korean students sharpened my skills of communication and production. Having to use context clues, pointing and plain old charades helped me to become stronger in developing an image and scene without using words.

What was more encouraging was having the approval and admonition of the HIT students. They helped set up shots and compose them correctly using their own shots. They even reviewed some of my footage for approval. As a student – it's so important to have opportunities of both growth and critique – working with students who come from a different background and viewpoint helped in establishing that. Developing a respect for the eyes of others strengthened me as an individual and as a potential film and media professional.

The film students I was privileged to work with in South Korea have now come and visited Clayton State for the same exchange. I hope the HIT students learned life-long lessons from us in the same way I learned from them.

BY GANTT THOMAS

will collaborate with each other. Opportunities like the study abroad filmmaking trip to South Korea, the Big Picture Conference and Film Festival held on campus, Campus Movie Fest, and industry guest speakers add the experiential element that is a recurring theme in Clayton State's academic programming.

"We all recognize in the film department that the biggest need right now in Georgia is for below-the-line jobs, and we are willing to do whatever it takes to prepare our students for this workforce. On the other hand, what makes our programs unique is that we also are preparing our students to pursue careers above-the-line by exposing them to a variety of classes in writing, directing and producing," shares Shandra McDonald, assistant professor of film. "With a well-rounded curriculum taught by industry professionals, a film degree from Clayton State University is the best of all worlds for our students."

The University System of Georgia Board of Regents recently approved a two-year Associate of Arts in Film Production, which partners with the newly formed Georgia Film Academy – a collaborative effort of the University System of Georgia and Technical College System of Georgia supporting the workforce needs of the film and digital entertainment industries.

For more information on the B.A. in Film Production, visit <http://www.clayton.edu/vpa/Film-Production>.

GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

Clayton State's fall 2015 academic offerings in film related programming also saw the addition of the MBA in Sports and Entertainment Management – a program designed to help students with a passion for sports, film or entertainment find a rewarding career and bring value to the industry.

"We are one of the few AACSB accredited MBA programs in Sports and Entertainment Management in the greater Atlanta area," says Professor of Management Diane Fulton. "Award winning Ph.D. credentialed faculty, engagement with sports and entertainment experts in the community and team-based projects in the field set us apart as a front-runner in the film and entertainment industry

CASTING THE COMMUNITY



MGMT 4800 Film and Entertainment Business Management forged community partnerships as it participated in Clayton State's PACE initiative - a program designed to partner academics and community engagement.

Students who earn this master's degree seek employment as assistant producers, business managers, production schedulers, event coordinator/planners, technical assistants, financial managers, assistant directors and event/social media marketers.

Students in the fall 2015 MGMT 4800 Film and Entertainment Business Management class developed lasting, real-world relationships through the University's Partnering Academics and Community Engagement (PACE) program. Students worked with Our Theatre Company, AV Pride, Southside Theatre Guild and a film production called "Nuttin' But the Truth." Students interviewed industry professionals from the Tyler Perry Studio and from IATSE, the local film union. Experts also came to Clayton State to mentor students.

"One of the students who worked as a crew member during fall semester commented on how important it is to offer students hands-on experiences and the opportunity to network with other film professionals," says Fulton.

The College of Business has plans to add an undergraduate degree in Film and Entertainment Management in the future.

For more information, visit <http://www.clayton.edu/mba/SEM-Concentration>.

A SIX BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY



y'alllywood

Homegrown in the Peach State





BY ALICIA BENJAMIN

FILM *in* GEORGIA

Blocked off streets, celebrity sightings, and casting calls have become an ordinary occurrence throughout Georgia, but the air of excitement remains as major films continue to flock to the state.

Currently, Georgia ranks third in the nation in TV and film production, behind Los Angeles and New York, and in 2015, Governor Nathan Deal announced that over \$6 billion was generated during the fiscal year for projects filmed in the Peach State.

“These statistics represent job creation, increased business opportunities, and the revitalization of communities statewide, and I am committed to building a strong film-ready workforce in Georgia to ensure that the industry continues to flourish here,” said Gov. Deal in a statement released by his office in July.

According to the Georgia Production Partnership, more than 700 film and TV projects have been shot here, and per-

haps actor Burt Reynolds should at least be partly credited as the reason for the exposure. His blockbuster film *Deliverance* was filmed in 1972 along the Chattooga River in Rabun County—casting a huge spotlight on Georgia. It wasn’t long after the movie’s success that then-governor Jimmy Carter established what is now known as the Georgia Film, Music, and Digital Entertainment Office.

“It surprises me that it has taken so long, because I’ve been singing Georgia’s praises for a long, long time,” said Reynolds during an interview with the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

Thanks to a tax incentive introduced in 2002 and strengthened in 2008, studios have clambered aboard the “Midnight Train to Georgia” to film. The incentive cuts production costs by millions of dollars and provides up to 30 percent on state expenditures and tax credits for qualifying projects including feature films, TV series, commercials, music videos, animation and game development. Under the

From a production level, it has provided over 77,000 jobs to Georgians with over \$4 billion in payroll as well as supported thousands of local vendors. From a tourism level, it has raised the profile of Georgia.

Deputy Commissioner Lee Thomas

Georgia Film, Music & Digital Entertainment Office



program, companies that spend at least \$500,000 on production and post-production in Georgia can qualify for a 20 percent tax credit. An additional 10 percent is given if they tack on a promotional state logo at the end of the credits. There is no cap on how much a project can receive or how much the state can allocate each year.

One easily-recognized name taking advantage of that incentive is Ben Affleck. The Hollywood heavyweight recently began filming his latest project *Live by Night* in Brunswick, GA—which was transformed into Ybor City, a historic neighborhood in Tampa, FL. Affleck had originally scouted Tampa for the production, but Georgia’s perks were just too good to pass up when it came to staying on budget. The City of Savannah Film Office estimates that major film projects like this spend as much as \$45,000 per day locally, and *Live by Night* is expected to employ about 300 people. Statewide, the industry employs thousands of workers.

“From a production level, it has provided over 77,000 jobs to Georgians with over \$4 billion in payroll as well as supported thousands of local vendors. From a tourism level, it has raised the profile of Georgia,” says Deputy Commissioner Lee Thomas of the Georgia Film, Music & Digital Entertainment Office.

Tabari Sturdivant, named Georgia’s Best Independent Filmmaker in 2013, says it’s great that work is picking up for crew members, but he wishes there were more work for creators, directors, and producers in the state.

“I don’t feel like there are tons of opportunity for above-the-line talent. It’s a little frustrating to me,” said Sturdivant.

The award-winning producer/director got his start in the industry as a production assistant at Tyler Perry Studios, and his first film *Breaking Up is Hard to Do* quickly signed a distribution deal with Showtime and Netflix.

“Atlanta is a growing place, but the decision-makers are not here at all. They’re all in LA or New York. There is no one here who can greenlight a show except for Tyler Perry. That’s where the disparity is,” Sturdivant stated.

While it may take some time for work to pick up for above-the-line talent in Georgia, there’s no slowing down what’s happening in Union City. Cue Atlanta Metro Studios. Created by local Atlantans, the newest studio to call the Peach State home will be located 15 minutes south of downtown Atlanta, in what was formerly known as Shannon Mall. According to Ed Richardson and Brian Livesay, the Founders and Co-CEOs of 404 Studio Partners and Managing Partners of Atlanta Metro Studios, it’s only a matter of time before jobs for above-the-line talent see an uptick.

“The more we can do to strengthen Georgia’s ranks, the better. Young Georgians now have an opportunity to work their way into an industry that is expanding exponentially year to year. More seasoned industry professionals are moving to Georgia every month and becoming locals. Whether above the line or below the line – the fact is – if you are local, the production budget doesn’t have to carry the cost of, for ex., flying you to Georgia or paying for your lodging. A large scale, talented local crew base is a win / win for all involved,” says Richardson.

Phase One’s of Atlanta Metro Studios will be open for business in March of 2016. The first phase will include 134,000

square feet of Sound Stages, 60,000 square feet of Production Offices and 50,000 square feet of Mill / Flex Space.



The entire facility is tilt-up concrete construction. The Office/Mill buildings were tilted in October 2015, and the roof for that building was complete in early November 2015. The massive 50+ feet walls for the 80,000 square foot Sound Stage (pictured here) were finished ahead of schedule in November. 404 Studio Partners teamed with Rooker, an Atlanta based real estate development company to create Atlanta Metro Studios.

404 Studio Partners, who partnered with Rooker to create Atlanta Metro Studios, is a firm made up of a former Turner Broadcasting producer, a veteran production designer, along with a former Universal Studios executive and a seasoned film industry transportation coordinator. It's estimated that after Phase Two is completed, there will be over 200,000 square feet of Sound Stages.

"We are in active conversations with a number of producers who plan to be in Georgia in early 2016. It's a very exciting time for all Georgians in the film and television business, and we are proud to soon be opening doors on a new, purpose-built facility created for the industry's largest scale projects," says Livesay.

"Another great benefit that Atlanta Metro Studios offers to large-scale content creators is that we're building a film community inside the existing, thriving community of Union City. We also have a great neighbor in Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport – the world's busiest airport. We like to say that the airport is just 'one song' from Atlanta Metro Studios. With the three key elements of 1. Continued support for the Film Tax Incentive; 2. A strong local workforce; and 3. Purpose-built infrastructure like Atlanta Metro Studios, Georgia is very well positioned to embrace the wave of productions literally lining up to film in our great state," says Richardson.

Recently, Pinewood Studios unveiled its newest studio, and it's where much of Marvel's *Ant Man* was shot—along with popular shows like *The Walking Dead* and *Vampire Diaries*. Tyler Perry also signed off on a deal with Atlanta City Council that would allow him to turn much of Fort McPherson, a former military base, into a movie studio. In October 2015, he took to social media to announce that the base will become the new home of Tyler Perry Studios. He also owns another property spanning 1,000 acres with five sound stages, a 400-seat theater and a post-production facility.

According to worldwide box office numbers, the three top-grossing films shot in Georgia to-date are: *Furious 7* (\$1.5 billion), *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* (\$865 million), and *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1* (\$755 million).



Our greatest attribute is that this is a ground up, purpose-built facility. Our entire management team has spent our careers in the production business, and our personal experiences have informed every piece of the design of the entire facility. We understand the very specific need for proper Sound Stages, the need for the extreme amount of power to support lighting needs and the need our clients have to efficiently cool and heat these massive spaces... We also understand the need our clients have for flexibility. We are offering a facility that doesn't constrict the creative in any way. We are creating a purpose-built facility that the world's largest content creators can call home.

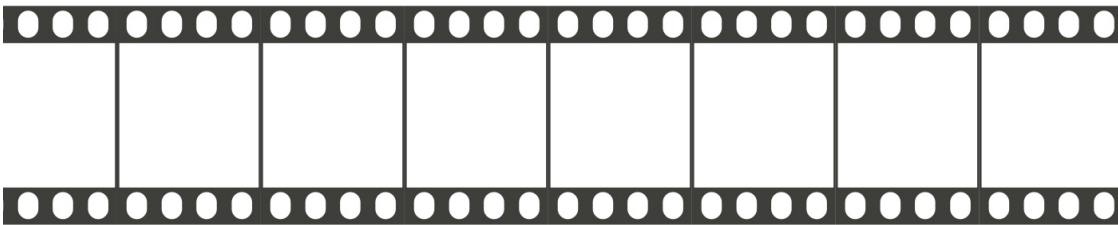
Ed Richardson and Brian Livesay

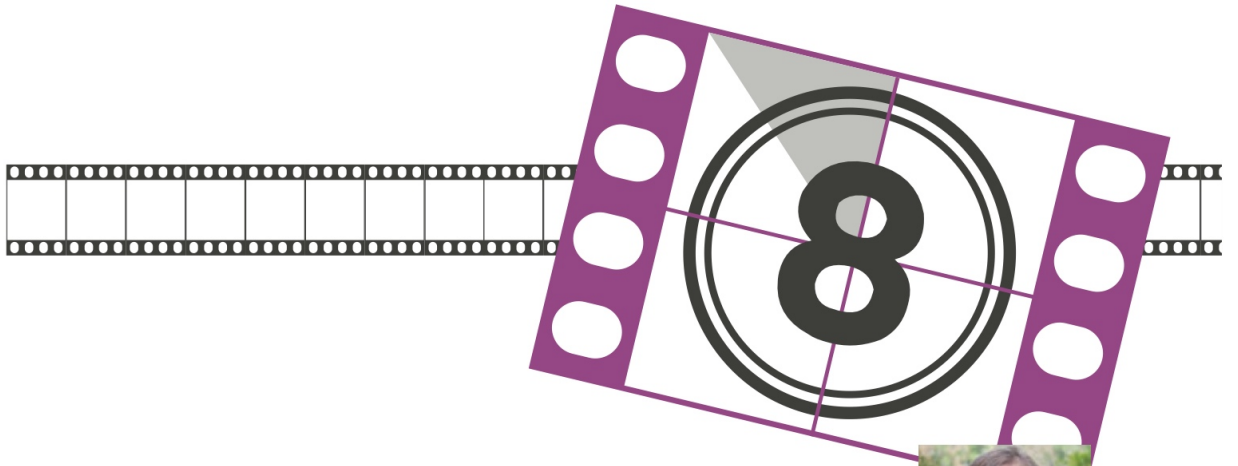
Founders and Co-CEOs of 404 Studio Partners and Managing Partners of Atlanta Metro Studios



**EIGHT CLAYTON STATE FILM EXPERTS
COUNTDOWN REASONS WHY FILM IS
IMPORTANT IN**

Ge**orgia**



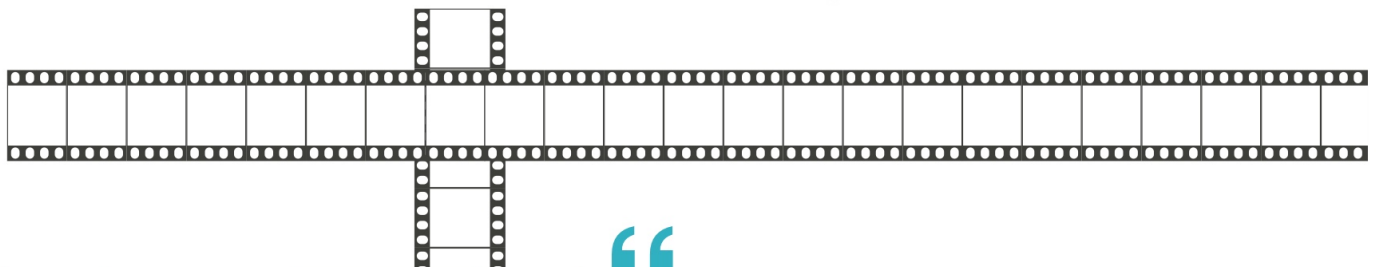


“

One Hollywood studio movie brings an economic influx comparable to two years of a professional sports team. In other words, one *Hunger Games* movie creates as much in hotel, restaurant, and taxi revenue as two Falcons seasons. Additionally, studio movies need crew, so the job creation possibilities are immense.”



Jaye Davidson, Instructor of Post-Production Editing/Introduction to Editing in the Film and Digital Media Center in Continuing Education



“

Don Levy, a former Sony executive, mentioned while he was on campus for a recent conference that he believes the future of filmmaking is in post-production. He moved from on-set production into post-production because he sees that films will continue to produce more and more of their content on sound stages with green screens. There has been talk of a post-production tax incentive and some movement in that direction here. If Georgia were to pass such an incentive, there would be a huge boom in post-production which would solidify the region economically as a filmmaking and post-production hub.”

”

Jonathan Harris, Assistant Professor of Film





Business owners may have to change the way they do business in order to cater to the industry. For example, dry cleaning services have to be performed overnight in order to be of benefit to a filming studio such as Pinewood in Fayetteville, Georgia. Filming is on a tight schedule and businesses must be able to adapt.



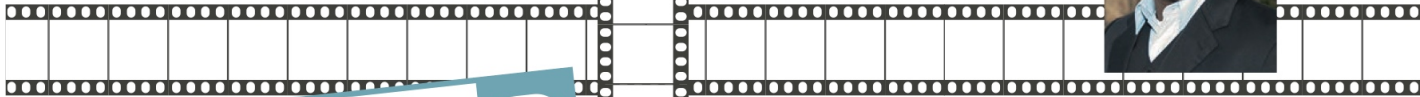
*Dr. Diane Fulton,
Professor of Management*



The film industry is decentralizing because of the internet and because of where filming can take place. A lot of my friends are moving from LA to Atlanta, so they can film here; and, obviously, a lot of studios are coming here for the tax incentives. If the tax incentives leave, then the film industry will leave.



*Akil DuPont, Film Instructor and Interim Director
of the Film and Digital Media Center in
Continuing Education*



I believe Georgia's economy will be impacted in three ways: 1. It will lead to more jobs for Georgia residents; 2. It has the potential to create new business ventures for small and medium-sized companies; and 3. it has the potential to revitalize sleepy towns and cities throughout the state. As the motion picture industry grows in the state, it will mandate schools



like Clayton State University to create and offer programs designed to equip future workers with the skills and knowledge needed to sustain the industry and compete successfully with Los Angeles and New York City.



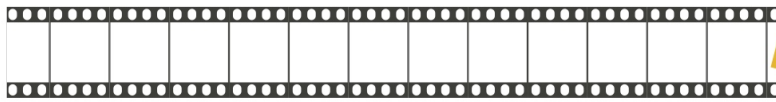
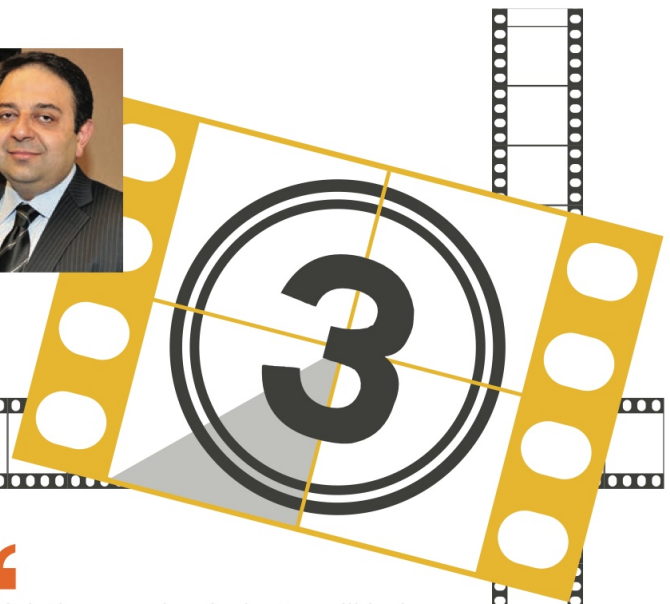
Dr. Alphonso Ogbuehi, Professor of Marketing and International Business

“

The film industry is giving Georgia an unprecedented opportunity to gain brand recognition with those who shape perceptions and perspectives. This helps Georgia's businesses to be considered and to be competitive in the market.

”

Dr. Ali Dadpay, Associate Professor of Economics



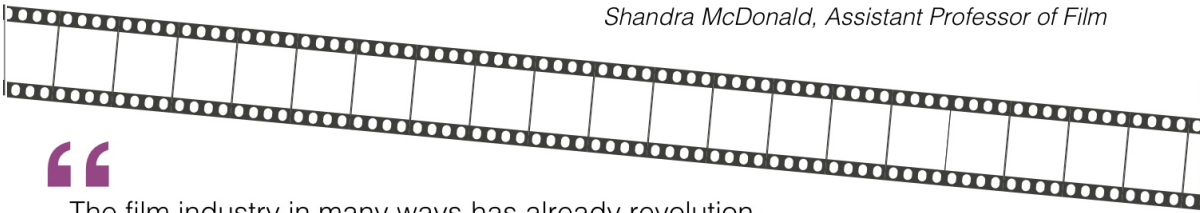
“

I think the growing industry will help the unemployment rate considerably for Georgia residents by helping offer job opportunities in a variety of areas within production. The entertainment industry can be a very fulfilling industry. It does require a lot of hard work, whether you are assisting a cameraman or preparing meals for a feature film crew. We have an outstanding

calibre of people here in Georgia who are anxious to help grow the industry through their hard work.

”

Shandra McDonald, Assistant Professor of Film



“

The film industry in many ways has already revolutionized Georgia. We are now third in the nation for film production, behind California and New York. Thanks to the incentive that Georgia's film tax credit provides, the film industry's economic impact is already huge. And given the rapidly growing local infrastructure of crew training programs, major studios, and multiple academic programs like our new Film Production degree here at Clayton State, that stability and growth for Georgia's film industry will certainly continue to flourish.

”

Dr. Virginia Bonner, Professor of Film and Media Studies





Classroom Bonds Form Casting and Crew Company

BY ERIN FENDER

When Gabriel Cruz and Tommy Stein began taking courses through the Film and Digital Media Center at Clayton State, neither one knew it would be the beginning of Archetype LLC, a casting and crew company.

Both joined the program through an interest in growing their knowledge of the film industry.

“I have always known that I wanted to work in this industry especially down the directorial path, and this program has only expanded my opportunities to get to that point,” says Cruz.

“I went into the program with very little knowledge of what it takes to make a movie, or even what part of that I wanted play. By learning a little bit about everything, I was able to discern from there what was best for me,” says Stein.

The foundation of these courses provides students with production skills from lighting, grip, sound, camera, art, make-up, wardrobe, script supervision, locations, and craft services.

“For me, the most interesting part of the course was just learning in greater detail what actually occurs on a movie set and all the roles and responsibilities,” says Stein.

While taking the Digital Film Technician II course, the pair began to struggle casting for a production as part of the program.

“I noticed a challenge in trying to cast for a small production, and when I told Tommy that we should try to create a company to help other independents cast, he chimed in with adding crew. Thus Archetype was born,” says Cruz.

Now the dynamic duo has garnered a database of about 250 actors and a crew database of over 100 reliable and hard-working crew members for every different department of production.

Currently their company is in negotiations on several different projects including hiring talent for a music producer’s video team and working with a new television series on a newly created network. Stein just recently spent a week co-directing an episode of a web series filmed in Nashville, TN.

“I really appreciate the knowledge and opportunities that have come from the program. It has expanded my entrepreneurial spirit and my love for the film industry,” says Cruz.

Both praise the Film and Digital Media Center courses with guiding them to develop their professional careers.

“I think the most interesting part of the program is that there is always something new to learn. Whether you’ve been in film school before or even on set. Even if you think you know a good bit of the film industry these classes will eventually teach you something you didn’t know before. I also love how the program allows individuals to focus more on a specific department and mold a “below the line” craft that interests you,” says Cruz.

While Tommy and Gabriel run their casting and crew company, they have both become site coordinators for Clayton State’s Film and Digital Media Studio located at Lucy Huie Hall in Jonesboro, GA. Among various duties, the pair assists with making sure productions run smoothly and general care of the studio space and equipment.

“Being a site coordinator for the studio has allowed me to put my knowledge to good use, making sure the equipment is taken care of and well maintained and assisting the productions at the studio anyway they need.

“Without this program, I never would have my niche in the film industry or gathered enough motivation to pursue my general interest. Now though, I know exactly what I want to strive for, and the course gave me the tools I needed to do that,” says Stein.



Clayton State Again Ranked Best Value by *James Magazine*

In August 2015, Clayton State was ranked number one by *James* magazine as having the best value in Georgia higher education for the second consecutive year — demonstrating the University’s commitment to providing quality, low-cost education for its over 7,000 students.

Clayton State Ranked #1 for Best Online Computer Science Degree

A newly released report by *AffordableCollegesOnline.org* ranks Clayton State University as the number one school in the nation when it comes to having the best online computer science degree. The education-review website lists convenience and flexibility, job placement, and the online tuition rate as some of the key reasons why the WebB-SIT program at the University is unsurpassed. Clayton State offers the program as part of a consortium with three other schools within the University System of Georgia. Those institutions are Columbus State University, Georgia Southern University, and Georgia Southwestern State University.

Human Resource Leadership MBA at Clayton State in Top 10 of Most Affordable Programs

According to a report by *HumanResourcesMBA.net*, Clayton State is holding steady at number eight on the list of top 50 Most Affordable Programs. The website used information from the National Center for Education Statistics’ College Navigator database. It also took into account that in 2014 the University received the “Best in Georgia” award for the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Chapter of the Year. The University’s MBA program adopts an innovative and contemporary approach to human resource leadership by focusing on strategic and global issues, and is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International.

Clayton State a Top School for Veterans and Service Members

In fall 2015, *Military Advanced Education & Transition* magazine announced that Clayton State was chosen as a Top School in the 2016 MAE&T Guide to Colleges and Universities. Institutions are evaluated on their military culture, financial aid, flexibility, on-campus support and online support services. Clayton State has one of the largest veteran populations in the state, and it’s one of 23 campus centers throughout the University System of Georgia established to support veterans.



Sandra Deal Visits, Thanks Veterans

Georgia’s First Lady Sandra Deal visited Clayton State to show her support of the military and veterans—something she says she does annually at colleges around Georgia to express her gratitude. “Thank you for serving. It gives you a certain amount of pride to know you’ve served your country, and we appreciate all of you. I didn’t serve, but my husband served, and I was right there with him,” says Deal referring to her husband, Governor Nathan Deal who was enlisted in the Army before getting into politics.



DREAMS Art Installation Unveiled at Clayton State

Well-known author Deepak Chopra has said there's power in writing down a dream. On Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015, a massive art installation incorporated the written dreams of the entire campus community. Thousands of dreams from students, faculty, staff and President Hynes were installed in the atrium of the James M. Baker University Center. The final product spelled out the word DREAMS in blue and orange Post-It Notes and spanned across some of the floor-to-ceiling windows. Clayton State's mascot Loch was bestowed the honor of putting up the very last Post-It Note.



A Piece of Atlanta's History On Display at Clayton State

In November, an unveiling ceremony for a mural painted by acclaimed artist Athos Menaboni was held in the school's James M. Baker University Center where it will be displayed for the next two years. Menaboni, an Italian-born artist, moved to Atlanta in 1927, and for over 30 years, he put his stamp on the city through elaborate murals in numerous homes and businesses. Menaboni's mural comes to the University from an anonymous donor and depicts the Georgia countryside. It was originally painted for the Citizens and Southern National Bank in 1951, and measured about 648 square feet—taking ten weeks to complete. At the time, it was among the largest murals in Atlanta, second only to the Atlanta Cyclorama.

Spivey Hall Receives \$25,000 Grant in honor of 25th Anniversary

Clayton State University's Spivey Hall, the Southeast's premier recital hall renowned internationally for its superior acoustics and the excellence of its classical, jazz and world music artists, is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$25,000 grant from the Charles Loridans Foundation, Inc. In awarding this grant, the trustees of the Loridans Foundation honor their chairman, Mr. Robert G. Edge, a long-time metro-Atlanta arts leader and senior counsel at the law firm of Alston & Bird LLP. Edge is also a founding trustee of the Walter and Emilie Spivey Foundation, which he established in 1986 with Emilie Spivey to support the fine arts programs at what was then Clayton State College. Edge has continued to play a central role in Spivey Hall's ongoing success since the Hall first opened its doors in January 1991, serving previously as chairman and presently as vice-chairman of the Spivey Foundation. This special grant, made in honor of Spivey Hall's 25th Anniversary Season, will support fees of world-renowned musicians performing in the 2015-2016 Spivey Series.





MBA Student Handpicked to Attend PhD Project Annual Conference in Chicago

An MBA student at Clayton State University headed to Chicago after being selected to attend a conference aimed at increasing workplace diversity. Krystle Carter, a native of Wahiawa HI, decided to take the advice of one of her professors and enter into the competitive process for the PhD Project Annual Conference. Carter, who's seeking an MBA in Human Resource Leadership, says she was floored to find out she was handpicked. "I was shocked, surprised, and ecstatic when I received the news that I was selected to attend this all-expenses paid conference. I know this once in a lifetime opportunity will increase my knowledge and expand my network," said Carter.

Clayton State's SHRM Chapter Receives High Honors at Georgia Conference



A Clayton State University student and two advisors brought home high honors at the 2015 Georgia Statewide Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Conference in Savannah. Clayton State's Student SHRM chapter President Krystle Carter received the 2015 Platinum Award Student Member of the Year, while faculty advisors Margaret Thompson and Leon Prieto were both recognized as Outstanding Georgia Advisors of the Year. These honors

come on the heels of Clayton State University receiving the SHRM Best Student Chapter in Georgia in both 2014 and 2015. "We are proud of this outstanding accomplishment of our student chapter, particularly at a time when we have just successfully launched our new MBA in Human Resource Leadership," said Dr. Avinandan Mukherjee, dean of the College of Business at Clayton State.



Professor Invited to Iran to Deliver Speech on Human Resource Leadership

Clayton State University professor Dr. Leon Prieto, assistant professor of management, was invited to deliver a keynote speech at the 2nd International Management Tools and Techniques Conference in Tehran, Iran. "I am definitely humbled that they felt I was the right person to assume the role as a keynote speaker. It isn't everyday that someone asks you to fly to Iran to speak about the Best Practices in Human Resources

and Talent Management, so I must confess I was surprised," says Dr. Prieto. During the Fall semester, Dr. Prieto was one of two Clayton State Faculty members to receive the Outstanding Georgia Advisors of the Year at the statewide Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Conference held in Savannah.

Poet Jericho Brown Visits Clayton State

As part of its Fall 2015 Visiting Writers Reading Series, poet Jericho Brown spoke at Clayton State University on Thursday, Oct. 22. "Jericho Brown is an important literary figure whose work keeps receiving new accolades," says Clayton State Associate Professor of English Dr. Brigitte Byrd. The acclaimed poet participated in two events at the University, including "A Conversation with Jericho Brown," and "Jericho Brown: A Reading." This reading was sponsored by the Georgia Poets initiative. Brown graciously agreed to contribute \$500 worth of his newest book, *The New Testament*, to students enrolled in Clayton State's creative writing courses.



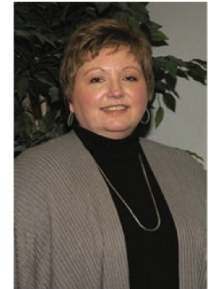


Professor Fights to Save the Eastern Box Turtles

Eastern Box Turtles have a new heroine on their side thanks to a passionate biology professor at

Clayton State University as the species sees a dramatic decline. For the past three years, Dr. Diane Day has made it her mission to help find a way to increase Eastern Box Turtle numbers, and she has been researching, tracking, and protecting the animals and their nests on a stretch of land in Fayetteville, GA, that's managed by the Southern Conservation Trust (SCT). The SCT is a land trust founded in 1993 by residents in Fayette County in an effort to preserve greenspace as the community continues to grow. To learn more about Eastern Box Turtles and conservation efforts, visit http://aboxturtle.com/state_laws.htm.

Three From Clayton State Nominated for the 2015 Chancellor's Service Excellence Award



Three Clayton State University faculty and staff members received honorable mentions for the 2015 Chancellor's Service Excellence Award—a huge honor since only ten honorable mentions are awarded out of hundreds of nominations. Dr. Sipai Klein received an honorable mention for The Writers' Studio in the category of Outstanding Team, while The Dream Makers Scholarship helped land Pat Barton and Kate Troelstra the same honor in the category of Outstanding Process Improvement: Increase Service to Students. Twelve other faculty and staff members from Clayton State University received nominations in the following categories: Outstanding Individual, Outstanding Team, Outstanding Process Improvement: Increase Effectiveness and Efficiency, and Outstanding Process Improvement: Increase Service to Students.

PACE Holds Networking Fair for Students and Community Partners

Perhaps Benjamin Franklin said it best: "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." Well, both students at Clayton State University and members of the surrounding counties are definitely benefiting from an organization at the school with a similar creed. On Oct. 2, about 60 organizations were in attendance at Clayton State's "Community Partner Networking Event" held for its Partnering Academics and Community Engagement (PACE) organization. PACE focuses on student engagement through

community projects that enhance learning. "PACE is a powerful learning device for our students. There's a great deal of evidence indicating that active learning tends to create conditions in which learning is maintained. Our students can then benefit mightily the communities we serve," said Clayton State University President Dr. Tim Hynes. Projects with PACE partners are tied specifically to course requirements and learning objectives while serving the purpose of helping the surrounding area. Some of the organizations in attendance



at the PACE Network Fair included: Clayton County Board of Health, Atlanta Community Food Bank, Southern Crescent Habitat for Humanity, and Junior Achievement of Georgia, just to name a few.

Fall Semester 2015 Sets New Records at Clayton State

A record number of new freshmen began their college experience at Clayton State University this fall semester. But that's not the only record for the growing University. Fall semester figures also showed a record number of applications, a record number of new students, a record number of graduate-level students, and a record number of dual-enrolled students. "The growth in new enrollments reflects a good deal of excellent work by many of our colleagues—a faculty consistently matching academic programs and learning with the dreams our students have for brighter futures," says Clayton State University President Dr. Tim Hynes. Admissions saw a record of nearly 5,600 applications, which resulted in a record number of new students (1,850) and the largest incoming freshmen class in the 46-year history of the institution (529). There was also a significant increase in freshmen from Clayton County – up 16 percent from last year – and overall high school entrance GPA increased two percent from last year. The university's School of Graduate Studies saw a record enrollment of 425 students – an 8.9 percent increase from last year.



Clayton State Enhances Student Experience with Proactive Advising Improvements

In a proactive move aimed at increasing retention, progression, and academic success, Clayton State University held a ribbon cutting ceremony last October for the new location of its Center for Advising and Retention (CAR). "It's changing the model of how we work with our students, recognizing that helping them reach their dreams and attain their goals doesn't just happen in the classroom. It takes a dedicated set of professionals to help students manage through this pathway," said Dr. Kevin Demmitt, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. In the past, advisors were spread out in seven different buildings on campus, but now students at Clayton State essentially have a one-stop-shop where they can get assistance from the time they enroll until the time they graduate. "This concept of centralized advising is very popular. The plus is that Clayton State University is on the front end of the process. We're taking the proactive approach to assist and improve the graduation rate," said Eric Tack, CAR's Director. Currently, there are 19 professional full-time advisors on campus.

Clayton State Awarded Multiple Grants Aimed at Providing No Cost Learning Materials

Two programs at Clayton State University were awarded grants aimed at defraying the cost of expensive textbooks for students. The announcement for recipients of the Affordable Learning Georgia grant came Wednesday, September 30. Drs. Michael Fuchs and Christina Howell, along with Nancy Conley were awarded over \$16,000 to adopt and create open access educational resources for their Music Appreciation course (MUSIC 2101). Currently, the textbook used for the class runs about \$150 per student, but the grant will help revise it to no cost learning materials—saving a total of about \$54,000 per academic year for the approximate 360 students enrolled in the course.



Fall 2015 Commencement

The dream of obtaining a degree from Clayton State University was made real for about 460 students Saturday, December 12 as friends and family proudly cheered the graduates. Regent James M. Hull with the University System of Georgia and Douglas R. Hooker, executive director for Atlanta Regional Commission addressed the 9 a.m. and noon ceremonies, respectively. Leonard Moreland, chief executive officer of Heritage Bank, had the full support of his family as they watched him accept an honorary degree from Clayton State. Moreland has worked in various leadership roles for the University's Foundation where he's served twice as its chairman. In his most recent term as Foundation chair, he led a team to form the first Foundation-related LLC which created the school's signature student housing building, Laker Hall, and its companion, the Student Activities Center. As each ceremony drew to a close, Clayton State President Dr. Tim Hynes reminded the graduates that while they may be moving on from the University, they will forever be tied to their Alma Mater. "From here on out, everything that you do that is great will shine on this institution. Conversely, the great things that happen at Clayton State University by faculty, staff, and new generations of students, will bear witness to the institution and to your accomplishments as a graduate."



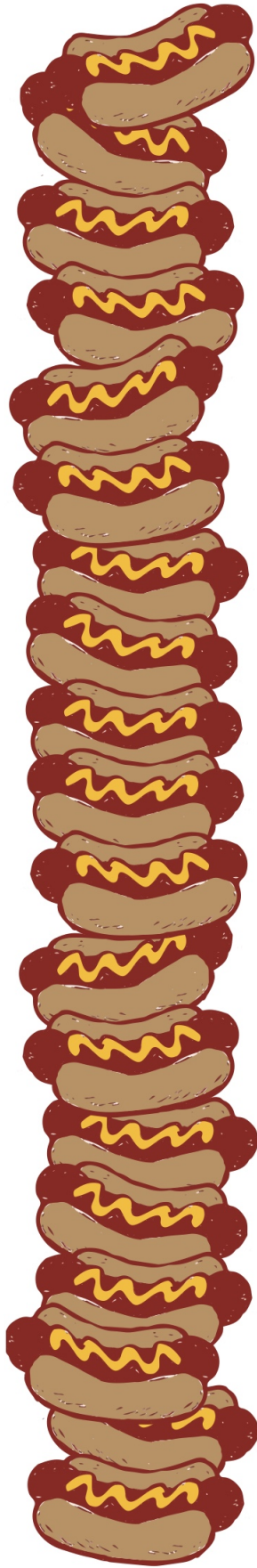
Clayton State Professor Takes Home Nurse of the Year Award

A Clayton State University faculty member has been named as Georgia's recipient of the 2015 March of Dimes Nurse of the Year award in the category of Academic Education. Dr. Jennell Charles from the School of Nursing received the honor Saturday, November 21, during the organization's annual awards dinner. She was chosen from over 750 nominees and 210 finalists. Five other faculty members from Clayton State were

named as finalists for the accolade — making it the most number of finalists from any School of Nursing. "I am honored and humbled to be chosen among the many remarkable nurse faculty as the 2015 March of Dimes Nurse Faculty of the Year. The March of Dimes leads efforts in Georgia and nationwide to address issues of women's health and the health of our children," says Dr. Charles.

Clayton County Schools A/B Honor Roll Day and Special 11 a.m. Tip-Off vs. West Georgia Highlight Start of Laker Women's Basketball's 25th Season

The 25th season of Clayton State women's basketball kicked off with a special 11 a.m. game on Friday, November 20 against West Georgia. During half time, the Lakers celebrated Clayton County A/B Honor Roll Middle School Day by cheering on local students who achieved "A" or "B" Honor Roll status. That group included more than 2,500 students from the 17 different middle schools in Clayton County. "Creating chances for middle school students to see themselves as connected to a college or university is an essential part of helping students frame their own futures," said Dr. Tim Hynes, president of Clayton State University. "Recognizing and promoting academic achievement for students in our community is one first step in developing such connections. At the same time, they have a chance to experience a college campus early in their education. As a bonus, our own students have a great opportunity to serve the community - we all win."



Gideon Oji | Imane-in-Koji, Nigeria | Competitive Eating
Oji, a 6' 9" senior and former center for Division II Clayton State in Morrow, Ga., ate 16 hot dogs to win a Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest qualifier in Charlotte; at the Coney Island main event he downed 19 to tie for 13th out of 16 competitors. Gideon, who averaged one point in 2014-15, was the only college athlete at the Major League Eating event.

From *Sports Illustrated*, July 20, 2015

Fast at Fast Food

Men's Basketball's Gideon Oji Becomes Professional Eater

BY JOSH DARLING



The NCAA has a very well-known saying of “there are over 400,000 NCAA student-athletes, and just about all of us will be going pro in something other than sports.”

Well, for former Clayton State men's basketball player Gideon Oji (Imane-in-Koji, Nigeria), he is among the majority of those 400,000 that will be going pro in something else - but is far from just a face in the crowd with his chosen career path.

Actually, on second look, Oji has been a Face in the Crowd - for *Sports Illustrated*, appearing in the magazine's long running feature in the July 20, 2015 issue for his burgeoning career as a professional eater.

Oji, who played two years for the Lakers from 2012-14 after transferring from Lees-McRae, began his unusual career right here in Atlanta, GA, at the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest qualifier at the 79th Atlanta Dogwood Festival on April 22, 2015. He placed second, by just one hot dog, in his first ever competition and just missed earning a trip to Coney Island for the main event on the Fourth of July.

“I wanted to do something competitive following my playing career,” said Oji after that outing. “I am glad to be competing again in front of people. It feels like playing on the college stage again but there's no winning for effort. I came here to go to Coney Island, and I thought I still had a lot more (eating) in me.”

Indeed he did. After earning his first prize winnings (\$750 for third place at the National Sweet Corn Eating Championship), Oji took another crack at qualifying for Coney. This time it would be in Charlotte, NC, at the Queen City Speed Street Festival, one of 13 qualifying events around the country.

And he would not be denied as he punched his ticket to the big stage with a winning 16 hot dogs and buns consumed. With earning that trip to Coney, Oji is believed to have become the first African-born qualifier in the event's history and the only former NCAA student-athlete competing in 2015.

At the 99th Annual Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Competition, he was the focus of a brief feature during ESPN's live national broadcast, was introduced on stage and downed 19 hot dogs and buns to finish tied for 13th, besting two other competitors.

He entered that competition, just his fourth overall, ranked No. 24 in the world by Major League Eating (MLE), which is the governing body for professional eating. Since then he has continued to excel, rising to No. 12 in the world and is the eighth highest ranked male competitor.

Following Coney, he was noticed on the national stage yet again, this time by *Sports Illustrated*, who featured him in *Faces in the Crowd*. The third Clayton State student-athlete to appear there in the 25-year history of the program, joining Allison Kreutzer (December 29, 2008) and Corey Johnson (February 12, 1996), his section read as follows:

"Oji, a 6'9" senior and former center for Division II Clayton State in Morrow, GA, ate 16 hot dogs to win a Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest qualifier in Charlotte; at the Coney Island main event he downed 19 to tie for 13th out of 16 competitors. Gideon, who averaged one point in 2014-15, was the only college athlete at the Major League Eating event."

Oji has netted \$3,800 in prize winnings from his 13 competitions so far, placing in the money nine times and top three six times, and taken on the likes of Matt Stonie, Joey Chestnut and Tim "Eater X" Janus, all of whom are the blue bloods of the sport.

He is in no way limited to just hot dogs as he has downed ears of corn, wings, sausages, pork rolls, turkey, gallons of chili and that Southern staple – MoonPies – in eight different states and the District of Columbia. As a result, he is among several contenders for MLE Rookie of the Year.

While he is having a great deal of success very early in his career, this unexpected career choice has given Oji a unique



opportunity to raise awareness for a cause very close to his heart in his native land of Nigeria.

"Where I'm from, millions of people do not have enough to eat and there is major violence in the northern part of the country," said Oji. "I've been able to come here to the United States, play basketball, get an education and start making a living doing something I enjoy. If getting on TV and in *Sports Illustrated* because of professional eating gets me noticed, maybe I can help put a face to the struggles my country is going through and that will help."

As of 2013, according to comments made by Nigerian Agriculture Minister Akinwunmi Adesina, more than 13 million Nigerians suffer from hunger and the risk of severe malnutrition. Meanwhile, violence in the northern part of the country continues to force hundreds of thousands of Nigerians out of their homeland, contributing to the severe hunger situation.

Clayton State University is easily known by a few simple words – "Dreams. Made Real." – and instills this mission in its students. Not everyone comes to college knowing what they want to do, but they know they want to do something and most plan to make a difference.

Gideon Oji came to play basketball and earn an education along with it. He is leaving with something more and is a perfect example of living out that mission. He's found dreams he didn't know he had and is now on to new, bigger dreams of trying to help his native land however he can.





Supply Chain Fellows Program

Clayton State's Development Office Connects with Local Supply Chain Businesses

As a way to further engage our industry partners, Clayton State University's College of Business and the College's Center for Supply Chain Management has created the Supply Chain Fellows Program. This program is designed to coordinate opportunities for businesses to have access to our student talent and faculty expertise, for students to gain critical experience with real-world applications of the concepts learned in class, and for the program to continue to grow and continue to explore more collaborative opportunities for students, faculty, and business partners.

Supply Chain Fellows at Clayton State will:

- Have access to students through career service opportunities such as resume review, mock interviews, an annual career fair focusing on Supply Chain that brings students from across the Southeast, and internships.
- Have the opportunity to provide your company brand exposure by speaking to or getting involved with a class.
- Have the opportunity to draw from faculty with expertise not only in supply chain, but also leadership, strategic planning and business planning.
- Attend an annual one-day conference that features industry leader speakers, covers timely topics that are relevant to the industry, and explores potential trends for the future.

- Be highlighted as a Fellow on our College of Business Supply Chain Management website and at all events throughout the year.
- Have an impact on the lives of students that will ultimately lead to improving the talent in our industry and in our region.

Partnership opportunities are available at the Membership Level at \$1,000 a year and at the Distinguished Fellows Level at \$2,000 a year. For a complete list of benefits, please visit www.clayton.edu/giving.

If you are a supply chain business with interest in partnering with Clayton State University, please contact Emily Poole, Director of Corporate & Foundation Partnerships, at emilypoole@clayton.edu.

The Supply Chain Fellows Program is facilitated by Craig Hill, Supply Chain Management Coordinator & Charles S. Conklin Endowed Chair and John Mascariolo, Director of the Center for Supply Chain Management

Our founding Supply Chain Fellow, C.L. Services, Inc., is featured on page 32 of this issue.

C.L. SERVICES, INC.

President of C.L. Services, Inc., Jeff Lantz

“WE THINK IT MAKES GREAT SENSE FOR US TO HELP PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT A UNIVERSITY AT OUR BACKDOOR. WE ARE A GROWING COMPANY AND WANT TO BE INVOLVED WITH ALL OF THE LOCAL AREA SUPPLY CHAIN COLLEGES.”

Clayton State University’s College of Business and the College’s Center for Supply Chain Management recently created the Supply Chain Fellows Program. The program is designed to connect companies to our students and faculty, and create collaborative opportunities.

“We want to have a more local college recruiting presence. We have learned from college recruiting that it takes time to build a trusted rapport with students and professors. We also want to open our doors to students to learn more about a career in transportation brokerage,” says Jeff Lantz, C.L. Services, Inc. president.

C.L. Services has recently become a founding Supply Chain Fellows.

January 1, 2016 marked the company’s 20th year in business. Russ Caudell and Lantz founded the company with intention of creating a company that the employees were excited to come in each day, a place that when one walks through the doors a high level of energy can be sensed as they move trucks and freight all around the country.

“We have always been a quiet little company located in Hapeville. However, over the past three years we have awoken the giant and experienced tremendous growth. Due to the need to expand, we relocated to Clayton County for our future growth. We have a need for more supply chain students, and we feel like Clayton State can be a great resource to help aid us in our growth,” says Lantz.

The Supply Chain Fellows Program provides companies the opportunities to be involved with Clayton State’s students through class interaction as well as guest lecturing. It gives companies a chance to make an impact on the lives of our students by offering real world experience through internships, mock interviews, and even recruitment opportunities.

“We think it makes great sense for us to help provide opportunities and support a university at our backdoor. We are a growing company and want to be involved with all of the local area supply chain colleges,” says Lantz.

C.L. Services moved into Clayton County in August of 2015 as part of the Atlanta Aerotropolis trade area. The company is located in the Mountain View area by Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

C.L. Services, Inc aims to provide quality transportation and logistical solutions. The company moves shipments both nationally and internationally, specializing in dry and temperature controlled truckload service. They are members of the Transportation Intermediaries Association (TIA) and the Intermodal Association of North America (IANA). Fifty percent of the staff are Certified Transportation Brokers (CTB); an extensive TIA certification program demonstrating a thorough knowledge of rules, regulations, principles and procedures of transportation brokerage.

“I think it is very important for companies to give back to communities at the local level,” says Lantz.



C.L. Services, Inc.
The Proponsive®3PL

BY ERIN FENDER

AKIL DUPONT

Interim Director - Film and Digital Media Center

“STUDENTS HAVE TO BE ACTIVELY ENGAGED. THE MISCONCEPTION IS THEY TAKE THE CLASS AND THEY’RE READY. YES, THEY’LL HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE, BUT THEY WON’T HAVE THE NETWORK.”



Thirty-six film festivals, 25 awards, two Student Emmys, and a newly released stage play are just the tip of the iceberg for Continuing Education Film Production and Editing instructor Akil DuPont.

“I’d be lying if I said all the accolades didn’t feel good, but I also had a couple films that didn’t turn out so well. I had to go through those periods of development as an artist. After having those defeats, the accomplishments are a beautiful thing,” says DuPont.

Although the Tallahassee, FL, native has made a name for himself on the independent film circuit, things almost turned out quite differently. DuPont was an economics major at Florida A&M University, and after obtaining his bachelor’s degree, he pursued a career in banking in Orlando. It wasn’t long before his creative side took over though.

“I’d have to say I’m most passionate about storytelling and making sure people are entertained. I love telling stories that have a social responsibility and take people on a journey.”

However, going from a steady paycheck to pursuing his passion was easier said than done, but DuPont says he did not allow himself to be deterred while seeking a Master of Fine Arts degree from Florida State University.

The film professor also says he credits his close circle for helping him to get through the tough times.

“I had a really good support system. I moved in with my mom the first year of school. When you’re working 80 hours a week in class, it’s always nice to come home to dinner on the stove.”

To make ends meet, DuPont briefly went back to banking while producing and making the rounds at independent film festivals with his award-winning

film *Underground*. He soon realized, however, that he was limiting his work by staying in Tallahassee, so he set his sights on Atlanta’s booming film industry. In 2013, he happened to stumble across a job posting for a teaching position for Clayton State’s Film Studies program, and he says he knew he had to jump at the opportunity.

“I saw that Clayton State was starting its program, and I immediately emailed the director. A few weeks later, I was interviewed and got the job, and now I’m one of the professors who helped mold the program into what it is today.”

DuPont says having the flexibility to continue to produce films while teaching students the ins and outs of the industry are just a few of the perks he loves about working at the University, but he emphasizes that students have to go beyond academic excellence to succeed in their careers.

“Students have to be actively engaged. The misconception is they take the class and they’re ready. Yes, they’ll have the knowledge, but they won’t have the network. They have to build that by going to industry functions and meeting people. It’s all about going out there and making connections.”

Recently turning his film *Underground* into a stage play, the acclaimed producer unveiled his masterpiece to a packed Atlanta theater in October. DuPont says despite all of his success, he wants to be remembered for something more important than trophies and plaques.

“I just hope that at the end of the day people remember me as being a good human being and a good citizen of the world.”

To learn more about his films and upcoming projects, please visit www.dupontproductions.com.

BY ALICIA BENJAMIN

JONATHAN HARRIS

Assistant Professor of Film

“WE DESIGNED THE DEGREE TO OFFER THE MOST ‘HANDS-ON’ PRODUCTION AND POST-PRODUCTION COURSES IN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.”



In just under three years, Jonathan Harris has created quite an impressive resume for himself at Clayton State University. Serving as an assistant professor of film and the coordinator of film production, Harris has created great growth within his position in the Visual & Performing Arts Department. Harris has developed an on campus reputation to be a strongly desired professor because of his expansive knowledge of film production as well as his hands on approach to teaching. Harris strongly encourages student input, which creates a welcome environment for learning and sharing opportunities. “The faculty in the film division are here to help you achieve your goals, so let us know what’s on your mind and what your goals are so that when opportunities come across our inboxes, we can point you in the right direction.”

Not only is Harris a desired professor, but he is also a trailblazer of sorts, hosting the University’s first ever study abroad trip to South Korea. In addition to this, Harris was instrumental in hosting the “Big Picture Con” Conference and Campus Movie Fest at Clayton State University. The BigPictureCon conference brings film and media industry leaders to campus for a two-day event. Campus Movie Fest allows students to check out camera gear and shoot short films, which are then screened on campus. The finalists move on to a national competition. This falls in line with Harris’ teaching philosophy perfectly, “Creating real-world course projects is one of the best ways for students to learn.”

Harris specializes in courses that allow students to get their hands on equipment and create. Clayton State has recently developed a Bachelor’s and Associate of Arts in Film Production, and Harris takes all opportunities to develop real world skills with his students. Specializing in courses including, digital video production, digital post production and lighting for motion pictures, Harris feels

very strongly about the future of students in Georgia’s only USG (University System of Georgia) approved B.A. in Film Production program. “We designed the degree to offer the most ‘hands-on’ production and post-production courses in the University System. I believe this will help interested students meet their goals of learning how to direct, produce, shoot, light, edit and create visual effects for films.”

Harris hopes to also help in bridging the gap between the life of a student and their community, “I am planning to have two of my courses work with a non-profit organization which needs help producing videos. I’d like to work with more organizations in the future to get students involved with them.”

While Clayton State’s media-related fields of study educate students on information pertinent to their chose areas, some students aren’t fully prepared for the real world. Harris offers this piece of advice for future film and media professionals, “Make as many media projects as you can while you are in school. Dedicate yourself to creating quality projects that aren’t just for class. They are for you and your career.” In closing, Harris offers his strongest words, “Most of all, attend class and go the extra mile in everything you do. It’s an extremely competitive field, and you have to be at the top of your game to succeed.”

When he isn’t working to better the opportunities and knowledge of film students at Clayton State, he is being a loving husband of 16 years and an energetic father of identical twin boys. If you’re wondering when he has time to do all these things, don’t rule out a phone booth and a speedy change of clothes...

BY GANTT THOMAS

MARIAMA DIALLO

Business Management Major, Spring 2016

“ I LOVE MY MAJOR AND I LOOK AT MY CLASSES AS A PART OF MY GROWTH IN MY CAREER JUST AS I LOOK AT MY ACTING CLASSES.”



A business management student with passion for film, Mariama Diallo is a bright, outgoing student with an infectious smile.

“Once I graduate I really want to continue pursuing modeling and acting and see where it goes. I hope to later open and run my own production company,” says Mariama.

Born in Kamsar, Guinea, around the age of 11 Mariama’s family moved to the United States and eventually settled in the Atlanta area. Her parents have played a key role in her educational and career growth.

“I was blessed to have parents that made sure my siblings and I understood the importance of education. I love my major, and I look at my classes as a part of my growth in my career just as I look at my acting classes. I think I have balanced it just having my priorities in order. I have missed auditions before because I knew I had a test and that was more important,” says Mariama.

Mariama choose the business management major at Clayton State because she feels strongly that business degrees can be applied to any industry; it’s versatile.

“My business major has taught me not only leadership skills but also how to handle myself in business situations, as well as how to work under pressure. This all is helping to provide a foundation for my acting and modeling career,” she says.

Mariama has been modeling and acting for three years now. She was most recently able to spend summer and fall 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa pursuing this career path.

“Recently I did a commercial for Pepsi as well as for a South African juice brand called Liqui Fruit.

I have worked on multiple short films. I am also working with a couple of Clayton State students in a web series called *Young in the City*. If you look carefully, you might even see me in old episodes of *Vampire Diaries*,” says Mariama.

She has a strong passion for her community and family. One day her goal is to start a charity in Guinea to ensure that everyone has access to clean water and electricity.

“The one thing that keeps me going would have to be my desire to bring a better life for my family. I really want to buy my mother a house and to not worry about the light bill. I want my sisters to be able to attend a great school. I just want this all to be worth it and for my family and the people I care about taken care of,” says Mariama.

Mariama is a senior expecting to graduate in spring 2016. She is a part of the Society for Advancement of Management (SAM), the African Student Association (ASA), Student African America Sisterhood organization, international honor society of Beta Gamma Sigma and the national society of leadership and success Sigma Alpha Pi.

“I really appreciate my professors here at Clayton State. Since I began taking my major courses every professor has helped me and made an impact on my personal growth. I admire that the professors here truly care and want to see you succeed. I also love how most courses have been open discussions. It can be challenging at times, but it really teaches us to think for ourselves and outside the box and make strong, powerful decisions,” says Mariama.

BY ERIN FENDER

BRIAN MAGILL

Information Technology Alumnus

“ I ENJOY WORKING ON FILMS THAT ARE NOT MY OWN AND OUT OF MY GENRE AS WELL, BECAUSE THERE IS SUCH INCREDIBLE VALUE IN GETTING TO MEET SO MANY NEW PEOPLE.”



Filmmaker and photographer Brian Magill says he always enjoyed watching television shows and movies as a child, but the short escape into the plot of a film couldn't mask some of the growing pains he says he endured along the way. The Clayton State alum opened up about times he says he felt left out as a child, but he says he drew on that experience to craft compelling stories for others who may have faced the same issues.

“I struggled with feeling left out and sought to bring out smiles in people who might be feeling like me and share their stories that might otherwise never be heard,” says Magill.

Earning his Bachelor of Information Technology degree from Clayton State University in 2001 and a Master of Arts in Film & TV production from Savannah College of Art and Design in 2006, Magill specializes in video direction, principle photography and editing, soundtrack composition, and portrait and documentary photography. He says Clayton State's IT program truly helped him to bridge the gap between technology, communications, and media.

“Back in 2001, when the IT program was still fresh and getting traction at Clayton State, I enrolled in an IT upper division elective class now called multimedia productions and development. That class taught me more about combining technology with communications and media than any other course ever offered at that time. This was before the communications degree was created. I learned so much in the IT program.”

It wasn't until Magill was a young adult when the filmmaker says he began to entertain the idea of entering the film industry, and while in his 20s, he says it was a much higher power that pushed him to delve more deeply into the field.

“I felt a definite call from God to create films for those who will never be able to hear about Jesus under normal circumstances and also to produce films and photography that encourage people and bring them hope.”

While the former Clayton State student takes pride in his own projects, he reveals that he also loves working with other filmmakers, and he appreciates the opportunity to work on a variety of genres.

When asked, what the most rewarding aspect of his job is, the filmmaker replied, “To me, the most rewarding part of being an artist is seeing someone respond to your work in a way that is congruent with your intended response to what you've created. Be it a laugh, smile, tears or other emotion, seeing someone connect with your work and enjoy it is truly an incredible feeling.”

Divulging how trial and error helped mold his career, Magill says he learned that in order to become successful at filmmaking he couldn't be a one-man team and take on an entire project without the help of people who shared his same drive and passion for filmmaking.

“Filmmaking is truly a collaborative effort. To be successful in the entertainment industry, it is imperative to be genuinely interested in people no matter how different they are from you, to be someone who is committed to networking, and to be willing to work extremely hard for an incredibly long amount of time with no promise of rewards or financial compensation right away. But above all, I've learned that you have to be likeable and truly like people as well.”

BY DANIELLE MOORE

2005

Alfred Dixon (attended Fall 2005-Summer 2012) is a candidate at-large for the City Council of Jonesboro. He says that his ultimate goal for Jonesboro is for the city to be known as the Best City in America to raise kids, as well as being a big community sponsor.

2009

Eva Durham (M.B.A. Business Administration) is now working as a mediator and is a member of The National Mediation Board.

2011

Melanie Dawson (Paralegal Studies) is the grandmother of Ava who was only 6-months-old when diagnosed with stage four Rhabdomyosarcoma, a cancer that attacks connective tissues. She is thankful for the support of friends and family as they deal with this devastating news.

2012

Justin Pollard (B.S. Nursing), in his first year-and-a-half of nursing, has been voted Rookie of the Year by his peers on the medical oncology floor of Emory University Hospital.

2013

Troy Williams (B.S. Sociology) is a graduate student at the University of San Diego. Williams credits Clayton State University's study abroad program for where he is today. Williams first visited Jamaica as a Clayton State Study Abroad student in 2011, and this year's trip marks his eighth visit to Duncan's All Age School Special Education Unit.

Laoise O'Driscoll (M.H.A. Healthcare Administration) is currently living and working in Atlanta on a work visa. She says that Clayton State gave her the opportunity to live and work in the United States. O'Driscoll received a soccer scholarship in 2011 and was

able to come to the U.S. on a student visa from Ireland and complete her masters in healthcare administration. All thanks to Clayton State.

2015

Krystle Carter (B.B.A. Management) is an MBA student who was handpicked to attend the PhD Project Annual Conference. Attending this conference brought her closer to living her dream of obtaining her doctoral degree, so that she can live her passion through educating future leaders of the world.

Xavier Smith (B.S. Psychology and Human Services) since graduating Smith has had the opportunity to attend the Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA) PhD Student Consortium in Pittsburgh. During his years at Clayton State, Smith was an avid visitor at the Office of Career Services and, with their help, Smith became the first-ever Regional Human Resource Intern for Waste Pro, USA.

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!



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25 Facts about the Clayton State Alumni Association

In 2015, the Clayton State University Alumni Association reached a very important milestone. We turned 25 years old. To commemorate the occasion, we've curated 25 facts about the Alumni Association, our programs, and our grads.

BY LEILA TATUM



The Alumni Association was chartered in 1990. The first Alumni Association president was James Jernigan, a 1978 graduate of the criminal justice program. His executive committee consisted of Art Rogers ('78), John Stiles ('78) and Rebecca Camp ('88).



The Alumni Association operations are managed by the Alumni Relations Office, which is located in Woodlands Hall on the East Campus. The East Campus is located on the former site of the Atlanta Bible College. Woodlands Hall formerly served as housing for Atlanta Bible College students.



The first alumni newsletter, *CSC Alumni News*, was distributed in the spring of 1991. In the issue, then Director of Development and Alumni Affairs, Pat Garrett, noted that "since the place of the alumni in any institution is linked, welded, and sealed with the past, present, and future of the institution, I look forward to our alumni becoming [Clayton State's] best advocates."



As of November 2015, there are 23,010 living alumni.



The alumni body represents every region of the United States and numerous foreign countries. However, more than 86% of graduates reside in Georgia.



Many of our alumni love us so much that they choose to work here after they graduate. More than 15 percent of full-time employees are Clayton State alums.



Did you know that honorary degree recipients are considered alumni too? Since 1969, Clayton State has awarded nine honorary degrees. The most recent recipient was Leonard Moreland, longtime supporter and former Chair of the Board of Trustees.



Twenty former students were selected to serve on the first Alumni Board. The first official board meeting was held on October 10, 1990. The Alumni Board is an all-volunteer group that serves in an advisory capacity to the University. The Alumni Board and Alumni Director work together to keep our Laker alumni family connected to each other and to Clayton State.



Speaking of keeping you connected. The Association is very active on Facebook. Our Facebook page has more than 800 followers. We regularly post updates to keep you in the know. Won't you be our friend?



10



Our *Forever a Laker* alumni e-newsletter is distributed monthly to 7,500 recipients. Through this interesting and informative digital publication, we provide the five things every Laker needs to know each month.

11



We publish alumni profiles, spotlights and Class Notes in *The Laker Connection* magazine, the University's bi-annual publication is distributed to close to 20,000 Lakers.

12



If it is career, professional information and networking you seek, look no further than our LinkedIn group. With a membership of close to 1,000 alumni who are connected to thousands more, the networking capabilities are vast. Additionally, we regularly post professional and career related articles, information, and invitations to workshops and events.

13



The first Alumni Association social, a pre-game reception in conjunction with the Lakers inaugural men's basketball game, was held in November 1990. The 63 alumni in attendance were treated to refreshments and free passes to the game.

14



Twenty five years since our first social, and we are still providing numerous opportunities for our alumni to network profession-

15



ally and socialize. Our popular C-Squared networking series brings together alumni from all over metro-Atlanta for conversations and connections.

The Alumni-Student Mentor program is fast becoming the most popular way for alumni to connect with current students and give back to Clayton State with their time, expertise and experiences. The Association is developing a network of alumni who support students in their professional and personal development. Potential mentors go through an application and selection process. During the process, candidates are asked about their preferred participation level. Once approved, mentors are added to the network and are called on based on their participation preferences. For example, mentors are invited to provide informational interviews, participate in panel discussions, write guest blog articles, provide a video or printed interview of their career track, or attend networking events – all based on their availability and interest.

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Since we know that the key to building a strong connection with our alumni is to start when they are students, we recently formed a student alumni association, Students Today Alumni Tomorrow or S.T.A.T. They are charged with bridging the gap between the Alumni Association and the



student body, and preparing students to be active alumni. S.T.A.T.'s goals are as follows:

- Instill PRIDE in alma mater through encouraging participation in traditions and inspiring school spirit.
- Increase PHILANTHROPY - by educating fellow students about the important role private funding plays in the opportunities we receive on campus, and encouraging students and alumni to give back to our alma mater through making gifts, volunteering and sharing expertise.
- Provide ALUMNI-STUDENT CONNECTIONS through strategic programming and events such as Alumni Weekend, Homecoming, networking and mentoring.

The newly formed Young Alumni Council is working to support recent graduates and keep our alumni connected to the University. The 13 member council has big plans for the coming year including an enhanced presence at graduation, a fresh look at the C-Squared Networking series, and hopes for record participation at Homecoming (particularly the tailgate).

Speaking of Homecoming - this storied Laker tradition has been held in both the



spring and the fall and known by many names over the years – anyone remember Fall Frolics? Most recently, Homecoming has been held in the spring semester in conjunction with the second to last home basketball game of the season. Homecoming serves as an opportunity for alumni to come back and reconnect with your Laker Family.



While we are on the subject of graduates – our graduating class for the past two years has elected to participate in the Senior Class Gift program. The Class Gift gives graduating seniors the opportunity to pay it forward and contribute to the Dream Makers Scholarship program. By participating in the Class Gift, graduates make their first step towards staying connected to Clayton State University. Participants receive a commemorative orange tassel and a one-year Alumni Association membership.



Active membership in your Clayton State University Alumni Association provides a host of benefits to members while supporting Clayton State. Our members receive a number of great perks like discounted admission to Clayton State sporting events, library privileges, the opportunity to join the fitness center, periodic discounts on merchandise from the Loch Shop and a whop-



ping 10% discount on courses through the Center for Continuing Education.

Since the Alumni Association is largely self-supported, much-needed membership dues and financial gifts are used to support many great programs and services like professional and career development programs, social and networking opportunities, mentoring programs, student engagement initiatives and alumni connections.

Last year, 78% of our students demonstrated need with 6,000 students receiving some sort of aid (scholarships, grants, loans, etc.). The Benita Moore Alumni Association Scholarship was started by the Alumni Association to provide qualified students with tuition assistance. Our goal is to raise \$25,000. We are 60% of the way there, with more than \$15,000 raised.

We like to recognize our grads both for their personal and professional achievements and for their commitment to giving back to the University. Our grads are recognized on our website, in our publications, at our Alumni Awards celebration and through induction in the Athletics Hall of Fame.



We know our alums are awesome, but employers clearly agree. Our former students get hired by some of the top companies in Atlanta. The largest employers of Clayton State alumni are Delta Airlines, AT&T, Emory Healthcare, Grady Health System, The Home Depot, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Piedmont Healthcare, the U.S. Army, Chick-fil-A Corporate, Clayton County Public Schools, SunTrust, Northside Hospital, DeKalb Medical, Wells Fargo, Kaiser Permanente, WellStar Health System, Kroger and Bank of America, respectively.



Our website is the best source for up-to-date information. Please visit clayton.edu/alumni to update your information, register for an event, apply to join the mentor network, make a gift, pay your dues and learn about our many programs and services.



DREAMS . MADE REAL .

