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# THE LAKER

# CONNECTION

A Publication of Clayton State University

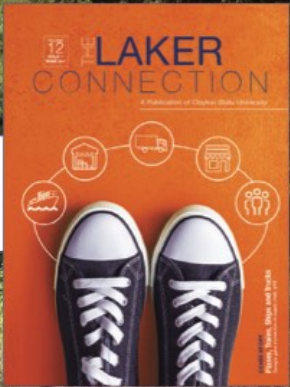


**COVER STORY**  
**Planes, Trains, Ships and Trucks**  
Georgia gains momentum in supply chain p18





**ON THE COVER:** The life cycle of a pair of sneakers, from shipment to the consumer's hands.



# 18

## COVER STORY

### Georgia Takes Position as Global Supply Chain Leader

With \$1.48 trillion spent on the transportation and logistics industry alone in 2015 and representing 8 percent of annual gross domestic product, supply chain is big business. Learn how Georgia is positioning itself as a global leader in this fast-paced economic sector.

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Kevin Young is the first Laker to reach the National Basketball Association as an assistant coach for the Philadelphia 76ers. The former Laker point guard shares his perspective on working at the highest level of basketball.



What is the driving force that keeps you moving toward your goals?

**PRESIDENT** Dr. Thomas J. Hynes Jr.

*"I'm motivated by deadlines. When the clock is ticking, my mind goes into overdrive with the best ideas to make anything I dream up come to fruition."*

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
Maritza E. Ferreira

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Kelly Petty

**PRODUCTION EDITOR**  
Erin Fender '05

*"I like to begin with the end in mind, then develop incremental milestones so I am able to evaluate my progress regularly. It is important for me to always feel like I am accomplishing something in the interim."*

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

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*Ultimately, it's my need for achievement and the feeling I get when I accomplish something.*

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**THE OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

publishes The Laker Connection twice a year. It is distributed to alumni, trustees, faculty, staff, retirees and friends. It is also published online at [clayton.edu/laker-connection](http://clayton.edu/laker-connection).

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What are your thoughts about this issue of The Laker Connection? We want to hear from you at [marketing\\_communications@clayton.edu](mailto:marketing_communications@clayton.edu)

**Fan mail floods our mailbox with the redesign of The Laker Connection!**

Where can I pick up an extra copy of the latest (Fall) edition of Laker Connection? I'd like to give a copy to my teenage daughter. My picture is in there for having won an award, and it's not every day that a parent gets to actually impress his or her teenager! Besides, she might read about Clayton State and actually want to come here!

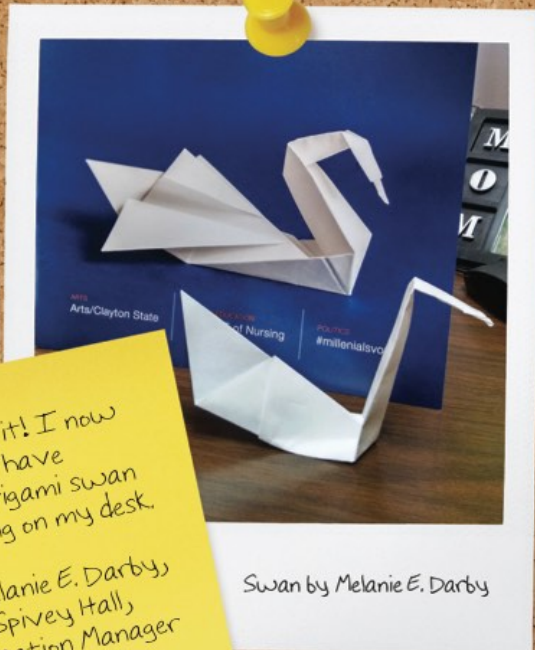
- Lou X. Orchard, Associate Professor of Accounting and Heritage Bank University Professor (2016-2018)

Wow, a pretty complete makeover. More Millennial-oriented in layout and design, less like a traditional college magazine. Shorter and snappier. Good decks and sidebars.

Lauren and I created the original magazine from scratch, and I think we did a good job producing a traditional college magazine. However, as you know, a brand (or a "look") can only last so long before you need to move on. I think you've done a fine job by what I consider the most important measure of any form of communication -- it's very readable.

- John Shiffert

former Media Relations for Clayton State University. Shiffert was part of the original team that launched the Laker Connection in 2006. The team also included alumni Lauren Graves Haller '04 and Leigh Wills '04.



Love it! I now have an origami swan sitting on my desk.

- Melanie E. Darby,  
Spivey Hall,  
Education Manager

Swan by Melanie E. Darby

The recent issue of The Laker Connection is excellent! Congratulations.

- Melody Carter  
Special Assistant to the President



# Letters to the Editor

Great job on the new Laker Connection.

Articles were great as well as the layout and design.

- Stephen Schultheis,  
Assistant Vice President  
for Enrollment Management

I just wanted to take the time and say thank you for putting my story in the Laker Connection Magazine. You and your team did an amazing job.

- Phalando Lawson, Facilities  
Management and Staff  
Profile Feature



## CORRECTIONS

The Laker Connection welcomes comments about errors that warrant correction. Messages can be sent to [Marketing\\_Communications@clayton.edu](mailto:Marketing_Communications@clayton.edu).

The following corrections are for The Laker Connection Volume 11: Issue 2: Fall 2016.

### Editorial Staff Credits

Contributing photographer, Linda Sayseng's name is spelled "Sayseng" not "Seyeng".

### Campus Updates

President Dr. Thomas J. Hynes was named to Georgia Trend's Most Influential Georgians List for 2016, as well as 2015.

### Always a Laker

Danielle Moore was the contributing writer for the alumni profile on page 36.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Laker Connection Magazine is now published online! You can also subscribe to the e-newsletter version at [clayton.edu/laker-connection](http://clayton.edu/laker-connection).





# mo·men·tum

mō'men(t)əm, mə'men(t)əm/

noun: momentum; plural noun: momenta

1. the quantity of motion of a moving body, measured as a product of its mass and velocity.
2. the impetus and driving force gained by the development of a process or course of events.



“You can change the momentum of an academic institution by applying changes in academic policies and goals. You can change the curriculum to better meet the needs of the discipline.

More importantly, changes affecting how students learn can be applied: active learning techniques, research courses, internships and community service where students get one-on-one experience in the real world.”

*- Dr. John Campbell,*

Professor of Physics

explains how the principles of momentum can influence academics



## Message from the President

The American Heritage Dictionary of Cultural History defines momentum as: "...the property or tendency of a moving object to continue moving. For an object moving in a line, the momentum is the mass of the object multiplied by its velocity (linear momentum); thus, a slowly moving, very massive body and a rapidly moving, light body can have the same momentum... Figuratively, momentum can refer to the tendency of a person or group to repeat recent success."

We believe that Clayton State fits each of those definitions—a fast moving body developing the momentum of larger organizations, and an organization that can build and repeat recent successes. Some of those successes include publicized ones—U.S. News and World Report recognition as a ranked regional university, or James Magazine's rating of Clayton State in each of the last two years as the best buy for a four-year higher education in the state.

The University continues to build on recent successes—and the examples of momentum in learning found in this issue of Laker Connection demonstrate success not just for today, but for rapidly changing tomorrows. Jamie Condliffe, writing for Oxford University, addressed some observers' fears that technologies (such as those Dr. Scott Bailey shares with next-generation students) will eliminate jobs.

"For most, that means it's unlikely that they'll simply lose their job to technology, at least in the near future—but they can expect to see a significant change in the sorts of things they're asked to do. In their book, the Susskinds [Daniel and Richard, 2016] describe twelve new roles that might appear within the professions—such as process analyzers, knowledge engineers, data scientists and empathizers. 'These are roles that sound unfamiliar to traditional professionals, that require skills and abilities that many of them are unlikely to have at this moment in time,' they explain." And building on our University's momentum is at the heart of our strategic approach for the future.

DREAMS . MADE REAL .

## DR. THOMAS J. HYNES JR.

For example, our colleagues in the College of Business observed recently that "...the Wall Street Journal has called the MBA in Supply Chain Management 'The Hot New MBA.' It has noted 'With global operations becoming more complex, companies in manufacturing, retail and technology—and the consulting firms that service them—are scrambling to hire people with supply-chain expertise.'"

Clayton State University's MBA program is one of the very few programs offering an MBA degree with a concentration in Supply Chain Management in the State of Georgia.

This volume documents a diversity of institutional developments and strategic commitments. The strategic planning process describes Clayton State's immediate directions. Evidence shared demonstrates that our momentum will carry us to the future—and in some places a future that is already here.







# STEMulating tech careers

Clayton State and Clayton County Public Schools team up to get kids interested in science and technology

By Erin Fender

Nature's Fury. World Class. Trash Trek. Animal Allies. No, these are not the names of the next Hollywood blockbuster films. These are themes from which groups of elementary and middle school students think like scientists and engineers to devise solutions for challenges during the annual FIRST LEGO League competition.

This tournament sees more than 28,000 teams from 80 countries that a passion for science, technology, engineering and mathematics—


STEM—is cultivated among children. Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is home to several of these teams and is taking steps to get students interested early on in careers in STEM to be prepared for future workforce needs.

"The jobs of the future are in STEM. There is not an industry that is not affected by technology," says Tasha Rainey, a Gifted Educator and 6th grade science teacher at M.D. Roberts Middle School. "Building plans are no longer drawn

by hand, doctors no longer hand write a physical medical record, and satellite navigation is used by USPS and FedEx for more efficient route tracking. It is important that our students understand STEM, how they interact with it, and how they can change and make it better."

But an 18.7 percent projected growth in science and engineering occupations reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics does not mean the interest among students is on the rise. In fact, it may be declining.





**“The jobs of the future are in STEM.  
There is not an industry  
that is not affected by technology.”**

- Tasha Rainey, a Gifted Educator and 6th grade science teacher at M.D. Roberts Middle School

Interest in STEM fields among highschoolers steadily rose between 2004 and 2009, but has since dipped in recent years, according to the 2015 U.S. News/Raytheon STEM Index. The 2016 Index showed a slight increase in education and general interest, but that has come mainly from foreign students despite years of investment in attracting more Americans to the field.

“As more manufacturing and industrial jobs are outsourced to other countries, our economy is increasingly becoming knowledge-based,” says Dr. Scott Bailey, associate professor of mathematics at Clayton State.

Yet Bailey points out that only 44 percent of high school graduates were ready for college-level math and only 36 percent were ready for college-level science.

And with data showing a national average of 700 students dropping their STEM college major every week, Bailey says, main street America could suffer a “brain drain” that would wipe out the talent needed to grow communities.

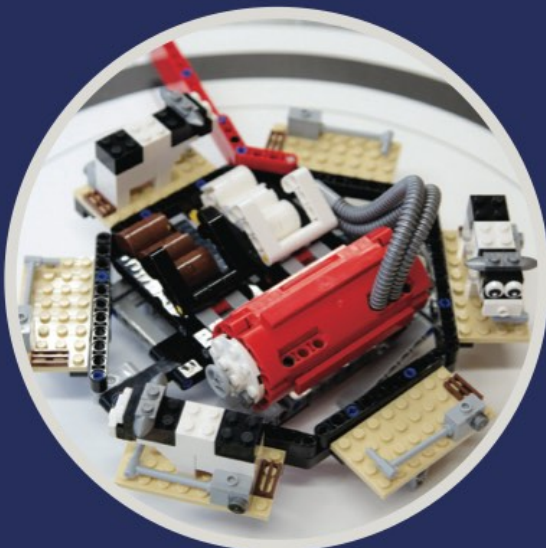
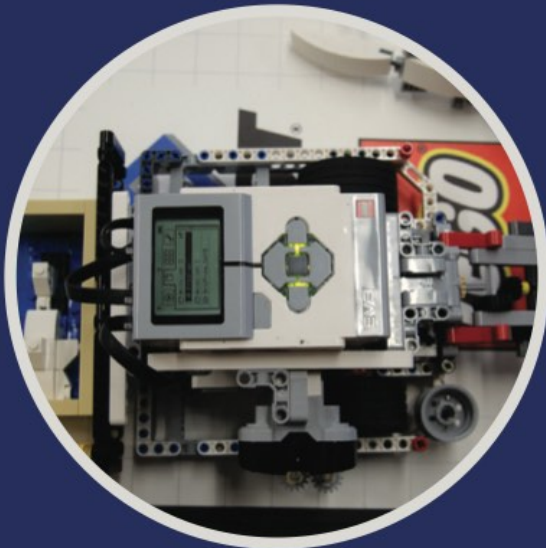
“While the decline in STEM education is a threat to the national economy, it becomes an even larger threat to local economies such as Clayton and the surrounding counties whose sustainability and growth largely depend on local talent,” Bailey says.

### **K-12 STEM education flourishes with Clayton State’s help**

When the robotics team at M.D. Roberts Middle School prepares for the FIRST LEGO League competition, it takes some ingenuity, engineering and a little technological know-how to construct a robotic and make it move.

Preparation takes months, but the students quickly learn how to work as a team, relying on each other to solve problems and supporting each other through failures and setbacks.





"The biggest improvement that I have seen in my students is their mindset," says Victor Martinez, a STEM teacher and the middle school's robotics team coach. "They approach problems posed to them differently. The student begins to have this 'I can' type of attitude when it comes to problems of any kind."

Clayton State hosts the FIRST LEGO League Super Regionals each January that consists of teams of students ages 9 to 14 constructing and designing a robot made of Lego building blocks to compete in a game. Not only do they have to do technical design, but students have to abide by the LEGO League's Core Values—working together as a team, discovery and gracious professionalism.

Faculty, staff, and students at Clayton State support this event in many ways including becoming official judges as well as hosting a practice session in the months leading up to the big day.

**"They approach problems posed to them differently. The student begins to have this 'I can' type of attitude when it comes to problems of any kind."**

- Victor Martinez, a STEM teacher and the middle school's robotics team coach

"The collaboration with Clayton State University has been one of the greatest parts of the robotics program. It has provided the support we needed to strengthen the program while exposing the students to the college environment," says Dr. Tonya Clarke, mathematics coordinator at CCPS.

Clayton State's footprint in Clayton County doesn't stop at the robotics competition. The University's College of Information and Mathematical Sciences takes a grassroots approach to connecting families with STEM resources.



**“While the decline in STEM education is a threat to the national economy, it becomes an even larger threat to local economies such as Clayton and the surrounding counties whose sustainability and growth largely depend on local talent,”** Bailey says.



CIMS partners with the College of Arts and Sciences to host the University for Parents and Students program each year. The event brings families from Clayton County middle schools to learn about Clayton State. While parents attend workshops on financial aid and admissions, students participate in hands-on workshops in areas of biology, chemistry, math and computer science.

“This is an important experience for both parents and students as so many of our students are first generation college students, and being “in the trees,” surprisingly few local families are aware CSU is in their backyard,” Bailey says of the University’s outreach efforts.

Bailey added a component of the University’s academic service program, Partnering Academics and Community Engagement (PACE), to his University Foundations class to create mentorships with local middle school’s robotics teams.

Bailey says the FIRST LEGO League robotics competition and Clayton State’s other efforts to increase youth engagement in STEM will continue to flourish in Clayton County.

“My vision is not only to spread FIRST LEGO League to every middle school in Clayton County, but to see robotics programs in every high school in Clayton County,” he says.





# Strategic Plan 2022

**Positioning the University for continued success during a period of dramatic change in higher education**





*“For us, this strategic plan is not a mere exercise. It speaks to the heart and soul of our dynamic culture. It represents what we stand for and how we approach our work to promote learning and student success.”*

*~President Thomas J. Hynes Jr.*



## **Vision, Mission, Values**

---

### **Vision**

To become a national model for university-based community engagement and for equipping students with the knowledge, skills and motivations for learning and success.

### **Mission**

Through teaching, scholarship and service, we provide an environment of experience-based learning, enriched by active community engagement, that prepares an increasing number of students from all walks of life to succeed in a diverse society.

### **Core Values**

Excellence, Collegiality, Innovation, Integrity, Transparency



## **Strategic Priorities**

---

1. Increase enrollment, retention and graduation rates.
2. Increase external funding.
3. Build brand through community engagement and program development focused on career preparation and success.
4. Promote the brand through an integrated marketing communication program.
5. Advance innovation in experiential teaching styles, methods of delivery and research.
6. Continue investing in infrastructure improvements.

[www.clayton.edu/strategic-plan-2022](http://www.clayton.edu/strategic-plan-2022)





# JUST BREATHE





## A new metabolic cart is helping students and researchers see how a person's fitness level measures up

By Kelly Petty

It's common knowledge that when you move you consume oxygen. And when you move fast, your heart rate and blood pressure rises.

But what if those factors can be measured to help a person lose weight, improve the cardiovascular system of a post-operative heart patient or push a world-class athlete to reach their peak performance?

That's where a metabolic cart becomes useful.

A metabolic cart is a device that measures the maximum oxygen output of an individual while engaged in intense exercise. Users are outfitted with an oxygen mask and step onto a treadmill that is attached to a computer to capture data.

As the incline and speed is increased on the treadmill, the computer records oxygen and carbon dioxide levels, heart rate and blood pressure. Test subjects are pushed to their limit to measure their maximum oxygen consumption, known as VO<sub>2</sub>max, to determine their cardio-respiratory fitness.

**"My coach bases his workouts on heart rate, so this correlates directly with what we've done with our training," says T.J. Witherspoon, an HFM student who runs track and cross country.**

"If you have a high VO<sub>2</sub>max number, it means the less chance of cardiovascular disease; it is a good indicator," says Dr. Harry Chung, assistant professor of Health and Fitness Management at Clayton State University. "And based on that VO<sub>2</sub>max, you can make exercise programs."

The Health and Fitness Management (HFM) department in the College of Arts and Sciences acquired a metabolic cart in early 2015 and started using it in class this year. Students test the machine and conduct classroom research as part of their coursework. The cart is also supplemented with an electromyograph (EMG) to evaluate electrical activity produced by the skeletal system and an electrocardiograph (ECG) to evaluate heart rhythm.





Chung says the metabolic cart is especially helpful for college athletics programs to assist strength and conditioning coaches with developing scientific-based fitness programs instead of making educated guesses on student-athlete training and performance.

"Say, for instance, we have a new coach who has a new athletic program and wants to prove if it works. We can measure an athlete's VO<sub>2</sub>max before the program, then wait 8 weeks for them to test the program and then come back and measure again to see if the VO<sub>2</sub>max improves," Chung says.

An increased VO<sub>2</sub>max means the program is working, Chung added, while no improvement let's a coach know the program is no good.

"So you can't just say this program is awesome and it works for me," Chung added. "It works for you, but not for your students."

Student-athletes from various sports at Clayton State have used the metabolic cart.

"My coach bases his workouts on heart rate, so this correlates directly with what we've done with our training," says T.J. Witherspoon, an HFM student who runs track and cross country.

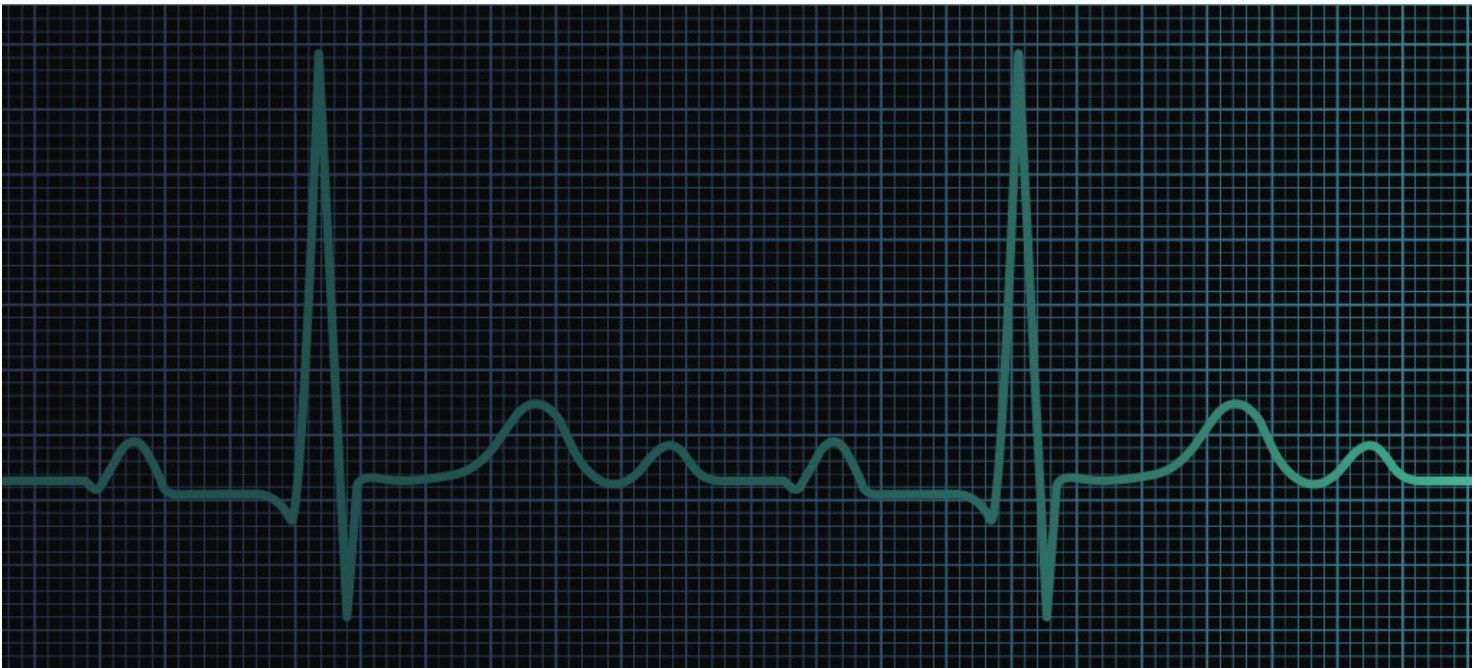
Nouri Moore, a former student-athlete studying Health and Fitness Management, says the metabolic cart can help athletes gauge their own speed.

"Your coach can tell you anything, but everyone is different when you run," she says. "Knowing your full maximal speed that you can use and how to use it when you're running, helps you not burn out faster, you can run longer and your muscles will be healthier."

**"A lot of organizations and doctors advise you to exercise if you have heart problems," Chung says. "If you want to see your heart and lung function—cardiopulmonary—this machine can test that."**

Chung says outside of fitness and athletics, the students he trains can become certified exercise specialists that can work in hospitals. The metabolic cart can collect data for 20 to 30 different measures in addition to VO<sub>2</sub>max.

Hospitals conduct stress tests on patients, for example and can test heart function for a patient during therapy after a surgical operation. The metabolic cart, Chung says, makes it a valuable piece of equipment that can be used for a variety of conditions on all kinds of people.





"A lot of organizations and doctors advise you to exercise if you have heart problems," he says. "If you want to see your heart and lung function—cardiopulmonary—this machine can test that."

Chung is conducting his own research using the metabolic cart to examine oxygen consumption and muscle activity in the general population to measure how much energy is expended for muscle and oxygen.

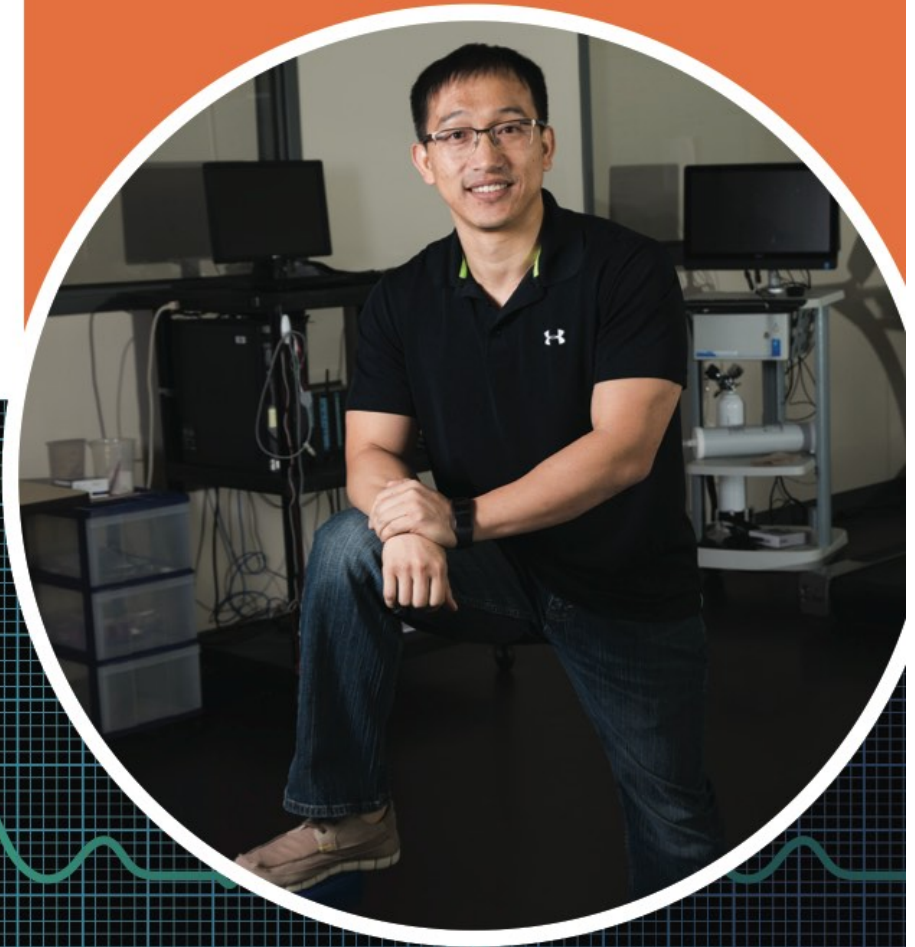
"Numerous studies have reported that the self-selected locomotive pace in humans is that at which the most efficient energy cost can be maintained," Chung explains. "Above or below this naturally selected gait length at a particular speed, the energy cost increases, resulting in a U-shape energy cost curve."

Chung's hopes to determine whether training individuals to increase their optimal walking speed and change their stride length can affect energy efficiency, heart rate and muscle activity. The study could offer insight into developing better training programs to improve walking.

## About Dr. Hae Ryong "Harry" Chung

Hae Ryong Chung is an assistant professor in the Health and Fitness management program. He holds a PhD in Exercise Physiology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Before he came to the U.S., Chung completed a master's degree in exercise physiology at Kookmin University and a bachelor's degree in chemistry at Chungnam National University in his native South Korea.

His PhD research has included two distinct areas: clinical research with dialysis patients and laboratory work with animal models. He has a wide range of experience in the health and fitness industry, ranging from personal or group training and gym management to clinical exercise prescription.







# SAVING *the* EASTERN BOX TURTLE

By Maritza E. Ferreira

Pinch set out to do what few of her friends have ever done. The goal was set. Journey from the top of the ridge, down to the stream, cross over the creek and reach the grassy landing in the woods. Along the way, she survived heavy rains and encountered dangerous predators such as snakes, dogs, birds, raccoons, cats and humans. Her counterparts will typically travel within a ten-foot range in a two-week time period. Yet, in the same amount of time, Pinch travelled an impressive quarter-mile.

Pinch, an Eastern box turtle, was affectionately named by Dr. Diane Day, professor of biology in the College of Arts and Sciences. Day shared it was likely that as Pinch was growing, something had been wrapped around her such as plastic packaging from a six-pack of soda cans. This may have caused the “pinched” area on her shell.

Day’s interest in turtles started early on when she lived near a wooded area where she would find them and bring them home as a child. As an accomplished researcher, she has dedicated much of her investigation to the box turtle.

Like Pinch, Day is on her own journey—a mission to save the box turtles.

## An ancient species

Turtles are one of the oldest reptile groups, more ancient than snakes or crocodilians, and many species are highly endangered. Box turtles, of the genus *Terrapene carolina carolina*, are native to North America and are known for their dome-shaped, carapace-patterned shells that are yellow and orange in color. They are not endangered, however the species is classified as vulnerable.



"I was fascinated with the fact that they carry their homes on their backs. They have been around for over 260 million years virtually unchanged," Day says. "Which means they have the perfect form—or had the perfect form until humans came along. They are so great. They have changed so little over millions and millions of years."

## Biomonitoring the environment

Partnering with the Southern Conservation Trust, a community land trust in Fayette County, Georgia, Day has spent nearly five years researching this protected species and how to preserve their population.

"Turtles represent the health of the environment. They're considered an indicator species. So if they are doing well and maintaining their population or their population is growing, then we know we have a healthy environment. But when we start seeing declines in their numbers, then we have a problem."

As an indicator species, box turtles have the ability to biomonitor their environments, a biological measure of environmental impact.

"Diseases typically don't really bother them. They can survive infections that most animals can't," Day explains. "So they have a very good immune system. If they are disappearing in numbers then that means that other animals are probably disappearing as well."

## Collaborative research

Working with her students, Day collects DNA to understand relationships between the turtles and to investigate why approximately 34 percent of the turtles collected have pitting on their shells. It is unclear what the reason for this is, whether it is a virus, a bacteria or a mutation.

To track the turtles, their shells are marked with a unique code so they can be distinguished from other turtles. Radio transmitters are also attached so researchers can find their exact GPS coordinates even if they are hibernating. Some have been tracked for up to eight years now.

Shaneil Johnson is also a self-proclaimed turtle enthusiast and biology major at Clayton State. She works with Day collecting and duplicating DNA to find relationships between the turtles. Johnson has dreams of pursuing her masters in biomedical sciences after graduation and eventually working in a forensics lab. She believes her experience researching the box turtles will contribute to her future success.

"I am learning a lot with this research," says Johnson. "I didn't really know about their home range or how you could tell they were related. I thought [their home range] would be just a small area. People think that turtles are so slow but they do travel a lot."

## Progress with each small step

In her efforts to preserve the box turtles, Day has also launched a head start program. Hatchlings are cared for and kept for two to three years until their shells are hard enough so that most predators can't eat them. Then they are released in a two-phase process.

The soft release is where they are in a pen so they can become acclimated to the environment and then they are released into the wild. This helps to increase their chances for survival.

"Donations can be made to support the head start program," says Day. "They are tax deductible and any level of support is greatly appreciated."

Day's work to save the Eastern box turtle is far from finished, but as they say—slow and steady wins the race.

**“I was fascinated with the fact that they carry their homes on their backs. They have been around for over 260 million years virtually unchanged.”**

*- Dr. Diane Day, biology professor*







The Port of Savannah



# GEORGIA

## takes position as global supply chain leader

By Kelly Petty

Supply chain and logistics. It's not the flashiest phrase in the book, but it's all around us.

That shirt you're wearing? The food on your plate? Yep, that's all made possible by supply chain and logistics.

So what is this invisible profession that industry titans rely on to get their goods and services in the hands of customers?

Simply put, supply chain is the strategic part of sourcing to consumption. Logistics are all the functions—planes, trains, ships and trucks—associated with the movement and storage of a manufactured or purchased product.

With \$1.48 trillion spent on the transportation and logistics industry alone in 2015 and representing 8 percent of annual gross domestic product according to the International Trade Administration, supply chain is big business.

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**“As a result, an increase in the number of analytic and technology jobs generated by the logistics and supply chain industry will also experience growth over the foreseeable future,” Lake says.**

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“Think of it as an umbrella. The handle, the mechanism and the spokes is logistics; the foundation of what we need to do to make it function,” says John Mascariolo, professor and founder of Clayton State University's Center for Supply Chain. “The fabric of the umbrella is the strategic management of the entire supply chain. It includes manufacturing, procurement, forecasting, marketing and, of course, logistics. The two have to work together to have a successful supply chain.”

Now more than ever, supply chain and logistics is booming with demand for talent that can support the delivery of goods and services to customers. Fortune Magazine reports that 1.4 million new supply chain workers will be needed to fill jobs by 2018.

Sandy Lake, associate director of the Georgia Center of Innovation for Logistics, says a robust workforce is needed to fill jobs related to the actual movement of goods via transportation and warehousing.

“We need more truck drivers, pickers, packers, warehouse workers, forklift drivers, etc.,” Lake explains. “Attracting and retaining drivers and frontline warehouse workers continues to be a pinch point nationally that is not easily resolved.”

At the same time, there is a critical need for behind-the-scenes professionals who can navigate the e-commerce sector in business and seamlessly merge the information supply chain with the physical supply chain, Lake says.

“As a result, an increase in the number of analytic and technology jobs generated by the logistics and supply chain industry will also experience growth over the foreseeable future,” she adds.

### Georgia leads as global supply chain player in the southeast

The Peach state has rapidly positioned itself in the southeast region for its strong, business-friendly economy.

Atlanta is home to several major Fortune 500 companies, among them, The Coca-Cola Co., Home Depot, Delta Air Lines that distinguish the city as a hotbed for economic growth.

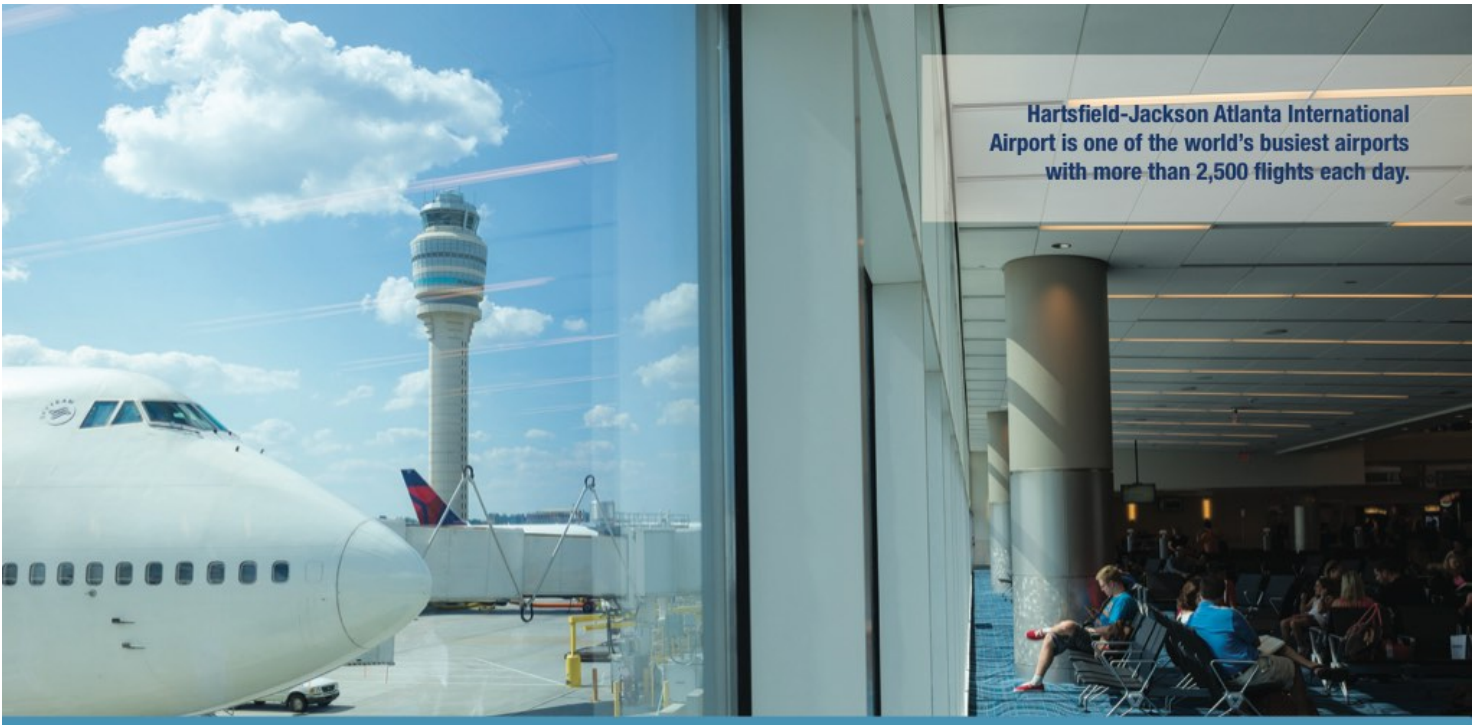
These companies count on the state's logistics infrastructure and services to manage and haul more than \$900 billion worth of cargo each year, according to the Georgia Center of Innovation for Logistics, a business resource center under the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

The state has ranked number one for the last four years for business by Site Selection magazine. It has also top the list in the last three years for business and labor climate by Area Development magazine.

Lake points to several factors that put Georgia ahead of other states as a global competitor in supply chain and logistics.

The state maintains more than 21,000 interstate, state





and federal highways. Georgia boasts the largest railroad network in the Southeast, with more than 4,600 miles of track. CSX and Norfolk Southern call Georgia home as the states two designated Class I rail carriers.

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport continues to be named the world's busiest airport with an average of 250,000 passengers departing flights daily. It also is the 10th largest airport in the U.S. for cargo.

The Port of Savannah Authority heralds as one of the world's top shipping stops for products coming in and out of the U.S.

Operated by the Georgia Ports Authority, it is the fastest growing container port and 4th busiest in the U.S. The port's Garden City Terminal is the largest single container terminal in North America, covering 1,200 acres—the equivalent of 913 football fields.

The Georgia Ports Authority announced in September of 2016 a new \$128 million freight rail expansion project to link the Garden City Terminal's two rail yards.

The infrastructure project will allow 10,000-foot-long trains to ship containers to major U.S. cities including Memphis, Chicago St. Louis and the Ohio Valley, according to the Atlanta Business Chronicle.

The project will be partially funded by a \$44 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

If Supply chain and logistics is the "Circle of Life" for products to get from the supplier to the customer efficiently and at a low cost, then supply chain managers are mavens that keep it all together.

"Can commerce work without the truck? The answer is no," Mascariolo says. "The truck is the only mode of transportation that comes to your door. It is the last mile of the pick-up and delivery process. We're working while you're sleeping." For the past 10 years, Clayton State University's College of Business has worked to develop those next-generation leaders who will shape supply chain and logistics.

## Clayton State prepares students for the ground floor of supply chain

Vermeka Martin had always seen herself in the business profession, but was unsure of what role she wanted to assume. The fall 2016 graduate of Clayton State University had been attending the campus on and off since 2003, between working at Bank of America and earning her associate's degree from Georgia Military College.

But it was hearing Mascariolo speak at the Jim Woods Speakers Series hosted by the College of Business that solidified her decision to study supply chain.

"The event was an alumni panel and I liked the interest Professor M. had in his students," Martin recalls. "I said, 'This guy is so passionate. I've got to get to know him.'"

Soon Martin found herself in Mascariolo's classroom learning the basics of supply chain. Not long after, she landed her first supply chain job with third-party logistics company C.H. Robinson, beating out 50 other applicants.

Martin's rapid success in the industry is what sets Clayton State's supply chain management program apart from



others in Georgia. The emphasis on foundational knowledge puts students in a position to develop their career from the bottom-up at a company in order to retain their job and get promoted.

"We focus more on the tactical level of supply chain and we prepare our students to go out into the workforce in lower-level management," says Dr. Craig Hill, professor of supply chain management and the Charles S. Conklin Endowed Chair. "I'm trying to expose them to a broad supply chain understanding so when they get into the industry, they're not surprised by what a company tells them."

Students in both the undergraduate degree and master's concentration are introduced to the principles of supply chain management, operations and warehousing, as well as transportation and logistics.

Courses in marketing, market research and analysis, global sourcing and finance issues, along with real-world assignments, help to develop well-rounded graduates who can enter any business career, whether it be supply chain or another industry.

"That's where the students get excited," Mascariolo says. "No matter where they enter they can go anywhere they want. They can go as high as they want to and can find any career they want. No other industry does that."

Mascariolo, along with former professor Dr. James S. Keebler, built the supply chain management program from a two-course concentration into a minor about seven years ago. By 2010, the College of Business launched a full-fledged 120 semester hour major in supply chain management.

The program has a mixture of international students, ex-military personnel and a high percentage of female students who all find the supply chain industry most fitting for their desired career pathways.

Students have earned internships and found employment with major companies including Georgia Pacific, Kuehne & Nagel, UPS and DHL.

"The big schools, in my opinion, are not teaching the basics," Mascariolo says. "They don't teach how to run a warehouse or how to procure a product. These two subjects have gotten students jobs."

The supply chain management program continues to see greater enrollment as it launches a fully-online degree and minor course of study to offer a convenient option for students.

## Technology, diversity shape future of supply chain industry

Many companies are beginning to see the value of a diverse talent pool that can bring new perspectives to an industry that is wholly international.

Letitia Motley '12 found that to be the case.

Motley had been working for UPS as a customer service representative for several years by the time she enrolled at Clayton State University for supply chain management.

## Center for Supply Chain Management

The Center for Supply Chain Management is Clayton State's answer to developing a connection with the industry and the Atlanta community. The Center offers supply chain and logistics companies opportunities to reach students, provide internships, as well as network and discuss industry issues.

The Center hosts an annual supply chain career fair inviting supply chain students at 10 major universities around the southeast region to meet and interview with over 35 supply chain and logistics companies in the Atlanta area. The career fair is now in its eight year and has grown from 45 students to more than 164.

The Center also hosts a Supply Chain Fellows program, which serves as a springboard for where supply chain professionals can share their experiences navigating the trends and changes in the industry.

"The Center offers a venue to facilitate programs designed by the fellows to network, interface, solve problems and talk issues," says John Mascariolo, founder of the Center for Supply Chain. "With the help of Chase Moore, Assistant Vice President for Development, presenting the Fellows Platform, we are seeing a high level of interest from major companies. This response is very encouraging to us, proving that we could fill a need for our community and industry."



John Mascariolo, professor and founder of Clayton State University's Center for Supply Chain Management



**“With clear proximity to the world’s busiest airport and one of America’s busiest ports, the College of Business has naturally focused on teaching Supply Chain and Logistics as a primary differentiator in the competitive Atlanta business education market.”** Dean Avinandan Mukherjee

By the time she graduated, Motley had been promoted at UPS to a mid-level management position before moving on to a new career at Coca-Cola. Currently, she is working at Amazon, a job she scored the same day as her interview.

Motley says the opportunities for women and minorities continues to grow in the supply chain management and logistics sector.

“Transportation is definitely male-dominated, but I have seen a shift in diversity in this space,” she says. “I remember going to meetings at a customer’s site and being the only female and African American in the room. [Now] more women are interested in transportation; more women are interested in supply chain.”

Martin, who started a new career at Georgia Pacific in January, agrees.

“I think companies have come to realize that women increase revenue, profit and build better relationships with vendors, suppliers and customers because we care,” she says. “Put us in any role and we can execute well.”

Beyond diversity, digital technology is carrying the supply chain and logistics industry into the future as mobile devices and automation outpace traditional methods of communication and data gathering.

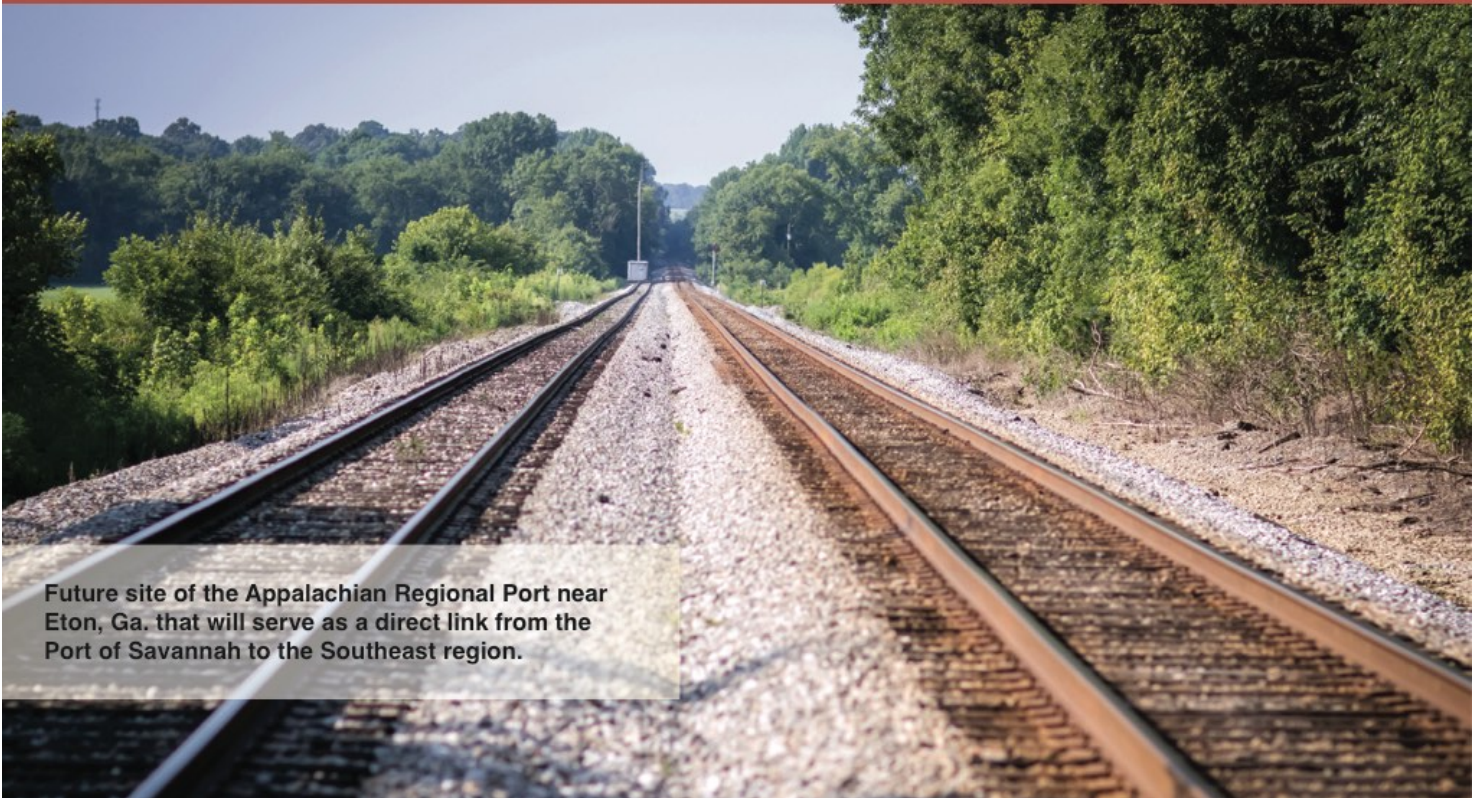
“Technology is enabling the industry to generate and collect data from a multitude of sources in real time and in unprecedented volume,” Lake says. “Information about the freight is more valuable than the freight itself because it enables the integration and harmonization between the physical, talent, financial and information supply chains leading to greater visibility and collaboration among supply chain partners than ever before.”

Lake says cloud computing and technology that is mobile, wearable, reliable and rapid continues to make flow improvements in the supply chain and make regulation compliance more efficient.

Robotic and autonomous technologies, Lake adds, are also filling gaps produced by talent shortages in repetitive and less desirable occupations.

That could also mean driverless trucks could be on the road in the future if safety and security provisions are met at the public policy and regulatory level, Lake contends.

“Growing urbanization and population density are also fostering growth in alternative methods and strategies for managing last mile delivery in congested population centers and an increasingly connected e-commerce environment,” she says.



**Future site of the Appalachian Regional Port near Eton, Ga. that will serve as a direct link from the Port of Savannah to the Southeast region.**



# AIR

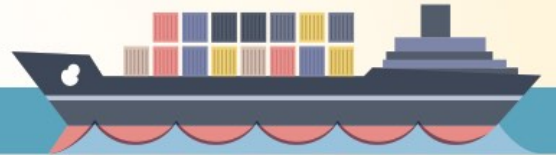


More than **80%** of U.S. consumers are within a 2 hour flight time from Atlanta

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) is the world's most traveled passenger airport, with **2,500 arrivals** and departures of **250,000 passengers** per day

ATL is the **10th** largest airport in the U.S. for cargo, and **31st** in the world

# OCEAN



The Port of Savannah is the fastest growing container port and is the **4th busiest port in the U.S.**

Georgia Ports Authority's Garden City Terminal (Savannah) is the largest single container terminal in North America, it covers **1,200 acres**, the equivalent of **913** football fields

The Port of Brunswick is **#1** for new auto imports in the U.S.

The Port of Savannah handles nearly **40%** of the nation's containerized poultry exports and is **#1** for refrigerated exports on the East and Gulf Coasts

# ROAD



Georgia is within **2** or fewer days by truck from **80%** of U.S. consumers

Georgia maintains **1,200 miles** of interstate highways and **20,000 miles** of state and federal highways

Georgia is ranked **9th** nationally with nearly **450,000** commercially licensed GA truck drivers

Georgia issues **51%** of all the CDL certificates in the Southeast, and **1 out of every 8** nationally

# RAIL



Georgia has **26** freight railroads - **2** Class 1 Railroads (CSX and Norfolk Southern) and **24** short lines

Georgia is home to the **largest** intermodal facility on the East Coast

Georgia has the largest railroad network in the Southeast, with more than **4,600 miles** of track

# TECHNOLOGY



Metro Atlanta is the **6th** largest information industry employer in the U.S. with the **3rd** fastest growth projected over the next **10** years

More than **2,700** IT post-secondary degrees granted annually in Georgia.



# Next-generation leaders make their mark on campus

By Erin Fender

From the moment Nicholas Collins stepped onto Clayton State's campus, he quickly got involved in student organizations setting himself apart from his peers as an active leader.

Collins started out as president of Laker Hall Council in 2014. He has since served as student director of the Freshman Leadership and Involvement Program, as well as team lead for the Laker Orientation Leaders Team. He's also heavily involved in Greek Life at Clayton State as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



"As a high school student, I was immensely involved and wanted to ensure that I continued the same path during my college years," Collins says. "My passion for making a difference led me to becoming involved."

Like Collins, many college students find that universities serve as incubators for developing the next-generation of leaders that will impact their communities.

Through extracurricular activities, athletics, community service opportunities, students can network with like-minded individuals, while gaining soft skills they can use in their careers.

"Our students are eager to learn and engage in activities that will help them be more successful, learn skills and knowledge to advance their careers, and improve themselves," says Dr. Elaine Manglitz, vice president of Student Affairs.

From the moment students are welcomed at orientation by a team of spirited blue and orange clad orientation leaders, they are encouraged to get involved on campus. They hear from their peers as well as staff about the many opportunities to be involved and get connected to their University.





At students fingertips are more than 80 clubs and organizations offering a myriad of activities including community service, science, math and even drama. However different the groups are, students find that they acquire leadership skills that can be applied in real-world situations.

"Time management, organization and responsibility are all useful skills for any job or task and this has helped me with learning various

Campus Events Council, and president of the We Are O.N.E. Interfaith Council.

"Taking on leadership roles has motivated me academically because I keep myself accountable and organized in making sure my academic life is up to par with my organizational and leadership life," Kekula says. "It has help me become more professional in the way I present myself and my organizations."

**Push yourself and climb out of your comfort zone to really realize your true potential, and you will find out that the leader in you is bigger than you ever dreamed," Kekula says.**

things that I will be able to practice post-graduation," Collins says.

Employers seek well-rounded individuals who can think creatively and innovate in their roles to meet a company's goals. Verbal communication skills ranks most important, followed by teamwork and an ability to make decisions and solve problems, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers Job Outlook 2016 survey.

"While employers typically look first for evidence that the candidate has the requisite knowledge to perform a job and has some level of proficiency—often indicated by major and GPA for new college graduates—they also seek key skills that enable workers to use their knowledge effectively in the workplace," says Bridgette McDonald, director of Career Services at Clayton State.

Senior Ashley Kekula has found that through student leadership roles she has learned how to work with diverse groups of people that she says is essential to her career aspirations.

Kekula, a communications and media studies major, serves as an AmeriCorps leader, vice-president for the

Challenges, at times are inevitable, but how student leaders find solutions to problems is what makes them stand out.

Collins says the best leaders are able to employ communication and problem solving skills to work within an organization of diverse people.

"There have been many times that I have encountered conflicts with members of my organizations due to disagreements, roadblocks that have altered a plan of action," he says. "It is important to come to a consensus about what will allow the work to get done and what will drive the organization forward. Challenges cannot be avoided, but the way they are dealt with can be crafty and help to reconcile any issues that may arise."

Kekula says future Lakers who want to become leaders must get involved and be proactive in learning about Clayton State to have a rewarding experience.

"Push yourself and climb out of your comfort zone to really realize your true potential, and you will find out that the leader in you is bigger than you ever dreamed," she says.

# 4 skills employers look for in job candidates

Bridgette McDonald, Clayton State University's director of Career Services, offers four ways you can stand out in an interview or at work by knowing what qualities employers are looking for.

## 1 Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside & outside the organization

"Most employers have customers. And an effective communicator is going to be a good motivator and a good seller for whatever product they have. If you can hire someone who can effectively articulate business, that means the organization is going to win."

## 2 Ability to work in a team structure

"If employers can find students that can build collaborative relationships inside and outside of the organization, then they're able to negotiate and manage all types of conflict that may arise. Employers see that as another value added."

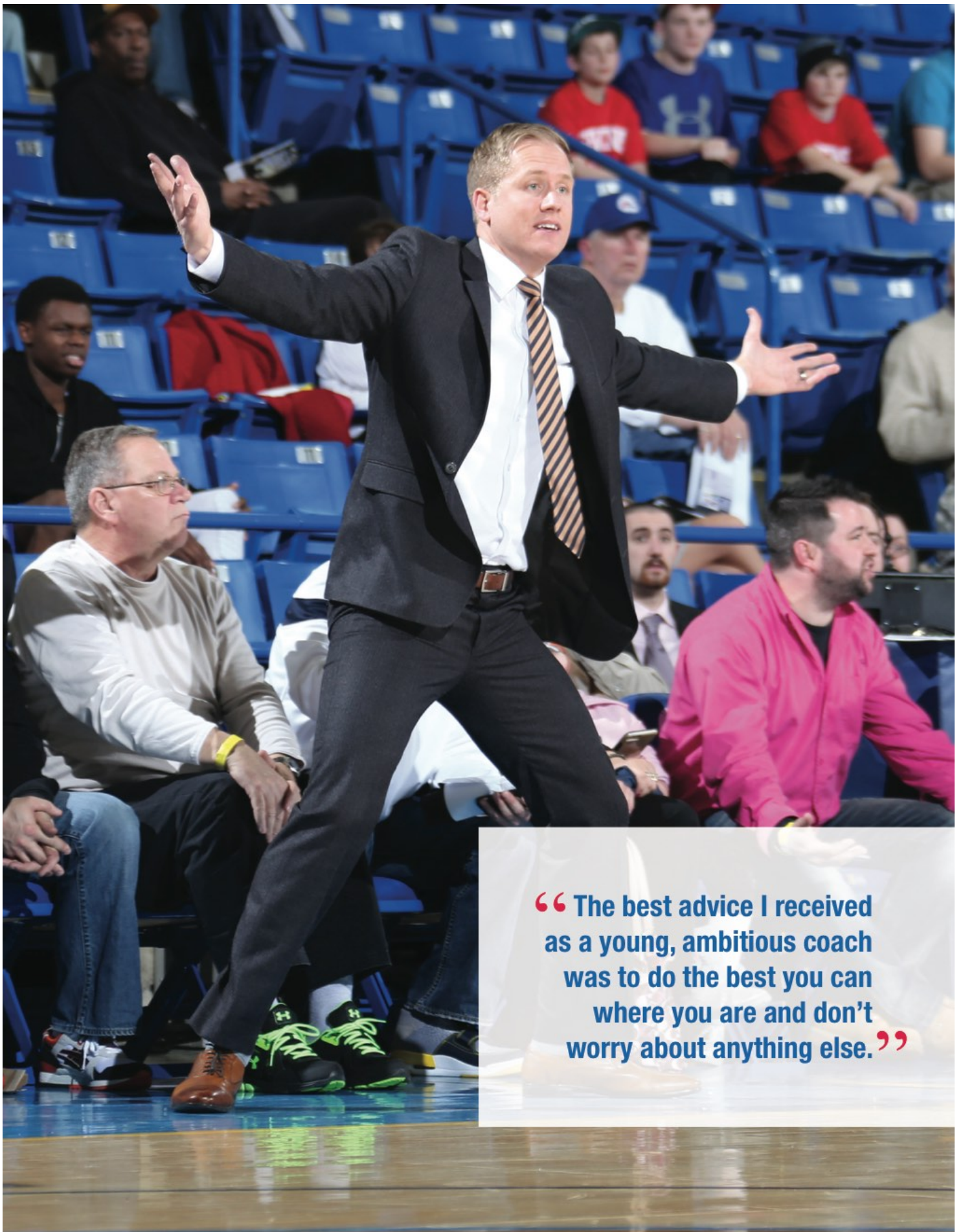
## 3 Ability to plan, organize and prioritize work

"Employers want to hire people who can manage a workload without feeling overwhelmed."

## 4 Ability to obtain and process information

"Employers look for someone who can take initiative and go find the information to get the job done, instead of waiting on someone else to do it."





**“ The best advice I received as a young, ambitious coach was to do the best you can where you are and don't worry about anything else. ”**





# In the Paint

Kevin Young '04, takes center court as assistant coach for the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers

By Josh Darling

**O**n August 4, 2016, former Clayton State men's basketball player Kevin Young became what is believed to be the first Laker to reach the National Basketball Association when he was named an assistant coach for the Philadelphia 76ers.

Young played for the Lakers from 2002-04, seeing action in 59 games and averaging 7.1 points, 3.4 assists, 1.5 steals and 2.5 rebounds. He currently has four marks within the program's all-time Top-10 records, including single season marks of 55 steals and a 1.8 steals per game average in 2002-03 and career marks of 3.3 assists per game and 197 total assists.

Since then he has worked his way up the coaching ladder with stops at Utah Valley University and throughout the NBA's Developmental League. In the D-League, he was an assistant for the Utah Flash (2007-11), head coach of the Iowa Energy (2011-13) and held several roles with the Delaware 87ers (2013-16), the last two years of which were as head coach.

Now, nearly half a year into his job at the NBA level, [www.ClaytonStateSports.com](http://www.ClaytonStateSports.com) caught up with the former Laker point guard to get his perspective on working at the highest level of basketball, how he got there and what advice he would give to those trying to follow in his footsteps.

**CLAYTONSTATESPORTS.COM:** Working your way up through the ranks (junior college, Division II, D-League), what have you learned along the way that has been most helpful by taking that path? Most challenging?

**KEVIN YOUNG:** I've been fortunate to work with a lot of very good coaches and coach against a lot of very good coaches throughout my career at all levels. I've taken things from each one of them along the way. I've learned that there are many, many different ways to do things. I think the key things I've learned are to find what you believe in as a coach and run with that, don't over complicate things and learn how to communicate with players.





The most challenging aspect was certainly my time as a head coach in the D-League. There are so many difficult things to deal with on almost a daily basis in that league - travel, roster turnover, budget, etc. That said, I wouldn't change any of those experiences for anything. It made me a better coach, figuring out ways to problem solve and put my teams and players in situations to succeed regardless of all the different challenges.

**CLAYTONSTATESPORTS.COM:** What advice would you give to someone facing a similar path but with the desire to advance to the highest professional ranks? Have you connected with any other coaches that have taken a similar path as yours?

**KEVIN YOUNG:** The best advice I received as a young, ambitious coach was to do the best you can where you are and don't worry about anything else. I took that advice to heart and have always tried to immerse myself in the task at hand wherever I found myself coaching. That can be a challenging thing, especially in the D-League when you see so many coaches, players and management types moving on to the next level. That is what I would say to anyone trying to move up the ranks: Get lost in trying to do the best you can where you are and let opportunities find you. Surprisingly, there are a lot of coaches in the NBA that have taken unconventional paths to get there.

**CLAYTONSTATESPORTS.COM:** Having reached the NBA, what do your career aspirations look like now and was it always your goal to coach in the NBA?

**KEVIN YOUNG:** I always wanted to be a high school PE teacher and coach. My high school coach, Roger Kvam, had a major influence on me. Once I got to college and built relationships with my college coaches, I thought maybe I would try to coach in college. As I moved through my career, I got lucky with some opportunities and tried to make the most of them. Once I found myself coaching in the D-League and had some early success as a head coach in that league, it gave me confidence as a

### About the Philadelphia 76ers and the 2016-17 Campaign

One of the youngest teams in the NBA, Philadelphia features some of the top young players in the game, including four Top-10 picks since 2013. That group includes Joel Embiid (No. 3 in 2014), Nerlens Noel (No. 6 in 2013), Jahlil Okafor (No. 3 in 2015) and Ben Simmons (No. 1 in 2016).

Under the direction of a coaching staff that includes former Laker Kevin Young, the Sixers have already surpassed their win total from all of last year through the first 36 games of the 2016-17 season.





coach and that's when I started thinking I wanted to really try to get into the NBA. Now that I am in the NBA, I would ultimately love to be a head coach in this league down the road. That said, I absolutely love what I'm doing as an assistant for Coach [Brett] Brown and am indebted to him for the opportunity. I am learning so much about the NBA every day. It's a whole new world at this level.

**CLAYTONSTATESPORTS.COM:** What do you remember most about your time at Clayton State?

**KEVIN YOUNG:** I remember how much I enjoyed my teammates and coaches during my time at Clayton State. Coach Gibbons and Cory Baldwin were the reason I decided to go to Clayton State and I learned so much from them. I still talk to many of those guys. In fact, we were in town playing the Hawks earlier this season and I had several people from Clayton State come to the game to support me. That really meant a lot to me.

**CLAYTONSTATESPORTS.COM:** In just several months on the job at the NBA level, what differences have you seen from college and the D-League (operations, travel, coaching, level of play etc.)?

**KEVIN YOUNG:** The biggest difference I've seen in the NBA versus other levels I've been at is the star players. In the first few months of the season, I've unfortunately learned firsthand just how talented the superstars in this league are. We've had a lot of close games against good teams, and guys like [Russell] Westbrook, LeBron [James], Kyrie [Irving] and Paul George can just take over games in crunch time. It's also been interesting to see the creative coaching minds in the NBA. I've been able to learn a ton in this short time thus far.

Of course, the size of the operation at this level is much larger than other places I've coached at. The travel is much more frequent, but the mode of travel is obviously nice with the private planes and the hotels.

## Clayton State Men's Basketball Coaching Tree

Not only have Clayton State men's basketball players succeeded on the court during their careers as Lakers, a number have gone on to coach at some of the highest levels of professional and college basketball. Below is a list of just some of the individuals who have gone on to a productive coaching career. The list shows their current position, each coaching stop along the way and when they played for Clayton State.

### Kevin Young, Philadelphia 76ers (National Basketball Association) Assistant Coach (2016-Present)

- Delaware 87ers (NBA D-League), Head Coach (2014-16)
- Delaware 87ers (NBA D-League), Assistant Coach (2013-14)
- Iowa Energy (NBA D-League), Head Coach (2011-13)
- Utah Flash (NBA D-League), Head Coach (2010-11)
- Utah Flash (NBA D-League), Assistant Coach (2007-10)
- Utah Valley University, Assistant Coach (2005-06)
- Oxford College of Emory, Assistant Coach (2004-05)
- Clayton State Guard (2002-04)

### Stephen Cox, Kennesaw State Assistant Coach (2015-Present)

- Thomas University Head Coach (2013-15)
- Georgia Southwestern Assistant Coach (2010-13)
- Savannah State Assistant Coach (2008-09)
- Mercer Assistant Coach (2007-08)
- Santa Fe Community College Assistant Coach (2004-07)
- Clayton State Forward/Center (2002-04)

### Jay Gibbons, South Carolina Director of Men's Basketball Video Services (2015-Present)

- Savannah State Assistant Coach (2005-15)
- Georgia Southwestern State Assistant Coach (2003-05)
- Clayton State Graduate Assistant Coach (2002-03)
- Clayton State Guard (2001-02)

### Cory Baldwin, South Georgia State Head Coach (2009-Present)

- Cartersville Warriors (World Basketball Association) Head Coach (2008-09)
- Truett-McConnell Head Coach (2005-08)
- Clayton State Assistant Coach (1999-2000)
- Clayton State Guard (1995-99)

### Tony Dukes, Louisville Women's Basketball Graduate Manager (2015-Present)

- BBALL 101/Dorian Lee - Player Development Coach (2013-Present)
- Clayton State Guard (2011-13)



# CAMPUS **UPDATES**

## President Tim Hynes named one of 100 Most Influential Georgians

University President Dr. Tim Hynes was named one of 100 Most Influential Georgians of 2017 by Georgia Trend magazine. This year's list focuses on notable Georgians who wield power—those who display leadership and influence everyday citizens. This is the third time Dr. Hynes has been named to the list.



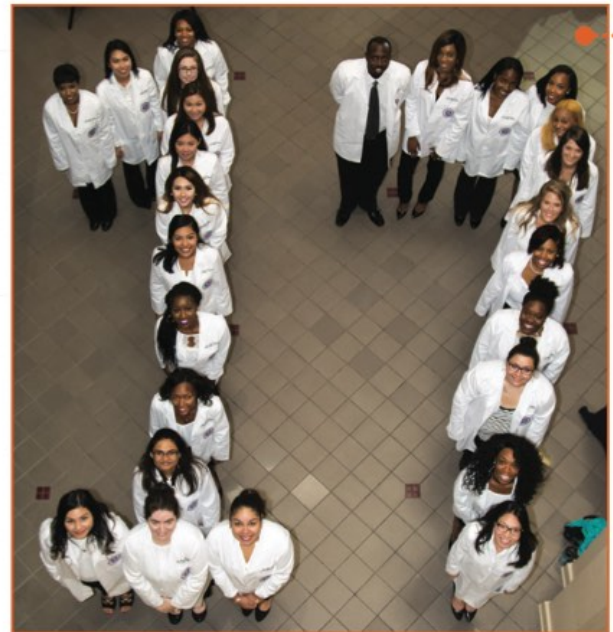
## Clayton State wins \$5 million grant to help African-American students

Clayton State University announced it has received a \$4.8 million, 5-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support the retention and graduation rates for the institution's African-American student population.

The University will use its grant to develop the Laker Bridge to Completion Program, a multi-part program that combines tutoring, mentoring, internships, scholarships, professional development and online curriculum to ensure students stay on track toward graduation.

## Dental hygiene students take first steps in career at ninth annual white coat ceremony

More than 50 students recently marked their commitment to the dental profession and took the first step toward the start of their career. Clayton State's Department of Dental Hygiene held its ninth annual white coat ceremony on Aug. 15. During the ceremony, 28 juniors and 27 seniors received their white coats. The coat for the seniors also included a dental hygiene emblem.



## Former Clayton State basketball player earns 4th place in hotdog eating competition

Former Clayton State University basketball player turned professional eater Gideon Oji competed in the Super Bowl of eating competitions over the July Fourth weekend — the 2016 Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest in Coney Island, N.Y. Oji finished the competition in fourth place, eating 38 hot dogs and buns.



### Students participate in inaugural Public Safety Citizens Police Academy

On Dec. 5, Clayton State University's Department of Public Safety graduated 12 students from its inaugural Citizens Police Academy. The nine-week program offered students an inside look into law enforcement and policing. Topics ranged from use of force to active shooter response to crime scene investigations.



### GEICO employees can earn a business degree at Clayton State

The University announced in August it is now offering employees with the Government Employees Insurance Company (GEICO) the opportunity to pursue a business degree. The agreement between the University and GEICO establishes a corporate reimbursement program whereby employees can earn an undergraduate Bachelors of Business Administration degree with majors in General Business or Management at Clayton State's College of Business.

### Clayton State students meets state lawmakers during Day at the Capitol

On Jan. 10, nearly 100 students, faculty and staff visited Georgia's statehouse for Clayton State Day at the Capitol. The event gives students an opportunity to see firsthand how laws are passed and legislative decisions are made that affect the citizens of Georgia.

### In Memoriam: Dr. Harry S. Downs, founding president of Clayton State



Dr. Harry S. Downs, the founding president of Clayton Junior College, now Clayton State University, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017 at the age of 91. Through his leadership, he guided Clayton State with vision and energy during its phenomenal growth and development from 1969 through 1993, from a small junior college to a thriving four-year university.

### Clayton State University launches strategic plan

On Nov. 15, Clayton State University unveiled Strategic Plan 2022, a five-year plan to increase enrollment, graduation and retention rates, as well as make critical infrastructure investments and expand community engagement.





## CAMPUS **UPDATES**

### **In Memoriam:** Dr. Gene Hatfield, professor of History



Dr. Gene Hatfield, Professor Emeritus of History, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017 at the age of 71. Hatfield taught for 32 years at Clayton State University before retiring in 2008. He was one of the longest-serving professors who arrived at the college in its early years, and he played a major role in shaping academics within the College of Arts and Sciences.

### **Clayton State awarded drug and alcohol education grant**

In November, the Governor's Office of Highway Safety awarded Clayton State with a Young Adult Grant to continue offering drug and alcohol education programming on campus. The University has received the grant for the past six years.

### **Clayton State launches child care assistance program**

Clayton State is one of only three universities selected to partner with Quality Care for Children to receive \$1.6 million to launch BOOST, a child care assistance program to lessen the financial burden of child care costs for juniors and seniors.

### **Gene Hatfield Award winners recognized for commitment to academics, service**

The Gene Hatfield Awards, given out annually by the College of Arts and Sciences to professors who demonstrate excellence in teaching and service, were awarded to three professors. Aubrey Dyer, assistant professor of chemistry, earned the 2016-2017 Scholar of the Year Award. The College's Teacher of the Year Award was bestowed on Erica Dotson, associate professor of teacher education and French. And Michelle Furlong, department chair and professor of biology, was honored with the Gene Hatfield Award of Service.

### **VP of Auxiliary Services earns USG Service Excellence Award**



The University System of Georgia named Carolina Amero, Asst. Vice President of Auxiliary & Administrative Services, Service Excellence Ambassador of the Year as part of the Chancellor's Annual Service Excellence Awards.





**SBDC Director named top 25 women of Atlanta**

Alisa Kirk, Area Director for the UGA Small Business Development Center at Clayton State University, was named one of the top 25 women of Atlanta by Rolling Out Magazine.



**University apartments get new name**

The formerly known Clayton Station, University Housing's upperclassmen apartments, got a fresh coat of paint and a new name—Laker Village. The Department of University Housing and Residence Life unveiled Laker Village over the summer in time for the fall 2016 school year. The new name offers a seamless connection with the freshman residential facility, Laker Hall, and reflects the image of the Clayton State University community.

**Laker Service Day encourages students to build homes and character**



More than 50 Clayton State students took part in Laker Service Day in August to demonstrate the importance of giving back. The students helped sophomore Rickita Burney take one step toward completing her Habitat for Humanity Home by helping build walls and supports for the structure. Burney became the owner of her new home in November.

**Science Center earns award for construction management**

The Lakeview Science and Discovery Center earned the 2016 Project Achievement Award from the Construction Management Association of America's South Atlantic Chapter for achievement in the practice of construction management.

**Maia Kuhnen named finalist for NCAA Woman of the Year Award**



Graduate Maia Kuhnen, who had an illustrious college career as a member of the soccer, track and field and cross country teams, made history as the first Clayton State student-athlete to be named one of 30 finalists for NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

**University increases summer enrollment**

Clayton State University's summer enrollment increased by 12 percent with 3,113 students, the highest total since 2013. The University hosted 3,113 students for summer 2016, up by 12.3 percent from the previous school year. Just 2,771 students attended classes during the summer semester in the 2014-2015 school year.

**Clayton State dental hygiene program ranks #1**

Clayton State University's dental hygiene program ranks #1 in the 2017 Top Online Colleges for Dental Hygiene Degrees compiled by research publisher SR Education Group. The University was evaluated among colleges and universities nationwide on a number of factors including tuition rates, to determine which schools offer the best value for students



## CAMPUS UPDATES

### Clinical nursing professor earns national award for teaching excellence

Colleen Walters, a clinical professor in the School of Nursing, was named winner of the Clinical Novice Faculty Teaching Award by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing for excellence and innovation in the teaching of nursing.



### Clayton State ranks among top 25 Atlanta colleges for high enrollment

Clayton State University moved up in rank for high student enrollment in the newly released Atlanta Business Chronicle Book of Lists college and university rankings. The University took the 12th spot among the Atlanta Area's 25 Largest Colleges and Universities. It moved up from number 13 in the previous year.

### Clayton State nursing school earns top rankings

Clayton State University's School of Nursing was ranked #22 in the 2017 Top Online Colleges for Nurse Practitioner Degrees across the nation by research company SR Education Group. The University was recognized for offering high academic standards and a commitment to college affordability.

### University completes five-year process to establish single stream recycling program

Clayton State University completed its five-year process to become a more sustainable institution by implementing a single stream recycling system, which increases the amount of recycling on campus.

### Athletics program receives largest donation in program history

The Athletics program received a \$60,000 donation from longtime partner OrthoAtlanta Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Specialists toward the renovation of the athletic training room, the largest in program history.

### 2017 Military Advanced Education & Transition Guide to Colleges & Universities

Clayton State was chosen as a top school for offering a supportive educational environment to active service members and veterans in the 2017 Military Advanced Education & Transition Guide to Colleges & Universities.



### Clayton State hosts ex-offender career fair

The University hosted an ex-offender and returning citizens career fair in partnership with The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice and the Henry County chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta, a historically Black sorority, in September. The event carried out a federal initiative spurred by former President Barack Obama to improve criminal justice reform and reduce recidivism for those coming out of prison.

### Clayton State University College of Business ranks in top ten for high enrollment in MBA program

Clayton State University's College of Business ranked seven on the list of the top 15 business schools in metro Atlanta with the highest enrollment in the Masters of Business Administration program, according to The Atlanta Business Chronicle.





If you see Tatiana Bradley around campus, you will find that she is quite the social butterfly. But Bradley would say that it was not always the case. In fact, when she arrived at Clayton State four years ago, she described herself as a “parking lot kid.”

“I was here for knowledge, not for friends,” says Bradley. It was not until she landed her first job working in the First Year Advising and Retention Center that Bradley began to take an active role on campus and grasp every opportunity to become involved.

Gradually, she became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, president of the Fraternity and Sorority Council, resident assistant at Laker Hall and a spirited cheerleader.

These student organizations were the fuel for her to finally make new friends and take on leadership roles across campus.

Many of her peers wonder how Bradley is able to take on such a wide variety of roles on campus and maintain her sanity. According to Bradley, it all revolves around the three P’s—her personal day planner, prayer and prior preparation.

“This is what gets me through each day,” she says. Each morning Bradley recites a daily prayer. She also carries four planners—one on her phone and three physical ones—to help her stick to a schedule and remain focused. Majoring in Biology, Bradley desires to be a pharmaceutical engineer.

Her interest in science evolved at a young age because of her passion for nature. Bradley has always seen the world differently. Whether she’s analyzing food labels, identifying plants or studying wildlife, Bradley is drawn to the complexity of the environment.

“I find myself becoming a little nerd,” she says. As graduation fast approaches, Bradley says the faculty, staff and programs at Clayton State have prepared her for life after college.

Career Services, for example, taught her proper interview techniques and helped her nail a perfect elevator pitch. Campus Life and the Center for Academic Success improved her networking skills and set her on a path toward accomplishing her goals in the classroom.

Bradley says those lessons have taught her how to deal with the ins and outs of a professional career.

“I can honestly say that I am prepared for everyone’s personality that I may encounter,” she says. “The one who doesn’t do any work, the one who always has an attitude, the one who’s an over-achiever, the one who wants to be a leader—I am prepared.”

As Bradley reflects on the moment when she steps across the stage in May to accept her degree, she strives to remain a positive role model on campus. She encourages other students to let their voice be heard to make positive change at Clayton State.

“This is our university; we should become involved in it,” Bradley says.







## ERIC TACK

## StaffProfile

By Kayla Pryce

**“For us it’s helping students not only just navigate through the curriculum, but understand the decisions that can be there for you within your curriculum.”**

College students often sit and daydream about the day they will finally walk across the stage and accept their diploma. But to get there, students seek out academic advisors to guide them on their academic journey and propel them toward completing their degree.

Eric Tack, director of the Advising and Retention Center, makes every effort to create a supportive and engaging environment for students at Clayton State.

“For us it’s helping students not only just navigate through the curriculum, but understand the decisions that can be there for you within your curriculum,” says Tack.

Tack joined Clayton State in 2015 to lead efforts to improve student advisement on campus. As an advisor at Oglethorpe University, he founded their Center for Academic Success and has brought that experience to Clayton State.

One of Tack’s goals for advising was to create a more holistic support system.

“We’ve already had a very strong focus on advising here at Clayton State,” Tack says. “We’ve provided this consistent place that students can go to...and the safety net of following up and intervening is kind of the ideal world for our students.”

Tack knows what impact advising can have on student achievement. As a student at the University of Florida, his experience with advising was less personal. With a student population averaging 52,000, Tack says there were just two advisors for his college.

“I didn’t know what I was missing,” he says. “I was fortunate enough to be able to navigate the process.”

Tack says faculty can help students merge academic goals with career aspirations. This type of mentoring supports his team’s work and creates a streamlined experience that keeps students on track.

“I think what we’ve done is move toward allowing faculty to do what they do best, which is start to step into these faculty mentoring roles,” Tack says.

**“We’ve provided this consistent place that students can go to...and the safety net of following up and intervening is kind of the ideal world for our students.”**

Advisement has also shifted toward predictive analytics, whereby advisors use historical data that measures student success. The latest software allows advisors to analyze the progress of past students to quickly identify how current students are doing based on their academic performance.

“We take predictive analytics and marry them with these individual’s circumstances to best support what their trying to achieve,” says Tack.

Tack says that the work of helping students realize their dreams of obtaining a degree and heading into the workforce cannot be done alone.

The team at the Advising and Retention Center is made up of a group of people that share a common thread of wanting to support students based on who they are as individuals.

“It is not that you just centralize an advising team and magically things are going to happen,” Tack says. “We are extremely fortunate that we have highly knowledgeable, dedicated staff members that truly want our students to be successful.”



By Kelly Petty

Step into Dr. John Campbell's class, and you'll quickly find out that the study of physics is less daunting than what it appears.

"Many people think physics is really, really hard stuff and that it is really difficult," he says. "It isn't. It's clearly the simplest of all the sciences, by far the simplest."

Whether it be the crack of a bat launching a baseball across a field or a collision between automobiles, physics, the study of the nature and properties of matter and energy, is all around us.

Campbell, a professor of physics and associate dean at Clayton State, has always been attracted to science and will tell you that, in some ways, physics found him.

Growing up as a military kid, Campbell's family was stationed in Alabama when they decided to move to Missouri right after he finished high school.

At the University of Missouri's orientation to place students in different science disciplines, Campbell happened to sit in the area designated for physics students.

"I knew pretty much I wanted to be in math, or physics or chemistry," Campbell remembers. "I said, 'it's a sign.'"

After college, Campbell embarked on his first career as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army, where he served for 25 years.

His military training included basic airborne and jumpmaster courses to learn how to parachute out of military aircraft, as well as teach those skills to others.

Campbell did 10 jumps at various heights, sometimes as high as 1,200 feet.

"You're more afraid of the jumpmaster than you are afraid of jumping out," he says. "All you have to do is fall. The only tricky part is landing."

He uses the parachute landing fall to explain how the maximum force of the landing can be reduced by applying one of the principles of physics, momentum, and its change in time.

**"It is about what we can do to help students become better students," he says.**

Momentum—or to be more specific linear momentum—is the product of the mass of an object times its velocity. Mass, speed and direction are important to the concept.

"Parachutists are taught not to keep their legs rigid when they hit the ground, but to make contact with the ground along five consecutive points of their bodies so that the collision takes a longer time to occur. This reduces the maximum force they feel and reduces the probability that they get hurt," Campbell explains.

As a longtime educator—he taught at West Point and Colorado State University before coming to Clayton State—and as one of the longest-serving tenured professors at the University, Campbell says the idea of momentum might be applied to academics.

Campbell says while momentum is a decidedly scientific term, it's principles can be applied on campus over a period of time to support a strong academic environment that can empower students. It is about what we can do to help students become better students," he says





# A military veteran looks to become future leader in supply chain and logistics



**“If you didn’t hesitate to dream about something, why hesitate to do it.”**

## By Chase Moore

Monique Lopez '16 lets nothing stop her. That attitude has been ingrained in her since she was a child and has motivated how she has pursued her education and career.

It's also the reason why Lopez has found her place at Clayton State University and become a great example of scholarly excellence on campus.

Lopez's personal journey in the U.S. has spanned both coasts, beginning with her adolescent years growing up in New Jersey.

Just two weeks shy of her ninth birthday, Lopez and her family moved to the U.S. from Puerto Rico, leaving behind sandy beaches and tropical weather.

The 22-year-old supply chain management major remembers the difficulties she faced moving to America.

“For one, my siblings and I all had to be held back a grade because we didn't know English,” she recalls.

Once she picked up the language, however, she was able to skip a grade and then another as she aced her studies. She also gained confidence and joined her school's poetry and literary clubs.

By the time she turned 17, Lopez graduated high school early and quickly enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. The three-month boot camp went by quickly. Lopez, now a military veteran, eventually rose to the rank of sergeant and says the experience put into perspective the great responsibility and honor of being a member of the U.S. Armed Forces.

“I realize I have these responsibilities put on me and people expect things out of me,” she says.

After stints in South Carolina, California and North Carolina, Lopez decided to move to Georgia after hearing good things about the state from friends.

Once Lopez stepped foot onto Clayton State, the beauty of the campus and sense of community drew her in.



Lopez entered as a junior in the spring of 2016 having already obtained an associate's degree in the military. She initially had an interest in pursuing business, but found that supply chain management best fit her organizational skills and was an in-demand career field.

"I researched industries that were projected to grow, and hopefully, I can own my own company one day," Lopez says. "The world needs this profession to go round."

By July, she learned that she had been named a recipient of the Marcia Taylor Family Foundation Annual Scholarship.

The scholarship was established by Marcia Taylor, CEO of Bennett International, a female-owned transportation and distribution company in Atlanta.

The scholarship is open to any junior or senior majoring in supply chain management through the College of Business and supports learning opportunities for high achievers.

Lopez was awarded the scholarship for not only her previous academic accomplishments, but also for embracing similar values as Taylor's such as a commitment to community service.

Through discipline and hard work, Lopez has thrived as a supply chain management student at Clayton State.

She has begun to fulfill her dream of traveling and learning internationally through study abroad opportunities in France and Germany. In May, she will head to India with a group of students to gain deeper insight into global supply chains.

Lopez has had a chance to meet Taylor in person. At an awards banquet for women in the industry, she got to hear Taylor share her personal journey and encourage other women to become leaders in supply chain and logistics. Lopez was thrilled to personally speak with the person she credits directly with creating a scholarship to make her dreams possible.

"It was just important to see the reality of what I researched about a female growing in the logistics industry," she says about the moment. "It was pretty inspiring and amazing."

Lopez says that anyone can set out to accomplish his or her goals. It's just a matter of doing it with no fear.

"If you didn't hesitate to dream about something, why hesitate to do it," she says.



## Marcia G. Taylor: A pioneer for women in supply chain

Supply Chain and Logistics underpin almost every facet of society through the movement of goods and materials for various industries, government and people.

Serving as a conduit between businesses and their customers, supply chain and logistics professionals are a vital part of the global economy.

For Marcia G. Taylor, CEO of Bennett International Group, supply chain and logistics has allowed her to become a successful businesswoman and formidable change agent within the industry.

A leader in the industry and an inspiration for the growing number of women entering the supply chain and logistics sector, Taylor has turned Bennett International from a small Georgia trucking company to a large-scale global logistics corporation in the Southeast. As CEO, Taylor has led unprecedented growth and profitability for the company over the last 40 years.

Guided by fundamental core values of community service, integrity and responsibility, Taylor and her family established the Taylor Family Foundation in 2012 to give back through philanthropic work.

The Foundation set up the Marcia Taylor Family Foundation Annual Scholarship at Clayton State to meet the financial needs of undergraduate students majoring in supply chain management. Through the scholarship, Taylor has maintained a solid relationship with Clayton State to inspire the next-generation of supply chain managers and women entrepreneurs.



Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron TWO ONE (HSC-21), the “Blackjacks,” is a group of men and women who fly Sikorsky MH-60S Knighthawk helicopters providing all-weather combat and fleet logistics support to U.S. Naval ships and Naval Special Warfare units from NAS North Island in Coronado, CA. At the helm of this team was Commander Scott Wells, A.A. '93.

Leading more than 300 young enlisted personnel and officers takes grit, determination and diligence. For Wells, his lifetime of naval service has been marked by challenges and opportunities to guide others in carrying out America's mission.

Wells, who now serves at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., developed a passion for flight early in his life. His grandfather was a flight instructor in World War II and after retirement he owned several small aircraft in Pompano Beach, FL.

**“Every American should serve because we can't fully understand how good we have it here, until you've been over there.”**

“My grandfather took me on my first flight when I was 9-days-old. We flew from New Orleans to San Antonio,” Wells says.

Well's father served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Public Health Service and worked for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta after being transferred from Pennsylvania in the early 90's.

With a family legacy of military service, he joined the Navy in 1997 after earning his associate degree in aviation maintenance from Clayton State University in 1993 and a Bachelor of Science degree at Middle Tennessee State University in 1996.

At Clayton State, Wells studied in Lucy Huie Hall, a former airplane hangar off campus in Jonesboro that now houses the University's film studio. The group of aviation students was small and tight knit, but Wells remembered being drawn to three professors—Jack Moore, Jack Radford and Mike Woody—that all had military experience.

“I had the energy and eagerness to learn and these men provided a great environment that fueled that energy,” he says.

Wells says finding a career in aviation maintenance was a fallback plan, but his desire was to fly. He earned that opportunity as a naval aviator. Tours in places like Afghanistan, Iraq and the Persian Gulf put him in harm's way, but Wells says that those experiences were rewarding.

“Every American should serve because we can't fully understand how good we have it here, until you've been over there” he says.

The military can be grueling not just on the servicemember, but also on his or her family. During six long deployments, his wife, Michelle, acted as a single mother to two kids through earthquakes and car failures. But Wells says she is strong and endures the separation because she believes that her husband is serving a greater good.

Life in the Navy has enabled them to live in many places from Guam to San Diego, and three years in Norway. When asked about Norway he says, “We would go back in a second.”

Even the birth of his children mark his time in service. His daughters was born in a Navy hospital in Guam and his son in Balboa Navy Hospital in San Diego.

With the support and sacrifice of his family, however, Wells has managed to rise in the ranks to lead young Sailors in the early years of their service.

The young men and women of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron TWO ONE comprised a group of 45 officers, most of whom were recent college graduates, in addition to 235 enlisted personnel, most between the ages of 18 and 24.

“It's an incredible opportunity that not everyone in the Navy experiences,” Well says. “As a Commander, you not only maintain 11 MH-60S helicopters, but you also instruct the Sailors on what to expect while serving in the military.”



In many ways, Wells became a father figure to hundreds as he prepared the Sailors to conduct a number of duties including search and rescue, personnel recovery and logistical support to deployed strike forces around the world. Whether it was answering questions about financial assistance to providing emotional support, Wells attended to the needs of each of the Sailors under his command.

"You have to make sure that all of the Sailors needs are taken care of. If you neglect them, you neglect your organization, and the military unit will not be effective at conducting it's job of defending the nation," Wells says.



In Wells's current role as an executive assistant to the director for Unmanned Warfare Systems, a two-star admiral, he continues his work of protecting and looking out for the interests of all Sailors. Wells collaborates with various agencies to develop and identify unmanned technologies that can conduct missions in areas that are too dangerous for Sailors.

When Wells looks over his 20-year military career, it has been marked with several milestones—from becoming a naval aviator and commanding officer to working at NATO and the Pentagon. But what's been most important to him has been mentoring and training the next generation of Sailors who will become great leaders and great citizens in their own communities.

"Being in command, the most rewarding part of my job was meeting people, seeing new places and conducting new experiences," Wells says. "If you come into the service with an open mind you are able to expand your horizons and make yourself a well-rounded contributor to society at large."







# On the YARD

Greek life flourishes at Clayton State





By Leila Tatum and Brianna Jenkins

If you ask any one of our Greek alums what motivated them to join a fraternity or sorority, you'll find that for many, it was a long time desire.

"I've wanted to be a member of [Delta Sigma Theta] since high school. It was just something about the women representing that organization that drew me to wanting to be a part of [it]," says Alexis Maxie '10, a 2008 Delta initiate. "Those women were trendsetters, hardworking, carried themselves like royalty and consistently put on programs that were helpful and interesting for the students on campus".

**"My actions were based not upon what I could gain, but what I could contribute to the campus and the community,"**

says Clayton State alumni and Alpha Phi Alpha member Jerald Butler '14.

Greek life is relatively new at Clayton State. While some would see this as a drawback for campus life, many students saw this as an opportunity to establish a new set of traditions with national service-based organizations that have a strong history.

"Greek life when I attended Clayton State was very small. At the time, the only organizations were the Alphas, Deltas, AKAs, Sigmas, and the Zetas," says, Natalie Atkinson '07, one of the original charter members of the Sigma Sigma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

The first organization to charter on campus was Delta Sigma Theta on April 22, 2000. It was followed by Phi Beta Sigma in 2001 and Alpha Phi Alpha in 2002.

The year 2005 was a major turning point for Greek life. In that year, three groups were chartered—Zeta Phi Beta, the Alpha Kappa Alpha and Kappa Alpha Psi. Two years later, Sigma Gamma Rho and Alpha Kappa Lambda came into existence on campus.

"We worked hard together to build the Greek life up to be as prominent on campus as other universities," Atkinson says.

Out of their legacy of service, Greek members have built a sense of leadership both within their groups and in other student organizations across Clayton State.

"Greek life was very transformational when I attended Clayton State University. It was not uncommon for Greeks to be leaders within various organizations on campus, both social and academic," says Alpha Kappa Alpha member Martha Andrade '13. "We made it a point to be active members of the student body."

Andrade remembers helping plan the first major Homecoming parade, organizing a march to the polls and assisting with freshman move-in. Greek influence has gone beyond campus to include philanthropy and service in the greater Atlanta community.

Greeks have volunteered at AIDS Walk Atlanta, the Special Olympics and the March of Dimes.







"My actions were based not upon what I could gain, but what I could contribute to the campus and the community," says Clayton State alumni and Alpha Phi Alpha member Jerald Butler '14.

Those who partake in Greek life on campus see their fellow sorors and fraternal brothers as an extension of their family. Whether it be a step show or raising money for an important project, those experiences create a bond that last well after graduation.

Maintaining relationships has helped build a solid network of alumni and active Greek life for students on campus. Clayton State's Homecoming tailgate parties in 2015 and 2016 brought more than 400 old and new Greeks to reminisce, engage in fellowship and celebrate brother and sisterhood.

"It was awesome to see the Blue and White reunite, along with all of the other organizations and alumni in general," says Joche' Heard '15, a member of Zeta Phi Beta.

**"We are small but mighty and have a lifetime to continue developing traditions and setting the bar higher and higher," Andrade says.**

Greek alumni hope fraternity and sorority life at Clayton State continues to grow by solidifying traditions and encouraging students to join and make lasting connections.

"We are small but mighty and have a lifetime to continue developing traditions and setting the bar higher and higher," Andrade says.



# MILESTONES:

## Rhonda Allen

B.S. Nursing, 1999

Received the Women's Health Nurse of the Year award from the March of Dimes.

## Alexander Clark

B.A.S Technology Management, 2004

Launched an IT consulting firm specializing in service desk, desktop support, LAN networking, telecommunications, project management, technical writers, developers and cyber security.

## Princess Threatt

B.A. Communication and Media Studies, 2009

Performed the national anthem in Phillips Arena prior to an Atlanta Dream game.

**Have a special milestone you would like to share? Tell us about it now at [clayton.edu/alumni/services](http://clayton.edu/alumni/services)**

## Former athlete, Jenny Dreasler, becomes award-winning journalist

By Charlotte McCormack

Former Clayton State women's soccer player Jenny Dreasler has made quite a name for herself in a short time as an award-winning, on-air journalist.

A native of Quincy, Illinois, Dreasler graduated from Clayton State in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in Communications and Mass Media Studies and was a four-year starter for the Lakers. As a student, she helped launch the first athletics video reporting program, Laker Zone to bring more attention to Laker athletics.

Upon graduation, Dreasler kicked off her career at WGEM-TV in Quincy where she was hired after interning with them in 2012. She was then hired by neighboring news station KHQA (Quincy, Ill.) for the role of Morning News Anchor. She now delivers the news to the people of her hometown every morning.

Dreasler's accolades to date include a Mid-America Emmy award and two Edward R. Murrow awards, some of the most prestigious recognitions in journalism. In February of 2016, she entered the national spotlight as she was featured extensively on an episode of CBS' 48 Hours for a murder trial she covered in Quincy.

## In memoriam

### Linda C. Castleberry

(November 18, 1948 - December 3, 2016)



Passed away Dec. 3, 2016. Services were held in the Chapel of Ford-Stewart Funeral Home in Jonesboro, GA on December 7th. Castleberry served at Clayton State for 15 years, retiring as Senior Administrative Specialist. After retirement, she worked part-time in the Office of Alumni Relations. In 2004, Castleberry was inducted as an Honorary Lifetime Member of the CSU Alumni Association. She leaves behind a daughter, Christy, a 2005 graduate of Clayton State, a grandson, Oliver and two grandpuppies (Buster, an AKC boxer, and Lady, a mixed-breed rescue dog). Some fun facts about Castleberry: she was born in Atlanta, began her professional life working at the FBI and was a co-host for Dialing for Dollars.

### Jullisa Lynette Cooke

(April 22, 1991 – January 10, 2017)



Passed away Jan. 10, 2017. Services were held at J. Collins Funeral Home in Villa Rica, GA on Jan. 21st. Cooke graduated from Clayton State University in 2014 with a Bachelors Degree in Psychology and would have graduated from The University of West Georgia in the Spring with a Masters Degree in Special Education. Cooke worked as a Pre-K Teacher at the La Petite Academy in Lithia Springs and was a member of St. Catherine Devine Order in Decatur. She leaves behind her mother, Pearl Hazzard Cooke; sisters, Jillian Serena Cooke and Jaleah Simone Cooke; her grandmother, Lynette Daniel; and a number of aunts, uncles, a niece and nephews.

## #ORANGETASSELSQUAD By Leila Tatum

Last December a record 25 percent of seniors eligible to graduate became part of an exclusive group – the Orange Tassel Squad. For a gift of \$20 or more to the Senior class Gift Challenge, graduating seniors were given an orange tassel to wear to graduation, were recognized by Dr. Hynes, and became members. Unless otherwise designated by the donor, contributions go into the Senior Class Gift Dream Makers Scholarship fund. This scholarship is awarded to eligible seniors who have exhausted all of their financial aid options and would otherwise not be able to graduate.

Almost \$3,000 was raised from 147 seniors from the December 2016 graduating class. And with the scholarship match from Dr. Hynes, the total rises to close to \$5,000! Congratulations December Class of 2016 and welcome to the elite #OrangeTasselSquad.

2016





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we empower students with engaged  
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