Homecoming 2014 – Celebrating 45 Years of Clayton State

by John Shiffert

The year was 1969. Man first walked on the moon. The Beatles hadn’t broken up yet. Richard Nixon was president. Lester Maddox was governor of Georgia. Led Zeppelin and Creedence Clearwater Revival topped the charts. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid and the original True Grit were big hits at the movies. Tie-dyeing and bell bottoms were “in.” The New York Mets surprised everyone by winning the first National League Championship series over the Braves, and then winning the World Series over another far better team, the Baltimore Orioles. And while the Internet hadn’t been invented yet, Clayton State had been... or at least its doors opened for the first time to 942 students on Sept. 30, 1969.

And Clayton State is celebrating its annual Homecoming from Feb. 9 to Feb. 15, 2014.

Things have changed in 45 years... now there’s even a hashtag for Homecoming... #45YearsMadeReal. For those not in the know, a hashtag is a word or an unspaced phrase prefixed with the hash symbol (#). Words in messages on microblogging and social networking services such as Facebook, Google Plus, Instagram, Twitter, etc. may be tagged by putting "#" before same. For example "New artists announced for #SXSW 2013 Music Festival. As a result, hashtags make it pos-

45 Years, cont’d., p. 8

Clayton State Announces First Inductees to Athletic Hall of Fame

by Gid Rowell

The Clayton State Athletics Department announced last fall plans to establish a Hall of Fame and is now excited to recognize its first class of inductees. From nominations, which were open to the public, the Clayton State Athletics Hall of Fame Committee has selected four members for the initial class. The first class will include: retired Athletic Director Mason Barfield, former men’s soccer player Alex Dowling, former men’s basketball player Carlos Head and former women’s soccer player Nkiru Okosieme.

“We are very excited to be able to have a platform on which to now recognize those individuals who have meant so much in the success of Clayton State University Athletics,” says Athletic Director Carl McAloose.

The Hall of Fame Class of 2014 will be recognized at a Hall of Fame dinner on Friday, Feb. 14 and also recognized at Homecoming festivities on Saturday, Feb. 15. The Clayton State basketball teams host Peach Belt Conference opponent Montevallo for homecoming next month. “This initial class of the Clayton State University Hall of Fame includes the architect of the department’s success, Mason Barfield, and three student-athletes who exemplify what a student-athlete is supposed to be,” McAloose continues. “Alex, Carlos, and Nkiru competed not only at a national level in their sport but also excelled in the classroom while at Clayton State. All four of these inductees made huge impacts while at Clayton and certainly can be great role models for our current and future student-athletes.”

Hall of Fame, cont’d., p. 20
Clayton State Ranked Fourth in Georgia Affordable Online Programs by AffordableCollegesOnline.org

In the fall of 2013, Clayton State University was ranked fourth in the State of Georgia for its ROI (Return On Investment) to students by AffordableCollegesOnline.org (AC Online).

In its most recent ranking, AC Online has again ranked Clayton State fourth in the state, this time for affordability of its online programs. The rankings are available at http://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/online-colleges/georgia/.

AC Online, a resource for college affordability and financial aid information, identified the colleges and universities in each state with the most affordable online degree programs. AC Online focused specifically on distance learning options from public and private non-profit institutions with full accreditation.

“For-profit schools no longer dominate the distance-learning landscape,” says Dan Schuessler, founder of AC Online. “So many of today’s top universities have added full online degree programs to their catalogs, making it much easier for non-traditional students to receive a quality education.”

According to AC Online, “Clayton State University offers a number of online degree programs to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees in areas including Applied Sciences, Nursing, and other fields. The school utilizes the eCore program as well as several other applications to effectively translate the classroom experience into an online forum and provide the highest quality education.”

Higher Education Delegation from the People’s Republic of China Visits Clayton State

by John Shiffert

A delegation of 10 higher education officials from the People’s Republic of China visited Clayton State University on Dec. 12, 2013 under the auspices of the National Committee on United States-China Relations.

The delegation visited the U.S. under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Education and the Chinese Ministry of Education to study the American higher education system, making stops during their 13-day visit in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Albuquerque, N.M., and Los Angeles. As the organization in charge of public higher education in Georgia, the University System of Georgia (USG) was asked by the National Committee on United States-China Relations to host the Chinese delegation, and to discuss the System’s role and structure, as well as the means by which the USG fulfills its mandate.

Part of the visit to the USG involved a visit to two of the member institutions of the USG, which is where Clayton State entered the picture. Spending the morning of Dec. 12 at Clayton State were delegation leader Mr. Sun Yegang, Deputy Director-General, Department of Postgraduate Education, Ministry of Education (MOE) and his colleagues.

After a welcome by Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Hynes, the Chinese delegation received an overview of Clayton State from Associate Vice President for Extended Programs Dr. Kevin Demmitt, and a review of the mission of Clayton State as a public university from Hynes.

The delegation then had the opportunity to learn more about the College of Business at Clayton State from Interim Dean Dr. Michael Deis and Interim Associate Dean Dr. Louis Jourdan.

The College of Information and Mathematical Sciences (CIMS) came next, with Dean Dr. Lila Roberts, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Information Technology Dr. Junfeng Qu and Assistant Professor of Computer Science Dr. Ken Nguyen providing an overview of CIMS.

Delegation, cont’d., p. 5
Former Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Harden to Retire as UW-Green Bay Chancellor

By John Shiffert

Everyone at Clayton State who remembers the tenure of Dr. Thomas K. Harden as president of the University will be wishing him well this summer, as Clayton State’s third president will be retiring from his present position as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay. After five years of leading one of Wisconsin’s top public universities, he’s returning to, “what brought me to where I am,” teaching.

And, while Harden left Clayton State in the spring of 2009, he still has fond memories of his nine years by Swan Lake.

“I am excited about the change of pace that will come with becoming Chancellor Emeritus in August,” he says. “I will stay with UWGB after that to continue to raise sorely needed funds as the Foundation trait, noting, “our family has grown since our days in Georgia.”

From 2000 to 2009, during Harden’s time at Clayton State, the University tripled its baccalaureate programs, started its first graduate programs, and also increased its enrollment by 50 percent. On a personal note, Clayton State faculty and staff of that era will also recall Harden as a devoted family man, and in keeping with his persona, he has sent along a family port-

Cheryl Thibodeau Joins Clayton State Development Team As First Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations

Cheryl Martinez Thibodeau has joined the Clayton State University Division of External Relations as the University’s first Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations.

Thibodeau comes to Clayton State after three years at Southern Polytechnic University where she was a development officer for Major, Corporate and Foundation Giving. Her extensive development background also includes serving as membership gift coordinator for the Atlanta Botanical Garden (2004-2007), on-air fundraising coordinator for Georgia Public Broadcasting (2007-2009), and philanthropy operations coordinator for The Nature Conservancy in Georgia (2009-2011).

“I am thrilled to be a part of the team at Clayton State University,” she says. “I hope to benefit the University’s mission by finding support in the community and beyond, building a culture of support, and developing long-lasting relationships with donors. I’m especially excited to be in an environment which encourages creativity and the arts, combined with a robust comprehensive education.”

“We are very excited to have Cheryl join our team,” says Vice President for External Relations Kate Troelstra. “Her experience and knowledge of the Atlanta corporate and foundation philanthropic landscape will have an immediate and positive impact on the students and faculty of Clayton State.”

A native of the United Kingdom, Thibodeau is a graduate of the University of Wales in Aberystwyth, where she earned a B.A. in Art History. She and her husband Greg reside in Lithia Springs, Ga., with their two dogs, Murphy and Champ.

As director of Corporate and Foundation Relations Thibodeau is responsible for raising unrestricted and restricted corporate and foundation support for all areas of the University at annual and major gift levels. She will also work closely with alumni, faculty, administration, and volunteers to identify, cultivate, and solicit the University’s corporate and foundation prospects.

During her time at Southern Polytechnic, Thibodeau created several new initiatives to broaden the University’s avenues of support, including an internal Corporate and Foundation Relations Council, and the “Development 101” session for key faculty and staff. She also led the highly successful annual corporate recognition event, “PolyDay.”
Ann Cramer Empowers Clayton State Students at the Jim Wood Speaker Series
by John Shiffert

Clayton State University is known for providing its students with empowering experiences. As a place of empowerment, the University provides students with, not just an excellent education, but also with the relevant skills they need to position themselves in their forthcoming professions.

Empowerment at Clayton State has a lot of facets, with one notable recent example being the opening speaker of the College of Business’ Spring 2014 Jim Wood Speaker Series. A long-running opportunity for Clayton State students to hear from and learn from the best and brightest in their respective fields, the series is funded by one of the original members of the Clayton State University Foundation, long-time local journalist Jim Wood. Over the years, the Wood Speaker Series has brought numerous and diverse speakers to campus, ranging from AJC Editor Julia Wallace to another Clayton State Foundation member, Honorary Consul of Hungary John Parkerson.

The opening speaker for the Spring 2014 Series was no stranger to Clayton State. Ann Wilson Cramer, a senior consultant for Coxe Curry & Associates, had previously captured Clayton State audiences with her enthusiastic style at the Clayton State Women’s Forum, and as a speaker at the May 2011 Commencement ceremonies.

At the May 2011 Commencement (when, fittingly enough, Wood was awarded an honorary doctorate) Cramer spoke on “the power of you,” and stated the Clayton State graduates are part of a smart world, and tasked them to know how to be a collaborative player in what she referred to as, “the decade of smart.”

“You are to whom we look to be smart. The future of our community is in your hands,” she said at that time.

In January 2014, Cramer returned to Clayton State to speak to another rapt audience, mostly, though not entirely, made up of students from the University’s business classes. Speaking on her own career development, she focused on vision and passion – traits that will stand her audience well in the future. And, there can be no doubt that the audience was listening, notably junior supply chain management major Kai Spear.

“Ann Cramer’s presentation was exciting to be a part of. There was a true joy she possessed as she spoke passionately about...
According to Demmitt, the delegation asked some excellent questions about accreditation processes, the relationship between the business community and the University, and the process for developing new degree programs.

The delegation then took a tour of the Clayton State campus, led by Cele Blair, assistant director of the Clayton State Office of International Programs.

Joining Mr. Sun on the visit to Clayton State were: Mr. Tang Zhenfu, Deputy Division Chief, Division of Cross-Border Education Partnerships, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, MOE; Ms. Xie Lili, Deputy President, School of Urban Development and Environmental Engineering, Shanghai Second Polytechnic University; Mr. Chen Fuxue, Deputy Director, Office of Disciplinary Development, Shanghai University; Zhu Zhanfeng, President, School of Economics and Management, Ningbo University of Technology; Mr. Xu Leiting, Deputy President, Medical School of Ningbo University; Ms. Yang Wei, Deputy President, Zhejiang Fashion Institute of Technology; Mr. Zheng Weidong, Deputy President, Ningbo Polytechnic; Ms. Liu Xiaomei, Deputy President, Renmin University of China, Suzhou Campus; and Ms. Fan Zhonglin, Program Assistant, China Education Association for International Exchange.

Following their visit to Clayton State, the delegation spent the afternoon at the Atlanta headquarters of the University System of Georgia, and then visited the Georgia Tech campus on Friday.

The National Committee on United States-China Relations has worked with the Chinese Ministry of Education and the U.S. Department of Education for more than 30 years in the implementation of an MOU signed by the two government agencies in the early 1980s.
Dr. Catherine Deering Appointed Director of Southeast Region of the American Board of Clinical Psychology

Dr. Catherine Deering, Clayton State University professor of Psychology, has been appointed as director of the Southeast Region of the American Board of Clinical Psychology. She began a four-year term in January 2014.

In this position, Dr. Deering will oversee and coordinate the written and oral examinations for clinical psychologists from Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana who are applying for national board certification and fellow status. She will also serve as board member and secretary for the American Board of Clinical Psychology and participate in their national meetings.

The American Board of Clinical Psychology (ABCP) is a member board of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). The ABPP authorizes the credentialing activities of 13 specialty boards and establishes criteria for education, training, competencies, and examination. The ABCP is governed by a Board of Directors who are certified in Clinical Psychology and are representative of the specialty on a national basis. Members of the Board select, mentor, and train future examiners.

Board certification in Clinical Psychology requires candidates to be conversant with scientific and scholarly developments and to apply them in professional practice. Examiners explore the candidate’s ability to discuss critically the implications of contemporary knowledge and integration of theory, research, and practice concerning interpersonal interactions, issues of individual and cultural diversity (e.g., ethnicity, race, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability status, and special populations), ethics and legal foundations, and professional identification. Attention is also paid to the candidate’s own scholarly contributions as they inform practice.

Dr. Deering teaches in the undergraduate psychology program and the master’s program in Clinical Psychology at Clayton State. She is a consulting psychologist at the Atlanta V.A. Medical Center and Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Emory University School of Medicine. Dr. Deering teaches and supervises pre-doctoral psychology interns, post-doctoral psychology fellows, and psychiatry residents at Emory and the V.A. Medical Center. She also serves on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Family Psychology and on the Board of the Atlanta Group Psychotherapy Society. Her publications focus on clinical supervision, group therapy, health psychology, and psychiatric disorders.

“At a Theatre or Drive-in Near You…”
The Reprint of a 1995 Original

by Sarah Boyd

Anyone who knows Dr. Randall Clark, assistant professor of Journalism at Clayton State University knows the depth of his passion for films. Clayton State faculty and staff are given the opportunity to see this passion through his outstanding work and by simply having the pleasure of knowing him. Students also get the opportunity to see this passion through a few of his film classes such as History of Film, Film Genres and Introduction to Media Studies.

Clark has recently received the word that his book, “At a Theatre or Drive-in Near You: The History Culture and Politics of the American Exploitation Film,” is being reprinted, without any revisions, from the original publication in 1995. The new edition is available from Amazon and will be available from Barnes and Noble this month.

Clark originally wrote this book in the hope of settling the confusion between exploitation movies and B-movies, more commonly known as “Drive-ins.” Despite the fact that many people believe these two are the same, they most certainly are not, he explains, noting that exploitation films are low budget films with lots of sex, violence and action. The term derives from the fact that promoters of such films exploit the contents through advertising that ultimately heightens the sexual or violent aspects of these films.

“These movies were kind of under the radar and they were able to make social statements that mainstream films couldn't make as well as addressing social phenomena while it was still happening,” says Clark. His book is the first published comprehensive study of the American exploitation film.

The 248 page hardback discusses five distinct genres: The Teen Movie, The Sexploitation Film, The Martial Arts Movie, The Blaxploitation Film and The
Kevin Liles Covering the Olympics in Sochi

Clayton State University may not have any athletes in Sochi, Russia for the 2014 Winter Olympics (of course, winter sports aren’t too common in the south in any case), but alumnus Kevin Liles is nonetheless on site at the winter games to unofficially represent the University.

Liles, a 2011 Clayton State graduate with a degree in Communication and Media Studies, and a former editor of The Bent Tree, is a commercial and editorial freelance photographer based in Atlanta. His clients have included the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta Braves, Reynolds Plantation, USA Today Sports Images, Georgia Public Broadcasting, and Clayton State. In addition, his work has appeared in Sports Illustrated, The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, Newsweek, as well as other national and international publications. In Sochi, he’s shooting for USA Today Sports Images.

In addition to his photographic work, Liles is also blogging from Sochi. His blog, http://blog.kevindliles.com/ has the additional advantage of providing followers with some stunning photos of the Olympic venues, only what one would expect from the former editor of The Bent Tree who has photographed, among other subjects, the NCAA Final Four, no less than four NBA finals, and the cover of Clayton State’s The Laker Connection magazine.

Jennifer Merrifield, a graduate of the clinical track of the Master of Science in Psychology program at Clayton State University, was admitted to the doctoral program in Counseling Psychology at the University of Georgia last year.

“The supportive faculty at Clayton State encouraged me to pursue my doctoral degree and their unwavering encouragement has continued well beyond graduation,” comments Merrifield.

Dr. Deborah Deckner-Davis, director of the Master of Science in Psychology program, claims that is was Merrifield’s dream to attend a doctoral program upon the completion of Clayton State’s masters program.

In addition to her admission and an extension of her dream come true, Merrifield was awarded a four-year competitive assistantship offered through a partnership between the Ph.D. Counseling Psychology program and the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES) at UGA.

To fulfill her assistantship, Merrifield serves as the academic counselor for CAES. In this role she works with students by assisting them in identifying their sources of academic difficulties and strengths. She helps students design action plans for their college careers while providing support. Overall, she helps to retain both undergraduate and graduate students that are on academic probation or at risk for academic dismissal.

“My time at Clayton State University inspired me to serve underrepresented populations and sparked my interest in social justice,” states Merrifield, “It has also offered me a place of professional growth and development. The faculty ultimately shaped me into a multi-culturally competent professional in my field.”

Life’s Transitions...

Dr. Amy Adele Foster, D.M.A

Amy Adele Foster, D.M.A - of Knoxville, Tenn. and Kennesaw, Ga, -- choral conductor, collaborative pianist and profound music educator, died peacefully surrounded by her family on Wednesday evening, Jan. 8, 2014, at the age of 45, following a courageous battle with breast cancer.

Amy earned her Bachelor of Music degree from Louisiana State University and Master of Music degree from Georgia State University. In 2006 she completed her Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music with a double minor in Choral Conducting and Piano Pedagogy from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. Amy Foster was Staff Accompanist in the Department of Music at Clayton State University from 2000 to 2003, before leaving to pursue her doctorate at the Eastman School of Music.
Clayton State International Students Add $2.7 Million in Economic Impact

by Samantha Watson

Clayton State University adds a sizable contribution to a recently released report by NAFSA (National Association of Foreign Student Advisors), the association of international educators, on annual economic impact for the 2012-2013 year. The study, conducted by NAFSA, which is organized by region, state, congressional district and campus, provides data on how much money foreign students and their dependents spend in our economy.

Clayton State University enrolled almost twice as many international and foreign students in the 2012-2013 academic year than the previous year, with a total of 111 enrolled foreign students.

With this increase in enrollment, comes an increase in economic contribution. A 54.29 percent increase to be exact. Total contributions from international and foreign students enrolled in Clayton State added up to $2,754,900 in 2012-2013.

The economic boost for the United States as a whole rounded to about $3 billion more than the 2011-2012 academic year.

Georgia itself added to this boost with an enrollment of 16,661 foreign students in 2012-2013, an increase of almost 500 students from 2011-2012.

The net economic contributions of these students in Georgia for 2012-2013 adds up to $501,000,000, which is a $38,044,000 increase from 2011-2012. Economic contributions consist of tuition, fees, goods and services, housing, food, and personal spending.

Be sure to join Clayton State for a week of fun activities, heart-pounding sports action, and unbridled enthusiasm for all things Clayton State. If you’re on campus regularly, you’ll love the many opportunities to make memories that you’ll revisit year after year when Homecoming rolls around.

Clayton State Homecoming 2014 will start with a 5K Fun Run, hosted by AmeriCorps, on Sunday, Feb. 9. Sign-in begins at 7:30 a.m., and the fun run at 9 a.m. Registration will take place in parking lot K (beside the SAC/tennis courts). The race will begin and end right at parking lot K as well. Monday, Feb. 10 will see Campus Life’s Laker Market, themed for Homecoming, “Evolution.” (As in the evolution of Clayton State over the years…) Evolution will also feature various performances in the (SAC) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. On Tuesday, Feb. 11, it’s the annual Student Choice Awards, hosted by Student Media, starting at 6 p.m., also in the SAC. Wednesday, Feb. 12 will feature a basketball doubleheader against Georgia College, with games at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. On Thursday, Feb. 13, the faculty and staff get to take on the students in a basketball game in the SAC, refereed by our own Tom Giffin and hosted by Recreation and Wellness. Immediately after the game, the Student Government Association’s dessert social, “Sweets for my Sweet,” will be held in the SAC. Friday, Feb. 14 will see the Campus Events Council hosting a variety of Valentines-related activities under the heading “Lovers and Friends” in the SAC from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., followed by float building (for the Homecoming Parade) which will go on all night if needed in the SAC.

All this will be followed the big day, Saturday, Feb. 15. As was the case in 2013, Homecoming will again feature the Homecoming Parade on Jonesboro Road. In partnership with the City of Morrow, the parade will start in front of Morrow City Hall at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15, and proceed north on Jonesboro Road to the entrance to the Clayton State campus, Clayton State Boulevard, before turning onto campus. The Homecoming Festival, with food, Chick-fil-A, games, contests, music, a DJ, Loch, and fun for the whole family, will follow the parade and will be held this year at Laker Hall. The Festival will run until 1 p.m., in time for everyone to walk over to the Athletics Center for the basketball doubleheader against Montevallo... where there will be free Homecoming t-shirts available for the first 100 fans, plus other give-aways during the afternoon. The women’s game starts at 1:30 p.m. and the men’s game roughly at 3:30 p.m.
Lawbreaker Picture. It is also broken into four different components: Film Studies, Cinema Studies & Popular Cinema, Film Genre and Media Studies.

From beach party movies to biker films and kung fu movies, Clark provides a substantial amount of research and information on each genre mentioned in this theoretical study. He even discusses the moonshine movies that were popular in the South in the wake of Thunder Road; a drama–crime film about running moonshine in the mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee in the late 1950s.

Clark originally wrote the book as his dissertation in 1989 and decided to refurbish it for publication in 1995. Although it has been out of print for quite some time and there seems to be an abundance of popular books on exploitation films, this book in particular is still one of the few academic works which ultimately contributes to the value of this exceedingly attention-grabbing book.

The two factors mentioned above may appear to have an effect on the exposure of its re-publication, but to the contrary, the pricing as well as the popularity of the book has risen since the book made its debut 18 years ago.

“There's been an odd demand for it and even used copies are expensive,” says Clark. He notes that Amazon is currently selling the book for $350, but it is being sold for more than $1000 in other places.
The First Lego League (FLL) Super Regionals returned to Clayton State University on January 11. This year’s version of the popular competition for regional young STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) whizzes ages nine to 14 was an all-day event held in Clayton State’s James M. Baker University Center under the sponsorship of the College of Information and Mathematical Science (CIMS). Assistant Professor of Mathematics Dr. Scott Bailey directed the program and CIMS Assistant Dean Jarrett Terry recruited volunteers for the event.

While these changes are designed to spend money more wisely and effectively in serving the System’s more than 309,000 students, Huckaby said it’s also important to focus on what directly affects the pocketbooks of students and families: tuition and fees.

“On every campus I visit a student will share the challenges of staying in school with higher tuition and fees, which may be exacerbated by a job loss at home,” he said. “Sadly, in many cases, a few hundred dollars will make the difference as to whether that student stays in school.”

Huckaby noted that since becoming chancellor in July 2011, the Board of Regents for the past two years has limited tuition for most students to the lowest increase in a decade (2.5 percent) and reduced the number of mandatory fee increases from 67 in Fiscal Year 2012 to just 29 in the current fiscal year.

The System also is undertaking vigorous efforts to address the cost of textbooks and working both internally and with other higher education partners nationally to develop and provide alternatives to students, he said. In one example mentioned by Huckaby, a program is saving students $100 on an electronic history textbook.

The consolidation of eight institutions into four new ones is complete and another consolidation of two institutions is underway. Huckaby said consolidation is driven by the need to keep the focus on the legitimate needs of students and faculty. “That is the ultimate purpose of consolidation – move money out of administration and into the classroom,” he said.

Online education is another fast developing and changing tool that can help broaden access and potentially control costs for students. Since 2009, the number of online courses offered by USG institutions has risen from 1,571 to 4,737, an increase of 200 percent.

In one example cited by Huckaby, Georgia Tech is launching a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) graduate degree program in computational science that will save students two-thirds of the cost of a traditional degree.

As part of the System’s efforts to increase the college level attainment of Georgians, a focus on military outreach is occurring.
VITA Begins its 24th Year at Clayton State

Accounting students from Clayton State University are again participating in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program hosted by the College of Business.

VITA is a national program that provides tax support for certain eligible taxpayers. The program, which has been in existence for more than 40 years, is also an experiential learning experience for Clayton State students, providing the volunteers with extensive IRS training and testing, enabling them to ensure that taxpayers will have their tax returns filled out accurately and timely and receive the tax credits they qualify for, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit.

This service will be offered at the College of Business at Clayton State on Saturdays through the end of March, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Taxpayers will be assisted on a first-come, first-serve basis. If taxpayers have further questions they may call the VITA hotline at (678) 466-4527.

Current college students can also benefit from having VITA volunteers prepare their taxes since the volunteers are trained in the rules for the credits available for tuition and other school-related expenses. The VITA program also prepares state income tax returns and provides free e-filing options to ensure clients receive their refunds as soon as possible.

Clayton State is proud to be the only university in the state of Georgia that has successfully participated in the VITA program for 24 consecutive years.

“Our highly trained volunteers are eager to begin working with the public in order to make their tax preparation experience stress-free,” says Professor Judith Ogden, College of Business faculty member, who is spending her ninth year with VITA at Clayton State, and her 16th year with VITA nationwide. “It gives our students hands-on experience, and provides a valuable service to the public. We have taxpayers who return every year.”

Those who are eligible to receive this service are taxpayers who make under $51,000 a year and wish to receive help with their 2013 personal income taxes using Forms 1040EZ, 1040A, and simple1040s. The program does not provide assistance with out-of-state or small business returns, or for those who are self-employed.

Those interested in receiving this assistance must bring the following items:

- Photo identification,
- Social security cards for themselves, their spouse, and dependents,
- Birthdates for primary, secondary, and dependents of Georgia’s public school teachers are graduates of one of our 22 teacher education programs,” Huckaby said. “We may very well be part of the problem.”

Instead, Huckaby is focused on solutions, in partnership with the Department of Education and the Professional Standards Commission. Underway is a professional and objective evaluation of all of the University System’s teacher education programs.

“This evaluation will have consequences; ultimately the graduates of those programs who do not perform at a high level will not receive a teaching certificate and the teacher education programs in our institutions graduating those students will not be allowed to continue,” Huckaby said.

Concluding his presentation, Huckaby stressed that creating a more efficient and effective system that better serves students and creates a more informed and educated citizenry for the state is a challenge, but also a great opportunity.

“We are not ignoring our challenges. We are tackling them,” said Huckaby. “We are reshaping public higher education in Georgia. We are not finished. But with your help, we will finish.”

For the full text of Huckaby’s remarks, visit: http://www.usg.edu/chancellor/speeches/joint_appropriations_presentation
Across the Campus...

Athletics
Former Clayton State men’s soccer standout and current Major League Soccer (MLS) player Chris Klute has been invited for a tryout for the 2014 U.S. World Cup squad. Klute was one of 10 young players invited to train at the U.S. Soccer National Training Center in Carson, CA last week to make the 26-member team. He also has been invited to train with team, as the squad will travel to Sao Paulo, Brazil for 12 days. The team will train at Sao Paulo FC’s facilities and play two closed-door scrimmages.

*****

The Clayton State Department of Athletics has hired Merlene Aitken as the program’s interim Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and Student Services. Aitken joins Clayton State after recently serving as the Director Compliance at Georgia Tech for two years, where she was charged with monitoring and ensuring compliance with all NCAA rules and procedures. She has more than 10 years of experience working in the field of compliance in intercollegiate athletics. In addition to working at Georgia Tech, she has served as the Associate Athletic Director/SWA at North Carolina A&T and as the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance at Winston-Salem State. She also served as an Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance at Kansas and the Director of Compliance at Washington.

*****

Clayton State’s Shacamra Jackson was named the Peach Belt Astro Turf Player of the Week in December, after averaging 18.5 points, 9.5 rebounds and six blocks per game in two victories.

*****

The Clayton State men’s and women’s cross country and track & field teams combined to perform more than 550 hours of community service during the recently completed fall semester. The Laker teams balanced time between classes, practice, and in many cases work schedules, to give back to the local community in a variety of volunteer opportunities. The volunteer time that the teams performed ranged from serving established charitable organizations like Habitat for Humanity and the Humane Society, to helping out at several metro Atlanta road races. A few local schools were also served, especially Morrow Elementary School where the Laker cross country and track teams have been volunteering for the past three years. The primary volunteering the teams have done at Morrow Elementary has been either reading to students, or having students read to them to help MES students improve this critical skill. Team members also helped volunteered working the school’s annual Fall Festival and can drive.

*****

Clayton State women’s tennis player Hannah Keeling was named to the 2014 Peach Belt preseason All-Conference team by the league office in Augusta, Ga. Keeling, a 5-7 junior from Southampton, England, enters the season ranked 33rd in the nation in singles. Last year, she finished with a 10-5 record at the No. 1 seed for the Lakers and posted a 9-9 record at No. 1 doubles. An All-Peach Belt Conference selection last year, Keeling was one of only seven players to receive the preseason honor from the conference. Clayton State will open its home season during Homecoming on Saturday, Feb. 15, hosting Erskine College in a 1 p.m. match at Laker Courts.

Auxiliary Services
“Happy Birthday To You… Happy Birthday To You!” Auxiliary Services has partnered with Housing, Dental Hygiene and Health Services to create the Birthday Promotion to help you celebrate your special day. All students, faculty and staff are eligible to participate. Stop by the LakerCard Center during the month of your birthday to receive your goodie bag, which includes a personalized Happy Birthday button and a free drink from SubConnection, among other surprises!

Center for Academic Success
The Clayton State University Center for Academic Success, whose services include peer tutoring in more than 100 different courses, drop-in math tutoring, Supplemental Instruction for historically difficult courses, study groups, academic success workshops, study strategy assessments, and computerized software for Clayton State students has relocated to Edgewater Hall (formerly Student Center), room 276. Center for Academic Success Director Kathy Garrison and her staff, Maurica John, Diana Johnson, Jada Mitchell, Dian Peters, and Matthew Smith, have reopened the Center and are ready to welcome students back. The hours for the Center for Academic Success will be 8 a.m. – 7 p.m., Monday – Thursday; 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Friday, and 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday. The phone number for the Center for Academic Success (678) 466-4070. The Center for Academic Success website is http://www.clayton.edu/cas.

College of Business
Sherwin James has had his second article published with NACADA. This article, on advising international student athletes, is available at http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Academic-Advising-Today/View-Articles/Ten-Tips-for-Advising-International-Student-Athletes.aspx.

College of Health
Dr. Lisa Eichelberger, dean of the College of Health at Clayton State University, delivered the keynote speech to the Class of 2013 at Dec. 20, 2013 Mississippi College School of Nursing’s Commencement Ceremony. Eichelberger served as Mississippi College’s nursing dean from 1987 to 1995.

Communication and Media Studies
Maybe he won’t be winning an “Emmy,” but Clayton State University Associate Professor of Journalism Dr. Randy Clark is a judge for the Emmys, in both the states of New York and Texas. Clark was a judge for the New York Emmys last week, viewing news stories online and subsequently voting online. In 2013, he was similarly a judge for news stories the Texas Emmys. “I judged news stories, specifically in the political reporting category,” he says. “I probably saw 30 individual stories from all over the state.” Although not a member, Clark is on the...
National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences mailing list; going back more than 10 years to when he was on the faculty at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Clark explains that the academy sends out emails asking for volunteers to judge news stories and then review the volunteers’ credentials and decide on who is qualified to be an Emmy judge. Since Clark has taught journalism for 25 years, it would seem pretty clear that he’s well-qualified. He also notes that the Emmys ask for judges outside the city being judged, to avoid possible conflicts of interest, hence his involvement with the New York and Texas Emmys.

**ISSO**
Clayton State University has welcomed 19 new international students from eight countries for the Spring Semester, bringing the University’s total F1 enrollment to 131. Those who attended the international check-in meeting are pictured below and are from: Saudi Arabia (10), Nigeria (three), Spain, Estonia, Russia, India, Brazil and Iran. According to Clayton State’s Brett Reichert, associate director, International Student Services Office, the 10 Saudi students are all from the same source; the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission, and they are all attending Clayton State for the same degree, the MBA. “The source of their funding comes from the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission, an extension of the Saudi Government that administers funds to these students through their offices in the U.S,” explains Reichert. “Their government pays all fees, gives them a stipend, insurance, etc…”

**Political Science**
Clayton State University adjunct professor Sara Henderson will facilitate a New York Times Talk on, “Guns on college campuses: self-protection or initiating violence?” from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in room UC 267 of the James M. Baker University Center on Friday, Feb. 7. Henderson received her M.A. from Clayton State and currently serves as a part-time instructor of Political Science courses at the University. She has also served as director of Legislative Services for the Georgia House Democratic caucus. “In all of my five years of coordinating Times Talks at Clayton State I can’t remember a talk that affects the Clayton State community more than this one,” says Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Joseph Corrado.

**Recreation and Wellness**
The Clayton State University Department of Recreation & Wellness is proud to host the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America’s (AFAA) APEX Weekend for the second consecutive year. According to Lisa Williamson, assistant director of Recreation & Wellness (Fitness & Wellness), “We are thrilled to welcome AFAA back to Clayton State in 2014! Hosting fitness certifications on campus assists in promoting Clayton State University to the local community and provides on campus opportunities for our students to become certified fitness professionals.” AFAA certifications and workshops being hosted during the APEX weekend include: Personal Fitness Trainer Certification (Feb. 21 to Feb. 23), Group Exercise: the Practical Way Workshop (Feb. 21), Primary Group Exercise Certification (Feb. 22), Kickboxing Instructor Certification (Feb. 22), and Practical Pilates Workshop (Feb. 23). All certifications and workshops will be host- ed in the Clayton State Student Activities Center Fitness Center. Registration is currently available on AFAA’s website http://www.afaa.com by searching the Atlanta area.

**School of Technology**
Dr. Wallace Shakun, former dean of the School of Technology at Clayton State, is now teaching electrical engineering at Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville, Ind.

**Student Media**
Clayton State University Student Media is set to release the University’s first yearbook in 40 years. Set for release in time for spring 2014 graduation, Clayton State students are already busy putting together both a print and a digital yearbook called “Loched in Time.” “Loched in Time” will be the third yearbook produced by Clayton State, the 1973 and 1974 Clayton Junior College “Centurion” yearbooks being the first two, and the first edition to have a digital component. Both yearbooks will include photos and articles of campus events, student organizations, and senior spotlights, among other things. The digital yearbooks, which will be distributed on a DVD, will have additional video footage. The 152-page print yearbooks will cost approximately $60 and the digital yearbooks will cost approximately $25. The yearbooks will also have space for ads from graduating seniors, student organizations, and businesses. These will cost $40 for a quarter page ad, $60 for a half page ad, and $100 for a full page ad in the print publication and $100 in the digital edition. Please contact Jennifer DeMond, student media advisor for more information about “Loched in Time” at jenniferdemond@clayton.edu.
Two of the founding members of TRUST (Transforming Relations Using Student Thinkers), Clayton State University’s student public relations agency, are making dreams real.

Sarah Boyd and Amanda Parham are Clayton County residents who graduated from Clayton State last month with B.A. degrees in Communications and Media Studies (CMS). As part of their final semester at Clayton State, they were two of the driving creative forces in Assistant Professor of Communications Dr. Susan McFarlane-Alvarez’ CMS3560 class, which was also the basis for TRUST. How good are Boyd (whose hometown is Jonesboro) and is a 2007 graduate of Riverdale High School) and Parham (a lifelong Morrow resident who graduated from Jonesboro High School in 2008)? Alvarez has paid them a high compliment… she wants them to return to Clayton State this semester as guest lecturers.

“We will miss our grads, but I also plan to have them visit and share what they learned in the agency and hopefully add a bit of what they’re doing now,” she explains.

“I have high hopes for what we plan to accomplish in the spring and will be moving forward with TRUST through my Intro to Advertising class.”

Another testimonial to Boyd and Parham is that they will also be continuing their fall 2013 assignments as volunteer journalists for the Clayton State Office of Public and Media Relations, and will be contributing articles to the forthcoming issue of Clayton State’s The Laker Connection magazine.

“In the past 18 years, dozens of Clayton State students have served as writers for this office,” says Director of Public and Media Relations John Shiffert. “Ms. Boyd and Ms. Parham are easily among the top five writer/journalists in that group.”

In addition to polishing her writing talent, Boyd says her experience at Clayton State has empowered her to define what she wants to do with her career.

“I believe one of the things that is empowering to me is the faculty and staff, particularly of the CMS program,” she says. “I started learning about different aspects of the media from professors who have such a passion for teaching their subject and who are also so knowledgeable on their subject. This has helped me decide exactly what I want to do with my life, career wise, and how I am going to do it.”

TRUST Looks Forward to 2014

by John Shiffert

TRUST (Transforming Relations Using Student Thinkers), Clayton State University’s student public relations agency, is looking forward to 2014.

Although several members of the 2013 TRUST cadre, formed from Assistant Professor of Communications Dr. Susan McFarlane-Alvarez’ CMS3560 (Communications and Media Studies) class, have graduated, Alvarez is expecting great things from the coming semester, with new challenges and new opportunities.

“We will miss our grads, but I also plan to have them visit and share what they learned in the agency and hopefully add a bit of what they’re doing now,” she explains.

“I have high hopes for what we plan to accomplish in the spring and will be moving forward with TRUST through my Intro to Advertising class.

“And I trust... It will all go well. (We're) looking forward to more great things!”

Although TRUST was formed during the fall 2013 semester as a class project specific to Alvarez’ fall CMS3560 class, the agency will be on-going with a constantly changing roster of students, offering its services to both on-campus departments and the public. As a future member of PRSSA, TRUST is organized exactly like a commercial PR agency, with individual students serving as Management, Account Executives, Creative: Visuals, and Creative: Copy.

Among the December 2013 graduates Alvarez will be inviting back as guest lecturers for the spring 2014 semester are two of the pre-eminent members of the creative wing of the 2013 agency, CMS graduates Amanda Parham and Sarah Boyd, both of whom will also continue their fall 2013 assignments as volunteer journalists for the Clayton State Office of Public and Media Relations. Parham also has an additional credit – she came up with the TRUST acronym.

During the fall 2013 semester, TRUST got off to a strong start, including doing a press release for CSiR’s (Clayton State Internet Radio) open mic night. However, TRUST really came into its own in conjunction with the Nov. 7 on-campus presentation by producer and recording engineer Matt Forger. Drawing inspiration from Forger’s work with Michael Jackson and his “Thriller” album, TRUST’s Darius Booker, a Clayton State Theatre major who also graduated in December 2013, organized several on-campus flash mobs to promote the Forger event. Boyd, Parham and Jake Gentry also wrote press releases for the Forger event.
Teresa Oliver’s First Book Tells of the Adventures of a Young Boy with ADHD

The Clayton State University Department of Psychology is proud of all of its graduates. At the moment, however, Teresa Oliver is in the spotlight.


“This book is a lovely reflection of Teresa’s wonderful creativity blended with her content expertise in Applied Developmental Psychology,” says an appropriately proud Dr. Deborah Deckner, associate professor and director of the Clayton State Master of Science in Psychology program. “(It’s) about the exploits/adventures of a young boy with Attention Deficit Disorder.”

According to Oliver, “Again David's Having Distractions: Friggin Chicken” (that’s an acronym for ADHD) is a story of a nine-year-old boy named David who has trouble fitting-in at school. He is often distracted by his wild imagination, and finds himself being the source of everyone's jokes. This particular year, David is faced with a task that could make him the laughing stock of the entire school. He has to decide if he should accept the task and possibly be humiliated in front of the entire school or if he should just hide in the supply closet.

“In David’s case, daydreaming has gotten a bad reputation, and his thoughts have often gotten him yelled at and misunderstood,” says Oliver in the dedication of her book, which she feels fits in well with Clayton State’s “Dreams Made Real” tag line. “However, daydreamers are often people that make things happen. They are creative and motivated… I dare everyone who reads this book to dream… then take the first step, and make it happen.

“Often times we limit ourselves by thinking so practically when it comes to college and degrees. I took all the tools that I learned from Clayton State and created something I feel will inspire many beyond what any job could do! Clayton State made this dream real.”

Along those lines, Oliver adds that Clayton State had a tremendous impact on her, notably in the person of three psychology professors, Deckner, Dr. Samuel Maddox and Dr. Eric Bridges.

“Dr. Deckner goes above and beyond for all her students! She takes so much time out her very busy Miriam White, a non-traditional senior Psychology major at Clayton State University, is not only preparing to graduate in May 2014, but also runs her own non-profit organization, Half Step 2 Help.

Born in Youngstown, Ohio, and raised in New Castle, Pa., White arrived in Georgia when she was 15 years old. Moving around a lot as a child, she had to find stability in something.

“I found stability first in God then he equipped me to handle all the things life had to throw at me,” she states.

White stresses that her non-profit is a Christian-affiliated organization, “clients mostly need support and prayer so we offer religious guidance alongside our helping services.” She also states that her compassion for poor families’ needs, struggles, successes and specifically single mothers inspired her to start the organization. In addition, the death of her child and father during the same semester made White want to become an active part of people’s healing processes as well.

“This world is harsh and comes with many conditions that set the poor up for failure. This organization encourages and strengthens those who are working to help themselves but may need an extra push in a direction they do not know exists,” she comments.

Half Step 2 Help provides information to those facing emergency situations, those wanting to send children to school, those needing assistance with unexpected pregnancy, and those without family support who need help during a life crisis.

White explains, “we consist of eleven programs, one of which is community service. Other programs offer job education, free resume writing and skill building courses, small business entrepreneurship guidance, and much more.”

After graduation, White has big plans for Half Step 2 Help. A program draft for environmental awareness with the Clayton County Commissioner is underway for the coming year, and networking with CalvaryRefuge Center and Atlanta Task Force for teaching career or life education classes through mentorship is being organized. She also says that some grant...
“A Day On Not a Day Off”…
The MLK Holiday in Action for Clayton State Students
by LaShanda Hardin

On Monday, Jan. 20, a total of 85 Clayton State University students gave a visible demonstration of Clayton State’s supportive community by serving the community and honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., by volunteering at the Truly Living Well Center for Natural Urban Agriculture. Indeed, it was a “dream made real” in action.

Participants began the day in the Clayton State Student Activities Center with a presentation on the history of the King holiday and an overview of Truly Living Well. Students were then transported to the service project where they had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects including repairing garden beds, spreading mulch, planting trees, construction, painting and landscaping.

Their work that morning assisted Truly Living Well in their mission to grow better communities by connecting people with the land through education, training, and demonstration of economic success in natural urban agriculture. Since 2006, Truly Living Well has been providing the local Atlanta community with organically grown vegetables and fruit direct from their certified natural Atlanta farm.

After the service project, students then joined teams from corporations, churches, schools and other non-profit organizations in the Annual MLK March & Rally through downtown Atlanta.

Shanice Walker, a Clayton State sophomore from Statesboro, Ga., and Taya Duchatellier, a senior from Brooklyn, N.Y., both expressed what an honor it was to have the opportunity to volunteer at a location only two blocks from his birth home.

“It the least we could do for Dr. King to honor his legacy,” says Duchatellier.

The 2014 MLK Day of Service was part of a calendar of events scheduled to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Other events included the King’s Sunday Supper, “A Dream Deferred” dialogue on recent social injustices and A Day with Dr. King Cultural Immersion field trip to give students the opportunity to explore significant landmarks associated with Dr. King and the Civil Rights movement.

For additional information about any of the events, please contact the Department of Campus Life at (678) 466-LIFE (5433). For additional photos from the service project and the march, go to the Clayton State Department of Campus Life Facebook page; https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.690436854310215.1073741831.122178364469403&type=1.

AmeriCorps Members Make a Difference During Give Kids the World Alternative Break Trip

The ultimate goal of the students and staff members who make up Clayton State’s AmeriCorps program is that their service, their support for the community outside of Clayton State, can make a difference.

That was certainly the case during AmeriCorps’ recent Alternative Winter Break trip to Give Kids the World in Orlando, Fla. Sixteen Clayton State students, along with Jennifer Welch, AmeriCorps program coordinator and Dr. Samuel Maddox, associate professor of Psychology, volunteered at Give Kids the World, a 70-acre nonprofit storybook resort where children with life-threatening illnesses and their families are treated to a week-long, cost-free fantasy vacation, from Dec. 9 to Dec. 13.

While the reward of service is often in the performance of the service, AmeriCorps received a special reward via a post on Clayton State’s official Facebook page from Bruce Nagy, of Kamloops, B.C., Canada, whose family was staying at Give Kids the World. In part, Nagy’s Facebook post said…

“I cannot say enough about how wonderful everyone treated us all during our entire stay! Sorry, I am not much of a writer, but, right now I am holding back some tears, trying to express how much

AmeriCorps, cont’d., p. 19
Not surprisingly, Alvarez has had a tremendous influence on Boyd.

“She is one of the best individuals you will ever meet and she definitely has a passion for her subject and teaching her students,” she says. “The things we learned in (her) class were greatly beneficial and we were able to do things on our own that has helped progress and succeed in school thus far. It has helped me learn more about the PR field and has given me more confidence for this career field.

“By being around professors and even students who have such a passion for this field has definitely empowered me to go out there and succeed without looking back or losing my confidence.”

In addition to empowering its students, Clayton State is also known for providing experiential learning opportunities. For Boyd and Parham, that opportunity came about both through TRUST and as writers for Public and Media Relations.

“I am thankful that you have allowed me to write… and have given me the opportunity to further build my portfolio,” says Parham, who also gets additional creative credit for coming up with the TRUST acronym. “Thank you for the many opportunities you have given me which has helped me to expand my resume and portfolio. You don’t know how truly thankful I am.”

It might be added that Parham isn’t the only one who is thankful. Parham and Boyd have written a series of excellent stories on topics ranging from Auxiliary Services’ Bio-Digestor to the reprint of Dr. Randy Clark’s book, “At a Theatre or Drive-in Near You: The History Culture and Politics of the American Exploitation Film,” to recording engineer Matt Forger’s presentation on campus to Clayton State graduates who are now faculty members to a review of the Clayton State Theatre’s fall production. While their work has indeed bolstered their portfolios, they have also proved to be an invaluable asset to Public and Media Relations.
Clayton State Retirees Association
Presents
A Tour of Germany
Via a
Gourmet Dinner and Wine Pairing

Harry S. Downs Center for Continuing Education
Thursday, March 20, 2014
6:00 p.m. Registration, raffle, and gathering
7:00 p.m. Five-course dinner is served

Cooking demonstrations
Wines paired with each course
Recipes shared
Raffled door prizes

Business casual attire for a comfortable evening
$100 per person, tax deductible as allowed by law
RSVP by March 14, 2014  (678) 466-4470

All proceeds continue to build the endowment for the
Clayton State Retirees Graduate Scholarship
schedule to make sure every single student is successful. She pushes the students to do conferences that can be very intimidating to young scholars. She looks for opportunities for all of us to gain experience and to start our careers! A very special lady!” she says. “Dr. Maddox’ class on neurodiversity helped me view minds in a totally different way. It gave me the ability to see the mind as be as diverse as we are racially and culturally. Dr. Bridges’ class, the Education System and the Child, solidified for me that I was on the right path and that my passion for children and their educational well being would not go unheard.”

Oliver started writing “Again David’s Having Distractions: Friggin Chicken” when she entered the Clayton State Master’s program.

“Before entering the program, I spent one year as a teacher at a school for students who have unique learning profiles or formally labeled ‘learning disabled,’” she explains. “Shortly after working there, I knew then it was my job and duty to understand there minds and alter my teaching to fit there minds.”

While working as a teacher Oliver was also getting her B.S. in Psychology from Clayton State. At the same time, she noticed that her son was starting to struggle in school.

“I noticed his frustrations with how information was being presented to him. I also noticed how his struggle was affected his self esteem,” she says. “I wanted him as well as many other students who have struggles, whether academically, physically, social, or emotionally, to have someone or something that they could relate to because, as a society, we make big deals of individuals who are the best or those who are number one. Also as a society we have empathy for those disabilities that are easily seen or easily detected, but it is the invisible ‘disabilities’ that are swept under the rug and overlooked.

“So, this story is for those individuals!”

Oliver also notes that her book uses a lot of humorous writing to engage all readers and also has vocabulary-building, something many teachers look for.

“It really does tell the inner feelings of children who may feel lost and out of place. It demonstrates how believing in yourself can make any dream come true,” she says.

What’s next? Oliver says she is putting together a non-profit for African American males between the ages of 11 and 17, seeking to provide basic life skills, leadership skills, health and fitness (partnering in that regard with Silver Back Fitness), tutoring, arts, and a host of other things. She also plans to write not one, but two follow up stories to “Again David’s Having Distractions: Friggin Chicken.”
Hall of Fame, cont’d. from p. 1

Mason Barfield
A native of Hahira, Ga., Barfield served as Clayton State’s first athletic director and first men’s basketball coach. He laid the groundwork for the program, beginning in 1990 and oversaw and led the program for more than 20 years until his retirement in 2011. The University also recognized Barfield by naming the basketball floor at the Athletics Center in his honor in 2012. Barfield was instrumental in establishing the Laker sports programs in the early 1990s and also in Clayton State’s transition to NCAA Division II in 1995. He also served as the school’s first men’s basketball coach from 1990-95.

After the first few years of transition into the Peach Belt Conference, Laker Athletics began to take shape at the Division II level in 2000. Under his leadership from 2000 to 2011, Clayton State won 15 Peach Belt Conference regular season championships and finished conference runner-up on 12 occasions. In addition, Laker teams won eight Peach Belt tournament titles and finished as tournament runner-up four times, establishing Clayton State as an elite power in the league.

At the national level, Clayton State teams advanced to the NCAA Division II National Tournament 48 times during that span, including three “Final Four,” six “Elite Eight” and fourteen “Sweet 16” appearances. The culmination of that success was in 2011 when the Laker women’s basketball team captured the school’s first NCAA Division II national championship.

Alex Dowling
A native of Benoni, South Africa, Dowling was a four-year letterwinner (2001, 2003-05) and one of the most decorated men’s soccer players in Laker history. He was a two-time NCAA Division II All-American in 2004 and 2005, a two-time NCAA Division II All-Southeast Region selection and a two-time All-Peach Belt member.

Dowling served as the team captain and sweeper on the second and third best Clayton State defensive teams in Laker soccer history. The squad posted a .72 goals against average in 2004 and a .73 goals against average in 2005, and both defenses ranked among the nation’s best.

He also helped lead the Lakers to a trio Peach Belt Conference Championships, the 2001 and 2005 Peach Belt Conference Regular Season Championship teams and 2005 PBC Tournament Championship. During his tenure, the Lakers advanced to the NCAA Division II “Sweet Sixteen” on three occasions in 2001, 2004 and 2005.

Dowling was a recipient of Clayton State’s Laker Award in 2006, given to Clayton State’s top student-athlete each year. He graduated in 2006 with a 3.2 GPA and a bachelor’s degree in Management (BBA).

Carlos Head
A native of Morrow, Ga., Head was a four-year letterwinner (1990-94) and played on Barfield’s first basketball teams. After more than 20 years in men’s basketball, he still holds many of Clayton State’s all-time records.

Head is the school’s all-time leading scorer with 1,682 points. He ranks second all-time in games played with 114 and third all-time in games started with 78. He ranks first all-time in field goals made with 608 and first in all-time in field goals attempted with 1,287. Head ranks second in 3-point field goals made with 132, third in all-time in rebounds with 523 and third all-time in steals with 125.

He led the Lakers to school’s first championship, the 1993-94 Georgia Athletic Conference Championship. He averaged more than 18 points for the team that finished the season with a 25-7 record, Clayton State’s best record in men’s basketball. He was selected to the NAIA All-District All-Freshman team in 1990-01 and to the All-Georgia Athletic Conference Team in 1993-94.

Head graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Management (BBA) in 1995.

Nkiru Okosieme
A native of Onitsha, Nigeria, Okosieme was a three-year letter-winner (2001-02 & 2004) for the Clayton State’s women’s soccer program. Okosieme was a NCAA Division II All-American in 2004 and a three-time All-Southeast Region selection in 2001, 2002 and 2003. She was the Peach Belt Conference Player of the Year in 2004 and named All-Conference all three years. She finished the 2001 season ranked second in the country in scoring with 33 goals on the year.

At Clayton State, Okosieme ranks second in single season scoring with 33 goals in 2001 and second in single season assists in 2004 with 10. She also ranks second all-time in goals scored at Clayton State with 64 and second all-time in assists with 24. She led the Lakers to their first NCAA Division II national tournament appearance in 2004.

Along with her standout career at Clayton State, Okosieme also played in four World Cups for her native country of Nigeria (1991, 1995, 1999, 2004). She scored three goals in her World Cup career, including a goal against the 1999 World Cup Champion U.S. squad.

She was a two-time winner of Clayton State’s Laker Award in 2003 and 2005 and the only female Clayton State student-athlete to win the Laker Award twice. Okosieme was also the recipient of the Bumbalough Academic Award in 2005.
McAloose Resigns as Athletic Director
by Gid Rowell

Director of Athletics Carl McAloose has announced that he will be stepping down from his position at Clayton State University after accepting the Director of Collegiate Athletics position at Edison State College in Fort Myers, Fla.

McAloose was named Clayton State’s second athletic director in the spring of 2012 overseeing the institution’s 12-sport NCAA Division II intercollegiate athletics program that competes in the Peach Belt Conference. He took over after long-time athletic director Mason Barfield retired in the fall of 2011.

“I want to thank Dr. (Tim) Hynes, the coaching staff, administrators, and student-athletes at Clayton State for their support during my time at Clayton State,” said McAloose. “I am only leaving Clayton State because of having an opportunity to once again start an athletics program from its inception and the chance to get back home with family and friends. With the personnel in place, Clayton State is in a very good position to reach our goal of being one of the top universities in NCAA II.”

Edison State College is located in Fort Myers, FL, and a member of the Florida College System. The college is planning to bring back intercollegiate athletics to its campus in the fall of 2015 and McAloose will lead that effort.

“In a very brief period of time, Carl was able to contribute significantly to the present and future of Laker athletics. He has reinforced throughout the athletic program its role in the success of our entire institution,” said Clayton State President Hynes. “He has been a consistent advocate for supporting academic performance for our student athletes. He has built on traditions of community based service for participants of the program. And he has done that while creating the conditions for student and athletic success for all of our teams. And he has been a key contributor to our institutional leadership team, finding ways for dreams to be made real.”

McAloose will begin at Edison State in mid-February and his last day at Clayton State will be February 16th. University officials say an interim Director of Athletics will be named shortly.

Among the accomplishments in his two years at Clayton State, McAloose directed the renovating of the University’s Athletics Center gymnasia and the later naming of Mason Barfield Court. He also initiated a new corporate partners program within the Department of Athletics and helped lead the establishment of the school’s first Hall of Fame.

Clayton State was also successful on the playing field during in his two years, as the Lakers captured five Peach Belt Conference Championships and one NCAA Division II Southeast Regional Championship. Clayton State finished third last year in the 14-school Peach Belt Conference Commissioner’s Cup standings.

Prior to joining Clayton State, McAloose last served as an athletic director at Florida Gulf Coast University, which is also in Fort Myers from 2000 to 2008. He built the FGCU program from scratch in 2000, overseeing a program with 14 sports.

A few of his more notable achievements at FGCU include: leading the program’s move to NCAA Division I and the A-Sun Conference in 2007, the fastest in NCAA history; overseeing the construction of the University’s $30 million athletic complex, which included multiple facilities; and helping secure a $5 million gift, the largest cash contribution in the school’s 10-year history, for the construction of the school’s $20 million Alico Arena. The teams won nearly 80 percent of their contests and student-athletes volunteered over 7,500 hours of community service each year. In 2008, McAloose was named the FGCU Staff Member of the Year by the FGCU student body.

Along with his past experience as an athletic director, McAloose has served in athletic conference administration. He served as the commissioner of the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Valley Conference from 1996 to 2000 after serving as the associate commissioner in the Big South Conference from 1992 to 1996. He also served in associate athletic director roles at both Coast Carolina University and at West Chester University. He currently is President/CEO of Athletics Staffing and Consultants where he assists University athletic departments throughout the United States.

He earned a master’s degree in education from Frostburg State University in 1988 and holds a bachelor’s degree in physical education from McDaniel College.

McAloose has three children Krista, 21; Savannah, 18; and Hunter, 16. His oldest daughter Krista attends the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, while Savannah and Hunter attend Fort Myers High School.
Coach Cox, cont’d. from p. 25

Cox was named the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Region IX Coach of the Year in 2003 and was named the Mid-Florida Conference Coach of the Year on three different occasions.

In addition to his six seasons at Daytona Beach, Cox served as the head coach at Valencia Community College in Orlando, Fla., for eight years. He became the first full-time head coach at Valencia in 1989 and compiled a 144-97 record, including four seasons with 20 or more wins and three state tournament appearances.

Cox’s overall record at the junior college level is an impressive 291-138 for a winning percentage of .678.

During his junior college tenure at both Daytona and Valencia, 44 out of his 58 sophomores graduated and most continued their basketball careers at NCAA Division I and II programs.

At Clayton State, Cox has built the Laker women’s basketball program into one of the top NCAA programs in the country. Earlier this season, he captured his 250th NCAA Division II victory, and he currently ranks among the winningest coaches at the D-II level.

Entering the 2013-14 season, the Lakers were on an unbelievable three-year run, which included a 96-6 overall record and a 52-1 mark in Peach Belt Conference play.

During that three-year span, the program won three straight Peach Belt Conference Championships, a Peach Belt Conference Tournament Championship, advanced to three NCAA Division II National Tournaments, advanced to two NCAA Division II Eight Eights and won a NCAA Division II National Championship.

Cox has been Peach Belt Conference Coach of the Year four times, NCAA Division II Southeast Region Coach of the Year three times and National Coach of the Year one time.


Cox earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla. He later earned a Master’s Degree in Exercise Physiology and Wellness from the University of Central Florida. He and his wife Ruth reside in Decatur, Ga.

Half Step 2 Help, cont’d. from p. 15

writing and partnering is in the works for the organization.

Just this year alone, Half Step 2 Help has hosted a clothing drive, a Thanksgiving dinner to feed the homeless, career coaching and business council, and Trisomy 9 Mosaic Syndrome outreach.

“We helped more than 200 people this year. Many people were responsible for this success and I am very grateful,” says White.

TRUST, cont’d. from p. 14

From an organizational standpoint, TRUST also created a logo, mission statement, and wrote a constitution during the fall 2013 semester. In addition, an application to join the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) is in the works, as is a TRUST website.
Clayton State Women Down Lander 87-75
by Gid Rowell

Behind a career high 26 points from Laker guard Tiayra Green, the Clayton State women's basketball team won its fifth straight game on Saturday defeating Lander 87-75 at the Athletics Center.

Clayton State led by double-digits for most of the second half but did have to hold off a late Lander rally in the victory. After leading by as many as 20 points with less than 12 minutes remaining, the Bearcats cut the deficit to six points, 76-70, with 3:05 left in the contest.

The Lakers answered though with six unanswered points in under a minute to regain control of the game. Forward Shamcara Jackson, Green and guard Bena Hanyard had points during the mini-run. Two free throws by Hanyard gave the Lakers an 82-70 lead with 2:21 remaining.

Lander made one final more push and cut it to nine, 82-73, on a 3-point play by guard Ty'hesa Reynolds but would come no closer. The Lakers rattled off five straight points to seal the victory.

"A good win against a good opponent," said head coach Dennis Cox. "We knew Lander wouldn't go away, and as always, it was a battle until the end. Give Coach (Kevin) Pederson and their kids credit as they played hard. I was sorry to see the injury toward the end of the game, but I was happy to hear that she is going to be okay and wasn't seriously hurt. I'm proud of our kids for hanging in there."

The game was delayed for approximately 25 minutes late in the second half as Bearcat guard Kayla West suffered a head injury after players from both sides got tangled up on a rebound in the paint. She was transported to a local hospital by ambulance.

With the win, Clayton State improves to 13-5 overall and 8-3 in Peach Belt Conference play, while Lander drops to 8-12 and 3-8 in the league.

Green provided the Laker offensive spark in the first half, scoring 19 of her 26 points. The game went back and forth in the first 14 minutes until Clayton State had a couple of runs. The Lakers took a 12-point advantage, 38-26, on a basket by Green with 4:25 until intermission. After Lander came back to cut the deficit to four points, 38-34, with 1:36 left, the Lakers closed the half with six straight points to take a 44-34 lead at halftime.

Forward Kiana Morton, Hanyard and forward Briah Woods all had baskets in the stretch.

Green's 26 points, came on 11-of-19 shooting and included a trio of 3-pointers. She also added three steals in the game. Jackson had another strong game, pouring in 21 points, hitting 9-of-12 from the floor. She also had six blocks and five rebounds.

Benford scored 13 points and pulled 11 boards, followed by Morton with 11 points. Hanyard added 10 points for the squad.

A three-pointer by Laker forward Charles Shedrick along the baseline with 3.6 seconds remaining Saturday lifted Clayton State to a 55-52 win over Lander, the hottest team in the Peach Belt Conference.

Shedrick's shot was set-up on a driving play by guard Sirdarius Henry who then slid a pass along the baseline for the game-winning jumper at the Athletics Center. The play came after Bearcat guard Michael Panaggio drained a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 34 seconds remaining to knot the game at 52 apiece.

"We guarded Lander well tonight, and we had too because they came in as the hottest team in the Peach Belt," said head coach Paul Harrison. "If we continue to guard, we will have the opportunity to be in every game. That's the key. It was a great team win against a good team."

The Bearcats entered the game on a six-game winning streak and had won nine of their last 10 games. The win improves Clayton State to 7-11 on the year and 3-8 in the league, while Lander drops to 13-7 and 7-4 in conference play. Clayton State will return to action on Wednesday, hosting GRU Augusta in a 7:30 p.m. contest.

The contest was tight throughout with 14 lead changes and the game tied on nine occasions. Clayton State's largest lead was seven points, coming in the second half on a steal and fast-break dunk by forward Omari Murray with 7:55 remaining. Lander's largest lead of the game was four points.

Clayton State closed the half with a basket by Shedrick, followed by a free throw from forward Jamil McKee to take a 21-20 lead at intermission.

Murray led a balanced attack for the Lakers with 15 points, hitting 6-of-9 from the floor. He also finished with a team-high nine rebounds. Shedrick had 12 points, followed guard Corbyn Moye with 11 points. Guard Kelsey Terry added 10 points for the team. ■
It’s a Tie!
by John Shiffert

For the third time in the 13-year Trivia Time history, the race for the Tom Eddins Virtual Trivia Trophy has ended in a tie.

While this may seem to be a statistical unlikelihood, what’s even more unlikely is that, dating back to the very first Trivia Time in 2001, Lou Brackett has been involved in all three dead heats. We’re not sure what this says about CID’s history major and trivia expert, except that Brackett is clearly an enduring and expert trivia champion – 2013 marks the fifth time she has finished first.

Of Brackett’s five titles, the 2002 and 2010 wins were shared, respectively, with former Alumni Association President Terry Penn, and two-time (2005, 2010) trivia champion and Emeritus Director of Student Life Rob Taylor. Bracket also won the very first Trivia Time in 2001, and repeated solely in 2009.

Joining Brackett with 38 points as co-holder of the 2013 Eddins Trophy is the 2011 winner, Coordinator of the Division of Music Dr. Kurt-Alexander Zeller. Undaunted by Brackett’s huge lead midway through 2013, Zeller racked up 30 points in the last five Trivia Times of 2013, providing witty comments on a variety of subjects (none of which involved music, it might be added) ranging from Rasputin to Jean-Paul Marat to the Marquis de Sade to Abby Normal to Mel Brooks. If that range of expertise doesn’t merit a trophy, nothing does.

Also providing strong showings in the 2013 campaign were third place finisher and 2012 champion Jill Ellington (32 points), the ubiquitous Taylor (29), and another retiree, Dr. David Ludley (27 points – including a record 13 for the Marat/Sade question).

The entire list of Trivia Time winners... it’s worth noting that while Brackett has five titles, no fewer than three others; Eddins, Taylor and Zeller, now have two each.

2001 – Lou Brackett
2002 – Lou Brackett and Terry Penn
2003 – Tom Eddins
2004 – Jean Myers
2005 – Rob Taylor
2006 – Tom Eddins
2007 – Dina Swearngin
2008 – Kelly Adams
2009 – Lou Brackett
2010 – Lou Brackett and Rob Taylor
2011 – Kurt-Alexander Zeller
2012 – Jill Ellington
2013 – Lou Brackett and Kurt-Alexander Zeller

To start off 2014, we’ll circle back to Frankenstein mode. In real life, the body of what U.S. politician, and presidential relative, actually was stolen for use in medical experiments?
Laker Indoor Track Wins
Nine Events at Tiger Indoor Invitational

by Gid Rowell

The Clayton State women’s and men’s indoor track and field teams competed in their third meet of the season Saturday and captured a number of top finishes at the Tiger Indoor Invitational hosted by the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn.

The Lakers won a combined nine events on the day with the women’s team winning four events and the men’s squad bringing home five first place finishes.

“Both teams had a productive day in this low-key meet,” said head coach Mike Mead. “It is hard to get mentally up for every competition and this is our third meet in as many weeks. I was quite pleased with the efforts of everyone on each team. With its tight turns, this track is tough to race well on. This meet should be a confidence-booster for many of our kids as we head into our next meet.”

On the women’s side, sophomore Maia Kuhnen won two events for the Lakers along with sophomore Shanice Walker and sophomore Jessica Matthews. Kuhnen won the 800m run with a time of 2:24.69 and the mile run with a time of 5:26.75. Walker captured first in the 400m dash with a time of 1:04.09 and Matthews won the triple jump with a leap of 38-feet-2 ¼ inches.

The women’s squad also had a handful of runner-up finishes in the meet as senior Jhaquil Richardson, senior Samantha Walling and sophomore Taylor Galvin all placed second in events. Richardson finished second in the 200m dash with a time of 27.93 and the 400m run with a time of 1:04.39. Walling placed second in the 800m run with a time of 2:28.84, while Galvin was the runner-up in the mile at 5:39.69.

On the men’s side, sophomore Kemboi had the top performance winning two events, while junior Jaleel Waldron, freshman Rafael Salis and the 4x400m relay team brought home first place finishes.

Coach Cox, cont’d., p. 22

Dennis Cox Named to FCSAA Hall of Fame

Clayton State University women’s basketball coach Dennis Cox has captured hundreds of wins, a national championship and been named a national coach of the year. In the coming weeks, he will add another achievement to his impressive resume.

Cox has been named to the Hall of Fame in the Florida College System Activities Association (FCSAA), which coordinates intercollegiate athletics for 28 community and state colleges in Florida. The induction ceremony will be held on Saturday, Mar. 8, at the FCSAA State Basketball Tournament being held at the College of Central Florida in Ocala, Fla.

Before becoming one of the nation’s top NCAA Division II head coaches and building Clayton State into a national power, Cox also experienced similar success in the junior college ranks in Florida.

“It is great to hear that Coach Cox is being named to the FCSAA Hall of Fame,” says Clayton State Athletic Director Carl McAloose. “Very few people can boast of the accomplishments he has had at the junior college level and now the NCAA II. He has touched many lives in the process and it is great to see he is being recognized for doing so. Clayton State University is very fortunate to have him.”

Prior to joining Clayton State in 2004, Cox served six years as the head coach at Daytona Beach Community College in Daytona, Fla., building DBCC into a powerhouse. He compiled a 147-41 record, won three Mid-Florida Conference championships, a Mid-Florida Conference Tournament championship and had a state runner-up finish at the school.

His top season at Daytona Beach came in the 2002-03 campaign when his Falcons finished fourth in the nation in the National Junior College Athletic Association final poll with a 29-2 record. He averaged 25 wins per season during his six years at Daytona.