Governor Deal Tells Clayton State Graduates, “It’s... Who You Are”

by John Shiffert, University Relations

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal congratulated the graduates at the 9 a.m. Commencement ceremony at Clayton State University on May 4.

Of course, every Commencement speaker congratulates the graduates. Georgia’s chief executive, the first sitting governor to address a Clayton State graduation, had something more tangible for the 250 degree recipients in attendance on Saturday.

Deal neatly overturned the old adage, “it’s not what you know, it’s who you know,” by telling his audience, “It’s not what you know, or who you know, it’s what you are.”

Governor Deal Tells Clayton State Graduates, “It’s... Who You Are”

Clayton State Named One of the Top 100 Workplaces in Atlanta For Second Consecutive Year

For the second consecutive year, Clayton State University has been named one of the “Top 100 Workplaces in Atlanta” for 2012 by the “Atlanta Journal Constitution.”

The University was recognized at the Atlanta Journal Constitution’s Top 100 Workplaces invitation-only event held on Wednesday, Apr. 24, at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre. The 2013 Top Workplaces section ran in the AJC on Sunday, Apr. 28.

Also for the second consecutive year, Clayton State was the only University System of Georgia institution to receive this honor. The only other higher education institution on the list is private Brenau University.

Clayton State is ranked ninth among the 20 institutions in the “large industry category,” which also includes Woodward Academy, Alston & Bird, Equifax, Ernst & Young, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, CSX, and Sprint.

More than 1200 organizations were initially included in the 2013 competition, held by the AJC and its partner, Workplace Dynamics. After employees responded to print and online solicitations beginning in August 2012, Workplace Dynamics surveyed a total of 83,565 metro Atlanta employees and compiled the top 20 large companies (500+ employees), the top 30 midsize companies (150...
Pat Keane, Dr. James Keebler Named Winners of 2013 Alice Smith Awards

by Erin Fender and John Shiffert, External Relations

Pat Keane, soon to become Clayton State University’s longest-tenured staff member, and College of Business professor Dr. James Keebler, have won the University’s 2013 Alice Smith Awards.

Clayton State’s Alice J. Smith Awards, for both faculty and staff, were presented at Clayton State’s Faculty/Staff Awards Ceremony on Apr. 23. An annual event since 1995, the Smith Awards are presented to the faculty member and staff member ranked most outstanding as determined by committees of their peers. The two, $1000 awards were established by local philanthropist Joseph Smith in honor of his wife, Alice.

Keane, who has been with Clayton State for 29 years, is currently the administrative assistant in the Athletic Department, her fourth position at the University, which may be a record of some kind. She first worked part-time at Clayton State as the switch board operator, starting in 1984. She then moved over to work full time in the Continuing Education Division, and later spent several years in Media & Printing Services.

With the retirement this summer of the Center for Academic Success’ Joann Quattlebaum, a previous Smith Staff Award winner, Keane will become the longest-serving staff member at the University.

“I don’t believe there is a better environment than a college campus to work. Helping students and coaches make their dreams come true is so rewarding. I look forward to coming to work every day…of course working with awesome colleagues helps too!,” says Keane.

This was the fourth time Keane has been named as a finalist for the Alice Smith Award, which may also be a record. “It’s a great feeling,” she said, standing on the stage of Spivey Hall and holding her award. “There are so many great people here, I hope you all get to experience it some day.”

Keane, who is married with three children, enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and staying active outdoors. A native of Philadelphia’s Chestnut Hill neighborhood, she has lived in Morrow for 39 years.

Clayton State University Announces The G. Robert Oliver Scholarship for Legal Studies

by Erin Fender, External Relations

The Clayton State University Foundation, in conjunction with the law firm of Freeman, Mathis, & Gary, recently announced the G. Robert Oliver Scholarship for Legal Studies. Family, friends, and local officials gathered at a recent Foundation Board meeting to surprise Oliver with the announcement.

Oliver has played a significant role in the University’s development over the years. As a charter member of the Board of Trustees, he was among those who signed the charter in 1974, creating the then-Clayton State Junior College Foundation. In 1999 he was named chairman of the then-Clayton College & State University Foundation. He now serves as trustee emeritus.

In 2001, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Clayton State; President Dr. Thomas K. Harden noted that, “Mr. Oliver exemplifies the ideals of public service, conscientious stewardship of public
Clayton State celebrates some of its finest scholars, and the donors who made their dreams real, at the Clayton State University Foundation Scholarship Luncheon.

A chance to bring various Clayton State scholarship recipients together with the individuals and organizations that made their scholarships possible, the Foundation’s Scholarship Luncheon drew a strong turnout of recipients, donors and Clayton State administrators, in addition to Foundation Board Chairman and Heritage Bank CEO Leonard Moreland.

“The Foundation is charged with going out and finding funds for the University to make dreams real,” he said in his remarks to the audience. “Scholarships improve the community, they help it to prosper even more. They help businesses, schools, the public. This is a very worthwhile cause.”

“Our donors have made an act of faith, an act of judgment, to make a better life for our students,” commented Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Hynes in his opening remarks. “The return on investment is high when investing in Clayton State students, and the students here today have shown your trust to be warranted, and have repaid it, time and time again.”

Among the speakers at the luncheon were three scholarship recipients; Tracey Lamar (Ellenwood), Todd Burke (Columbus) and Loretta Smith (Locust Grove).

Lamar, one of the 2012/2013 group of Presidential Scholars, noted that her scholarship has allowed her to participate in Study Abroad, various leadership activities and to volunteer in the community. A former dual-enrollment student at Clayton State, Lamar is a sophomore academically, double majoring in nursing and healthcare management.

“This has all been possible because people like you make my dreams real,” she said.

Business major Burke, like Lamar a Presidential Scholar and an officer in Clayton State’s chapter of the Alpha Lambda Delta first-year student honor society, said his scholarship gives him a focus.

“It gives you something to push yourself,” he said.

Smith, the mother of four and a former Army National Guardsman who holds a J.E. Edmonds Scholarship, is an English major working towards a secondary education teaching certification. Her long term goal is to become a college English professor.

“My journey at Clayton State has been an awesome one,” she said. “The J.E. Edmonds Scholarship helps me achieve my dream. I’d like to thank my donor for helping my dream become real.”

Luncheon, cont’d. p. 8

New Film Minor Prepares its Students for Atlanta’s Booming Film Industry

Clayton State continually adapts to its changing surroundings, which makes the institution a leading participant in the development of its students’ and the surrounding community’s future. In order to have students’ dreams be made real, Clayton State has an ear to every door, ready to open it even before opportunity has a chance to knock. In response to the explosion of the film industry in the Metro Atlanta area, Clayton State introduces the Department of Visual and Performing Arts’ new Film Minor.

According to Dr. Virginia Bonner, associate professor of film and media studies, the undergraduate Film Minor develops and strengthens students’ production, performance, critical thinking, and writing skills for success in all academic and professional endeavors. It also prepares students for entering the workforce or earning graduate degrees in professional areas such as film performance, film studies, and film production.

Any students majoring in other B.A. and B.S. programs may earn a Film Minor. The minor requires a minimum of 18 credit hours (six courses), which can also apply toward the elective requirements of many other majors. The Minor requires two lower division courses; CMS 2100: Introduction to Film, and THEA 1880: Introduction to Acting. The remaining course options to fulfill the last 12 credit hours are a combination of upper level Communication and Media Studies (CMS) and Theater classes.

Graduates earning a Film Minor will receive official recognition of this achievement on their university transcripts. Students wishing to declare a Film Minor should complete and submit the Change/Addition of a Minor Form to Visual and Performing Arts Department, and the Film Minor Graduation Worksheet to the Registrar attached to their graduation application.

Bonner also notes that now is the time to get involved in the strong job market.
Jere Boudell Accepted into UMass Computer Science Workshop

In addition to being a riverine ecologist, Clayton State University Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Jere Boudell admits to being a tech devotee, in part as indicated by the recent Eco Hackathon she organized at the University, an event that featured MIT’s App Inventor.

Now, it turns out that Boudell has been recognized as being more than just a devotee of computer science, come June she’ll be a participant in the “Computational Thinking through Mobile Computing” workshop at University of Massachusetts-Lowell; a special event designed for undergraduate computer science professors and led by the famed MIT professor Hal Abelson, creator of many computer science programs, including MIT’s App Inventor. Also leading the workshop will be teaching pioneers in computer science from University of Massachusetts-Lowell and the University of San Francisco, among others.

Naturally, Boudell can hardly wait for the June workshop to begin.

“I was so excited about MIT’s App Inventor that I applied to attend a workshop run by the developers at U Mass-Lowell. The workshop was designed for computer science professors, but I applied anyway and described how I could implement MIT App Inventor in some of my courses and Clayton State SEEDS outreach activities,” she explains. “They want me to attend the workshop, and I will receive some funding to attend. I can’t believe it!

“So, I’m very excited about the upcoming workshop in June where I will learn about MIT App Inventor, how to implement app development in the classroom, and how to assess computational thinking skills.”

As an extra bonus, Boudell notes, attendees will be visiting the MIT Media Lab as well.

Boudell says that her introduction to MIT’s App Inventor was a key step in her professional development.

“I quickly became excited by the idea of an engaging way to introduce programming and more importantly, critical thinking skills through app development. It’s absolutely revolutionary for people to think of programming as simply a skill that is available to anyone who wants to learn,” she says. “The MIT App Inventor ‘democratizes’ programming by implementing a visual blocks-based approach to app development.

“The Eco Hackathon was a complete success,” says Boudell. “The Eco Hackathon was proof of the concept. Most of the participants had no experience with MIT App Inventor or programming skills, yet many developed useable apps for use in fieldwork and outreach activities… in seven hours. That’s democratizing programming. That’s fun. And, that’s revolutionary.”

Once Boudell became familiar with MIT App Inventor, she knew it had to be part of last week’s Eco Hackathon, where participants explored and built apps that can be used to promote awareness of stream and watershed issues and for use in fieldwork. Of particular note, George Tang, director of quality at BetterCloud, a company that writes software for Google, led an introductory workshop on app building using App Inventor, thus allowing participants to better understand the powerful

Eco Hackathon “A Complete Success,” Says Boudell

by John Shiffert, University Relations

So what exactly is an “Eco Hackathon?”

“A complete success,” says Clayton State University Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Jere Boudell. The Apr. 20 event at Clayton State was designed by Boudell to explore and develop approaches to improve urban stream restoration in the Georgia Piedmont.

Sponsored by Better Cloud and Clayton State’s SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity, and Sustainability) chapter, a chapter of the Ecological Society of America SEEDS program, the University’s first Eco Hackathon was held in The LAB (Laboratory Annex Building) on Saturday, Apr. 20.

An Eco Hackathon is a hybrid of traditional scientific approaches to problem solving (i.e., research) and a tech or hackers approach that promotes synergistic and open thinking. Although still a new phenomenon, previous Eco Hackathons have received publicity on several tech sites such as TechCrunch.

Key to Clayton State’s Eco Hackathon were participants exploring and building apps that can be used to promote awareness of stream and watershed issues and for use in fieldwork. In particular, George Tang, director of quality at BetterCloud, a company that writes software for Google, led an introductory workshop on app building using MIT’s App Inventor, thus allowing participants to better understand the powerful computers they hold in their hands and allow them to construct simple apps.

“The Eco Hackathon was a complete success,” says Boudell. “What was stunning about this Hackathon is that participants had no experience with MIT App Inventor, in fact, almost all participants had no programming experience whatsoever. Yet, they produced working apps which would traditionally take an impressive amount of programming skills to produce. Hackathon participants created ecology apps for use in field work and in education and outreach.

Eco Hackathon, cont’d. p. 9
Dr. Robert Vaughan Named Dean of the Graduate School

by Dr. Micheal Crafton, Provost

If you will recall, we combined the position of the dean of the graduate school with the position of associate vice president for academic affairs more than a year ago as part of the general cost saving and consolidation efforts consistent with those throughout the University System of Georgia.

As this year came to a close I assessed the situation and found that we can continue with this structure for the short term. The graduate school is a bit too big to simply be a faculty member’s add-on job, and yet still too small to warrant the creation of yet another administrative position.

Therefore, I would like to remove the word “interim” from Dr. Robert Vaughan’s title and simply re-title his position as Dean of the Graduate School. He has done a fine job and will now be empowered a little more to explore new paths of development.

I wish to express my thanks, as I know Dr. Vaughan would also, to Dr. Tom McIlwain and Dr. Gwen Harold for their previous work in the history and development of the school bringing it to its current level of quality.

Clayton State’s First Arbor Day Celebration a Success

by John Shiffert, University Relations

Clayton State and the Clayton State Tree Committee hosted the University’s first Arbor Day Observance on Friday, Apr. 26. Not surprisingly, the theme of the day was, “Trees. Made Real.”

The Arbor Day Ceremony and tree planting started on the University Quad, with Clayton State Vice President for Business and Operations Corlis Cummings providing the keynote address.

Proving conclusively that CFO’s are also philosophical, Cummings quoted Frank Lloyd Wright, “the best friend of man on Earth is the tree.” Cummings also noted that Clayton State’s recycling program has saved 8000 trees, in addition to the half dozen Shumard Oaks planted on campus on Apr. 26.

Following Cummings’ keynote, Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Jere Boudell was in her métier, speaking on “Ecology and Plants of the Piedmont Trail,” and noting that, “we live in a tree community.” As part of the Arbor Day celebration, Boudell officially inaugurated the campus’ Plants of the Piedmont Trail, located just across Swan Lake, on the pathway between the lake and Spivey Hall. Boudell pointed out that the trail not only provides identification signs for the trees on the trail, but there is even an app associated with the signs to further identify the trees. Following the speech-making, Boudell led tours through the “Plants of the Piedmont” Trail.

Boudell and Tree Committee Chair Justin Brooks added that, although the campus already has many species of oak, including red, white, water and willow oaks, the Georgia native Shumard Oaks planted at various sites on the Quad and by the lake were the first of their type on campus.

Doing the planting were local homeschooled children, who attended the event at the invitation of Spivey Hall Education Manager Catherine Giel.
Alumni
Luis Monge, a former Clayton State University student and track & field/cross country athlete, reported via his Facebook account that he was safe following the Apr. 15 bombing at the Boston Marathon.

Biology
Reynolds Nature Preserve’s annual Wild Azalea Festival was held on Apr. 6, and the Clayton State University Biology Department played a major role, taking part in three service learning projects, including Dr. Barbara Musolf and Tri Beta members providing educational material about invasive plants, Dr. Christopher Kodani and students presenting an adopt-a-spring protocol, and Dr. Jere Boudell doing a presentation on stream restoration. In addition, Boudell’s SEEDS students discussed ecology and ecological issues.

College of Business
The AACSB-accredited College of Business (CoB) at Clayton State University’s Summer Entrepreneurship and Business Academy (SEBA), sponsored by PEI, a Stockbridge-based logistics firm, is intended to give high school students a taste of college life. Dr. Beverly Wright, program director, and Dr. Alphonso Ogbuehi, professor of marketing & global strategy, along with CoB Career Advisor Sanford Dennis, recently visited public and private high schools to talk about the current state of business, entrepreneurship, and also discuss their summer academy, which is designed to help prepare students for the future by providing a unique and exciting hands-on learning experience. This year’s program runs from June 16 through June 21 and will once again be held on the Clayton State campus in Morrow.

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Dr. Alphonso Ogbuehi, faculty member of the Clayton State University’s College of Business, was honored with becoming a member of Georgia State University’s Robinson College of Business Advisory Council for the Southeast U.S. Higher Education Consortium for International Business earlier this year. Ogbuehi is pleased with his engagement with GSU’s Robinson College of Business, his position on the 13 member Advisory Council, and the subsequent opportunity to serve as a judge in the inaugural International Business Case Competition organized at GSU Robinson’s Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER).

Dual-Enrollment
Clayton State does not have a women’s gymnastics team among its successful NCAA Division II athletics program. However, a Clayton State student won a Georgia State championship in the vault in the Apr. 21 2013 AAU State Gymnastics Meet, held at the Cobb Civic Center in Marietta. Maggie Shiffert, 17, is a sophomore at Clayton State and a junior at Northgate High School in Coweta County. One of the University’s 200-plus dual-enrolled students, she competes as a high school student in AAU gymnastics for the Newnan School of Gymnastics (NSG), as well as being a member of the Northgate gymnastics team. Competing at the Prep-Optional Two level for NSG in the Apr. 21 state AAU championships, she scored a 9.45 in the vault, winning the 15-18 year old age group by twenty-five-thousandths of a point over Cierra Swiney of the Elite Gymnastics team from Milledgeville, Ga.

English
Shannon Polson, one of the Clayton State English Department’s past Outstanding Senior majors has signed a letter of intent with Henry County Schools to teach at the secondary level. “Shannon is a perfect example of, yes, I will say it, Dreams. Made Real,” says Dr. Gregory McNamara, Clayton State associate professor of English. “I wrote once in a letter of recommendation for Shannon that I had never seen a book torn up at the end of the semester the way she had. She is a voracious reader and what is more, she is massively appreciative of the education she has had through our fine department. Lately I have reflected with pleasure that we have some majors who are truly enamored of our beautiful discipline. Shannon is one of these and she has and will take this belief into our local schools.”

History
Clayton State University’s Alpha-Nu-Psi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society, honored Colleen S. Hartmann, a Middle Grades Education major from Forest Park, Ga., with her initiation into the society at its annual meeting in April. An added treat for the evening was a talk by author and historian Victoria Wilcox on, “Gone with the Wind Goes West: The Surprising Southern Heritage of Doc Holliday.” Wilcox is founding director of Georgia’s Holliday-Dorsey-Fife House Museum, the antebellum home of the family of Doc Holliday.

Library
95 years of service! Clayton State Library faculty and staff recognized at the annual Service Awards Day included: Katherine Ott (five years) (not pictured); Joan Taylor (10 years); Laura Herndon (15 years); Heidi Benford (20 years); Heather Walls (20 years); and Barbara Dantzler (25 years).

Loch
Dedicated scouters of Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands spend years searching for the Loch Ness Monster. Too bad Nessie isn’t as social as Clayton State’s Loch, who was spotted at the 2013 Reese’s College All-Star Game at the Georgia Dome on Friday Apr. 5. The Laker mascot, along with mascots from other Georgia colleges and universities, was invited to “Mascot Mania” during the All-Star Game. Loch represented Clayton State well during a pre-game performance by the Gym Class Heroes, and during halftime where he bounced along court-side, peppping up the audience with Laker spirit. Alongside other mascots like Buzz from Georgia Tech, Loch was shown on the telecast of the game on Sunday afternoon on CBS-TV. The TV exposure, however brief, gave Loch the opportunity to inspire and energize audiences at home.

Music
The recent Atlanta Opera Guild Spring
Across the Campus...

Musicale, held at the Buckhead home of Atlanta Opera Guild Vice President Claudia Barnes, sang a Clayton State tune. Among the performers were Atlanta Opera Guild scholarship winner and Clayton State student Angie Plate, who was accompanied by Clayton State Staff Accompanist Alex Benford. Soprano Plate, a native of Peru who now calls Stockbridge, Ga., home, is a junior Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance major, studying with Dr. Kurt-Alexander Zeller, coordinator, Division of Music and director of Opera and Vocal Studies at Clayton State. The Atlanta Opera Guild scholarship winners receive $1000 to be applied to their senior year of undergraduate vocal studies.

Atlanta Opera Guild scholarship winners tenor Joseph McBrayer (at left), from Kennesaw State University, and soprano Angie Plate (center), from Clayton State University, who both performed at the Spring Musicale accompanied by Clayton State University Staff Accompanist Alex Benford (at right).

Orientation & New Student Programs
Clayton State University’s Eighth Annual New Student Convocation is scheduled to take place on Friday, Aug. 9, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Spivey Hall. This year’s keynote address will be provided by Clayton State’s president, Dr. Thomas Hynes, Jr. The ceremony’s purpose is to inspire, motivate and formally welcome new students into the university community. Clayton State faculty and staff who participate in the procession portion of the ceremony are kindly requested to wear their academic regalia. Last year’s ceremony had its largest attendance for new students, faculty and staff. If you have questions regarding the ceremony, please contact Celena Milner at (678) 466-5443; Office of Orientation & New Student Programs, Student Center, Room 218.

President
Clayton State University President Dr. Thomas J. Hynes was a guest on the radio show Atlanta Community Profiles on Saturday, Apr. 13. The show aired on Talk920AM at 2 p.m., and on 970AM/1400AM at 8 a.m., and will be posted on the web site, atlantacommunityprofiles.com for the next year. Hynes was invited to appear on Atlanta Community Profiles by Louis A. Wieland, Jr., president of Community Profiles, the official relocation magazines for FMLS that are distributed by realtors and many Chambers of Commerce throughout the metro area.

Sociology
Clayton State University Associate Professor of Sociology Dr. Kevin Demmitt has co-authored the new Human Intimacy: Marriage, the Family, and Its Meaning, 11 Edition with Dr. Frank Cox, professor of marriage and family courses at Santa Barbara City College. Demmitt published his first marriage and family textbook in 1997, which was updated for a second edition two years later, and then a third edition in 2002. The publishers of his first book, Cengage Publishers, then asked him to update the 10th edition of Human Intimacy: Marriage, the Family, and Its Meaning. The success of that project allowed him to continue work with this latest edition, which is used in Clayton State’s Sociology 2293: Marriage and Family course.

Theatre
Clayton State University Assistant Professor of Theater Patricia Henritze’s 10-minute play Destiny, which premiered at the EstroGenius Festival in New York last November, has been chosen to be part of the Georgia State University LGBTQ Short Play festival this coming July. The GSU Players and University Theatre at Georgia State will be presenting three nights of short LGBTQ plays, from July 25 to July 28, specifically plays not previously produced in Georgia. The plays will be given a minimal production, using mostly student actors at the Alumni Hall Theatre in Dahlberg Hall on the GSU Campus. Destiny, written by Henritze, takes place on a stoop outside a wedding reception in a time of change, of hope and confusion, and features a disheveled young bride and her reluctant maid of honor pondering the questions of life: Why wear panty hose? Is there more beer? Is our life a series of random events? Or is it destiny?

Veterans Resource Center
The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) at Clayton State University recently held a mini Resource Fair to assist student veterans and their family members. Representatives from the Georgia Department of Veterans Services, VFW Post 5080, and Disabled American Veterans (DAV), William E. Tate, Chapter 1, were available all day to answer questions and provide information and guidance with regards to VA benefits and compensation. During the event, Commander Leon Booker, DAV, William E. Tate, Chapter 1, presented Tina Lake, Veterans Resource Center coordinator, with a check for $400 to support operations at the center.

Clayton State University Director of Theatre and Assistant Professor of Theatre Shontelle Thrash performed a one-woman show at Georgia State University’s Speakers Auditorium on Apr. 3. The show, entitled Mother to Mother, was part of the South Africa Yesterday and Today event sponsored by Georgia State’s Center for Collaborative and International Arts (CENCIA) program. Thrash comments that the play was a, “fun project. I had the chance to speak the Xhosa language and play numerous characters.”
Thomas Giffin Named Director of Development

by John Shiffert, University Relations

Following an extensive national search and the recommendation of the Director of Development Search Committee, Thomas W. Giffin has been named director of development in the Division of External Relations at Clayton State University by Vice President of External Relations Kate Troelstra. Giffin, who replaces Reda Rowell, started his new position on Monday, Apr. 1.

Giffin comes to Clayton State with 15 years of experience in development, a majority of which is in the higher education field. Most recently the chief development officer for the Western Carolinas region of the American Red Cross, Giffin has previously worked in development at Clemson University, Virginia Tech, Coker College, UNC-Pembroke and Potomac State College. At both Virginia Tech and Clemson he was responsible for growing the pipeline of donors in a specific area; the state of Florida for Clemson, and the Graduate School and the University Honors Program at Virginia Tech.

“The Clayton State opportunity is obviously exciting because private donated funds can truly impact the future of our students,” he says. “I hope to convey the message that gifts to Clayton State can often truly mean the deciding difference that allows an individual to receive a quality higher education.”

Giffin also emphasizes that all gifts of any size to Clayton State can make dreams come true and impact lives; both of today's students and future generations of students.

“To be part of something so vital, so evident, to each member of the Clayton State family is challenging and exhilarating,” he says. “I am looking forward to working with the other professionals in the area of advancement and meeting all the people that have made the University such a success... and hopefully invite some new friends to continue our program's momentum.”

Giffin, who has also worked in public relations, marketing, communications and alumni affairs, holds a B.A. degree in Journalism from Shippensburg State University in Pennsylvania. He earned his M.S. from St. Thomas University in Miami.

Scholarship Luncheon, cont’d. from p. 3

Speaking on behalf of all scholarship donors was Dr. Eugene Hatfield, retired professor of history at Clayton State and president of the Clayton State Retirees Association, which has endowed a graduate scholarship at the University its members served for so many years.

“I urge you to continue to contribute to Clayton State, the university where dreams are made real,” he said to his fellow donors.
computers they hold in their hands and allow them to construct simple apps.

“The Eco Hackathon was a complete success,” says Boudell. “What was stunning about this Hackathon is that participants had no experience with MIT App Inventor, in fact, almost all participants had no programming experience whatsoever. Yet, they produced working apps which would traditionally take an impressive amount of programming skills to produce. Hackathon participants created ecology apps for use in field work and in education and outreach.”

Thank you, BetterCloud and George Tang, for supporting our SEEDS Eco Hackathon event!”

Boudell is riverine ecologist and a mentor of Clayton State’s SEEDS chapter for the past seven years, as well as being a self-proclaimed tech devotee. For the past 15 years she’s been investigating traditional and novel approaches to stream restoration, as well as teaching courses in biology, ecology and evolution, integrating math and technology from mathematical to computer modeling. Boudell has also participated in numerous outreach activities to schools and the community.

Clayton State’s Division of Continuing Education also offers extended opportunities as well. Continuing Ed’s Multimedia, Music and Entertainment Certificate program offers Film and TV Audition workshops, and Commercial Audition workshops. The program also offers a Voice Over Certificate program, and a Copyrights, Trademarks and Patents, Oh My! workshop.
The Clayton State University Foundation, in conjunction with the law firm of Freeman, Mathis, & Gary, recently announced the G. Robert Oliver Scholarship for Legal Studies. Family, friends, and local officials gathered at a recent Foundation Board meeting to surprise Oliver with the announcement.

Like Clayton State University, the law firm of Freeman, Mathis & Gary recognizes the contribution Oliver has made to Clayton State and the surrounding community. In recognition of his contributions, the partners of Freeman Mathis & Gary, along with the Clayton State University Foundation, created and endowed the G. Robert Oliver Scholarship for Legal Studies. This will forever link Oliver and Clayton State in a way that emphasizes the importance of education, leadership, and the legal profession.

“This scholarship being endowed will be but another lasting legacy of Bob and Joyce Oliver in this community. Bob’s firm, Freeman Mathis and Gary, is making all of this possible with the endowment. I would like to personally thank our fellow board member Jack Hancock, a partner with the firm, for everything he does for this university and continuing the tradition established by Bob,” says Leonard Moreland, president and CEO of Heritage Bank and chairman of the Clayton State University Foundation.

Clayton State began offering a variety of options in legal education in 1990, beginning with paralegal courses as a part of its continuing education program. The University graduated its first students with a Bachelor’s Degree in Legal Studies in 2011. Currently, the University offers a Bachelor’s Degree in Legal Studies, a Paralegal Certificate, an Associate Degree in Paralegal Studies, and a minor in Legal Studies. More than 150 students are enrolled in a program within Legal Studies, making it one of the fastest-growing departments on campus.

Oliver received his A.B. in 1953 and LL.B. in 1959 from Emory University. He has served as deputy assistant attorney general for the State of Georgia, president of the Georgia Academy of Hospital Attorneys, president of the Clayton County Bar Association, chairman of the Code of Professional Responsibility Committee for the State Bar of Georgia, and chairman of the Code of Professional Responsibility Committee. He has also served as chair, administrative board member and Church Council member at Jones Memorial United Methodist Church in Morrow, Ga.
Currently residing in Lakewood Ranch, Fla., Keebler has been commuting to Clayton State since 2008. He is professor of Supply Chain Management and serves as chair of the Faculty Senate and the Charles S. Conklin Endowed Chair. He obtained his doctorate in Business Administration, Marketing and Logistics from the University of Tennessee. His Smith Award capped a big day for the U.S. Army veteran, since he also was awarded tenure as well as his Five Year Service Award by the University.

A long-time corporate executive in the food, pharmaceutical, health care and electronics industries, he made the decision to complete his doctoral program at the age of 53 and has since taught courses at St. Cloud State University, University of Minnesota, and University of South Florida, in addition to Clayton State.

Keebler notes he likes teaching undergraduate and graduate students about Supply Chain Management and the rewarding career opportunities it provides. He has enjoyed being able to help build the Supply Chain Management program at Clayton State.

Keebler is married with seven children, two of whom are still in college, and he has 13 grandchildren. He says he used to golf frequently, but due to his affinity for water hazards he kept running out of balls. He enjoys camping, exploring and canoeing.

“I have never applied for a teaching award. I consistently received high evaluations at all the schools at which I taught, in Tennessee, Minnesota, Florida, and at Clayton State. I enjoy the classroom experience and my sincere concern for student learning, job placement, and career advancement is apparent. Student engagement is a reward in itself,” he says. This year’s other faculty nominees included: from the College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Susan Copeland and Dr. Erica Gannon; from the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences, Dr. Kelli Nipper; and from the College of Health, Dina Swearngin.

The other finalists for the Alice Smith Staff Award were: from the Office of Financial Aid, Patricia Barton; from Procurement Services, Marcia Jones; from the Department of Facilities Management, Jivaro Lovett; and from the Office of Network and Enterprise Services, Dan Newcombe.
School of Nursing Annual Cultural Diversity Conference - The School of Nursing, via its federal Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant, hosted its Annual Cultural Diversity Conference. The Cultural Diversity Conference increases the cultural competence of faculty and students at the School of Nursing and was open to the public on a space-available basis. The keynote speaker for this year’s event was Louis W. Sullivan, MD, former United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary (1989-1993), president emeritus, Morehouse School of Medicine, and chairman of the board of the National Health Museum in Atlanta. Sullivan spoke on “Eliminating Health Disparities in the United States” and reviewed health of the U.S. population, including disparities in health status and in access to health care, describing the strategies which are effective in decreasing disparities in health status, noting economic impact of health disparities, and articulating the role of racial, ethnic and cultural diversity in meeting health care challenges in America. Also speaking was Rick Zoucha, Ph.D., RN, associate professor at the Duquesne University School of Nursing.
Lisa Eichelberger Named Co-Director of New GNLC Grant

by Samantha Watson, University Relations

Dr. Lisa Eichelberger, Clayton State University’s College of Health dean and Clayton State professor, serves as co-director for Georgia’s new “Future of Nursing State Implementation Program” (FNSIP) grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF).

Eichelberger serves along with Dr. Aimee Manion from the Veteran’s Administration Hospital. The $225,000 grant was announced on Mar. 21, 2013 to be awarded to the Georgia Nursing Leadership Coalition (GNLC). Georgia is one of 20 states to be awarded in the $3 million initiative of FNSIP.

The State Implementation grant is a two-year grant that is awarded to state-based Action Coalitions, such as GNLC, that have developed or made considerable progress in implementing the IOM recommendations. To ensure success, the grant also calls for states to obtain matching funds.

With this grant the GNLC, which includes more than 300 healthcare leaders from 70 cities across Georgia, plans to focus on doubling the number of nurses with doctorates by 2020 and building an infrastructure to collect and analyze nursing workforce data.

The Future of Nursing program is implemented to help prepare states nursing professionals in order to tackle the nations pressing healthcare challenges of access, quality, and cost. The program reinforces efforts of the Future of Nursing: “Campaign for Action” that is underway in 50 states.

The “Campaign for Action” is a joint initiative of AARP and the RWJF to implement the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) evidence-based recommendations on the future of nursing. The effort hopes to transform health care through nursing and meet the challenges stemming from an aging and more diverse population. “The Campaign for Action” provides a vehicle for nurses to voice opinions about change and improve patient care by collaborating with business, consumer, and other health professional organizations.

“This grant is designed to spur progress in Georgia, which already is doing impressive work to transform nursing education, practice, and leadership,” says Susan B. Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, RWJF, senior adviser for nursing and director of the Future of Nursing: “Campaign for Action.” “The Foundation is committed to helping states build a more highly educated, diverse nursing workforce that will improve health outcomes for patients, families, and communities.”

Transplant Awareness Day at Clayton State

by John Shiffert, University Relations

Clayston State University student Rosalynn Gresham needs a kidney transplant to help win her battle against Lupus. And while that may make her unique among the Clayton State student body, she is hardly the only person who needs that kind of help. That’s one reason that April is Organ Transplant Awareness Month.

On Wednesday, Apr. 3, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Main Street on the second floor of the James M. Baker University Center, Clayton State Professor of Criminal Justice Dr. Sarah Stein led an information event to raise awareness about Gresham’s condition and provide information needed to begin the testing process to be a donor.

“Rosalynn's nurse from dialysis came to explain the process to people - her name is Tamika Baker and she was wonderful!” reports Stein. “A lot of people came by and asked for information and I think it was overall, a great success. I just hope something good happens for Rosalynn as a result.”

Stein has been involved with Gresham’s struggle since last fall, when the Hampton, Ga., native was a student in one of her criminal justice classes. Gresham was diagnosed with lupus at the age of 17, and has battled the disease and its effects for half of her 34 years. As a result, she has been on dial-

Transplant, cont’d. p. 18

MSN Graduates Make a Positive Impact
Through Kindness

by Samantha Watson, University Relations

Translating classroom objectives into real world changes is the goal of education. Recent Clayton State University MSN graduates Debra Curry and Stephanie Thomas are determined to reach this goal.

In order to do so, they have combined their skill sets, with Thomas’ training focused on education, and Curry’s training focused on leadership, in an initiative designed to reach and teach youth the value of kindness.

Thomas serves as program director of Jack & Jill of America, Inc., of the East Suburban Atlanta Chapter (ESAC) and Curry serves as president of the non-profit organization, ROB’d With Kindness, Inc. In celebration of the 75th anniversary of kindness.
The 2013 College of Business Beta Gamma Sigma honors recepients pose with Interiem Dean Michael Deis.

The 2013 College of Information and Mathematical Sciences awards ceremony.
The 2013 College of Arts & Sciences awards ceremony.
Clayton State Awards Posthumous Graduate Degree to Marteace Lockhart

For only the second time in recent memory, Clayton State University has awarded a posthumous degree.

The family of the late Scharlie-Marteace Lockhart, one of the University’s best-known alumni and student workers, was present at the noon ceremony of the Saturday, May 4 spring Commencement ceremonies – May 4 also marking the anniversary of his birth -- to receive his posthumous Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) from Clayton State President Dr. Thomas J. Hynes. Lockhart, who previously earned a B.S. in Sociology from Clayton State, passed away unexpectedly on Mar. 1, 2013. A frequent visitor and worker at the Clayton State Disability Resource Center (DRC) during his undergraduate days, Lockhart was working for the DRC, and Director Louise Bedrossian, as well as completing his MALS degree, at the time of his death.

“Marteace was well-known and well-loved throughout the campus,” says Bedrossian. “It seems that he never met a stranger and truly seemed to know everyone. He was always helping people. He flew into action whenever he could see that someone needed assistance and delighted in being able to provide support, information and resources. The last two Christmases, he was so excited to be part of a large project to provide new bicycles to needy children and couldn’t stop talking about the delight it brought to the families.

“He thrived on spreading happiness. Marteace will be sorely missed by his friends, family and colleagues. He was the embodiment of the spirit of Clayton State, of dreams made real.”

“Many of us had Marteace in class or interacted with him in disability services or the student conduct board,” added Clayton State Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Jacqueline Jordan in an email to her colleagues in the College of Arts & Sciences at the time of Lockhart’s passing. “This is such a sad event for a student that worked so hard to reach his goals despite his health to obtain his B.S. degree and now was finishing up his MALS degree here at Clayton State. I just wanted to send out an email to all faculty and staff that had not heard of the passing of this wonderful student.”

In addition to his work for the DRC, Lockhart served the University in nume-
“These are the brushes and colors with which you will paint the mural of your life.”

As has been the case for several years, Clayton State held two ceremonies on May 4. Approximately 250 graduates from the College of Business, College of Health, and College of Information and Mathematical Sciences heard Deal’s remarks at the 9 a.m. ceremony. The noon ceremony, with Atlanta City Councilman Kwanza Hall as the commencement speaker, was for approximately 265 graduates of the College of Arts & Sciences.

Using an analogy that everyone present could relate to, Hall noted that what has been considered common knowledge is now less common.

“The way the world is now, the road less-travelled is not the exception, but the rule,” he said. “We have a GPS in our cars, but not in our lives. You have to develop your own GPS.

“You have to have a GPS for your soul. You have to develop your own GPS along the road of life.”

Saturday’s ceremonies were also highlighted by the awarding of a posthumous degree (see related story on p. 16). The family of the late Scharlie-Marteace Lockhart, one of the University’s best-known alumni and student workers, was present at the noon ceremony to receive his posthumous Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) from Clayton State President Dr. Thomas J. Hynes.
Those not familiar with the Georgia Innocence Project (GIP) might wonder what Clayton State University Assistant Professor of Theater Patricia Henritze has gotten involved in when they read that she’s working on a life sentence.

The explanation is really quite simple. “Life Sentence: the Album,” is inspired by the life of Clarence Harrison, who has the distinction of having been exonerated by the Georgia Innocence Project. It is a collection of 11 songs created by professional musicians Melanie Hammett and Ben Holst. The project’s goal is to create a fully-produced album whose proceeds from tours, merchandise, digital sales, etc., will benefit GIP.

Clayton State’s involvement with GIP dates back more than a decade. The Georgia Innocence Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals who have been convicted of crimes they did not commit. GIP works to secure post-conviction DNA testing for Georgia and Alabama inmates where DNA analysis could prove guilt or innocence and adequate DNA testing was not available at trial.

“This is really cool,” says Dr. Greg Hampikian, professor of Biology and Criminal Justice at Boise State University, and one of the founders of GIP when he was a professor of Biology at Clayton State. “I worked on Clarence Harrison’s case from my office next to the Clayton State Theater. Clayton State indeed has a long history with the Georgia Innocence Project.

“Aimee Maxwell, the director of GIP, has been raving about this project.”

“Life Sentence is a voice for GIP that can raise money, spread the word and educate,” says Henritze, who is the creative director for the project. “To reach that goal and have the songs available on iTunes, Amazon, etc., they are doing large fundraisers and performances and I am the performance director. I am coaching Clarence as he tells his story, and Melanie and Ben as they tell the story of their experiences at GIP so that they can create inspirational performance events in support of the project.”

“Life Sentence” has set up three websites, including a Facebook page, where interested parties can visit for more information. Indiegogo is a site similar to Kickstarter and is a crowd funding platform: http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/life-sentence-an-album-to-free-the-wrongfully-incarcerated/x/2927194. The official Life Sentence webpage is: http://www.lifesentencealbum.com/, and the Facebook page is: https://www.facebook.com/LifeSentenceAlbum.

“Promise to like us on Facebook if you go….” asks Henritze.

Henritze’s creative involvement with GIP also parallels Hampikian’s work. While he was a professor at Clayton State Hampikian wrote and premiered two plays for the Clayton State Theatre, and co-authored “Exit to Freedom,” the story of the first Georgia inmate freed by DNA evidence, Calvin Johnson.

“How odd to see two professors coincidentally involved in something so specific,” remarks Henritze.

Hampikian became interested in Johnson’s story after reading a 1999 Atlanta Journal-Constitution front-page article proclaiming Johnson’s release from almost 17 years of wrongful imprisonment. DNA evidence turned out to be Johnson’s exit to freedom from his sentence of life plus two 15-year sentences.

“I put the article on the inside of my office door, and hoped that I could write his story with him...It was an amazing story - the first DNA exoneration in Georgia,” says Hampikian. What was even more amazing was Johnson’s attitude. “He was not bitter…. then I heard him on the radio and he was even more positive than he appeared in print.”

Fascinated by Johnson’ high morale, Hampikian asked Clayton State’s Deborah Greer, director of Diversity and Disability Services, to invite Johnson to the University as a guest speaker. Enthralled by Johnson’s address, Hampikian hastily scribbled out the first chapter of what would become “Exit to Freedom” as Johnson spoke. Hampikian later approached Johnson to propose plans for a book.

Through writing “Exit to Freedom,” Hampikian became interested in lending his forensic expertise to the Innocence Project, the non-profit legal foundation created by Barry C. Scheck and Peter J. Neufeld who were responsible for Johnson’s exoneration. Hampikian is currently director of the Idaho Innocence Project and is still on the GIP board as their DNA expert.

**Transplant, cont’d. from p. 13**

yxis since January 2012, alternating her time between the classroom and the hospital.

"She's extremely bright, she's extremely driven to do what she wants to do, and she has a zest for life that is unbelievable," says Stein, who at age 29 is actually younger than her student. "I at least wanted to give her that hope that someone out there is trying, and I hope other people will try as well."

Although Gresham’s story was originally told by 11Alive in September 2012, like so many others, she is still in need of a transplant so she can forego dialysis. Undaunted, she continues in her classes at Clayton State, and is also taking steps on her own. She recently set up a website (http://www.giveforward.com/newlife-newbeginnings) for the purpose of fundraising and to raise awareness for people to get tested to see if they are a match in what has become a very real quest for a dream made real.
Clayton State students, under the direction of Clayton State University Director of Theatre and Assistant Professor of Theatre Shontelle Thrash, performed in the Clayton State Theatre spring production “The Importance of Being Earnest” by Oscar Wilde. The dual-cast production ran Apr. 11, 13, and 13 and again Apr. 18 and 19.

The 2013 production of the Clayton State Opera, “Ruddigore,” or “The Witch’s Curse,” Gilbert and Sullivan’s classic parody of the Victorian gothic romance novel, was performed in the University’s Spivey Hall on Friday, Apr. 5 and Saturday, Apr. 6. It was conducted by Dr. Richard Bell, choreographed by Kathleen Kelly, and presented by the Clayton State Department of Visual and Performing Arts/Division of Music.
The Women’s Forum annual spring scholarship luncheon was held April 16 with guest speaker Ashley Vicos. The 2013-2014 Officers were announced: President Krystal Houston, Vice President Latrice Barlow, Secretary Maurica John, and Treasurer Nicole Harris. Scholarship recipients were also recognized from left to right, Scholarship Chair, Dr. Angelyn Hayes; recipients: Jade Salaz; Lindsay Fenn; Myrtis Battle; ShaCori Hillman; Sundee Proctor; Jazzmine Thomas, with scholarship committee members Joanne Quattlebaum and Krystal Houston. Julie Coile of the Laker Card Center received the staff scholarship at an earlier date.
Faculty & Staff Participate in Lose to Win Incentive Program Hosted by Recreation & Wellness

Approximately 30 Clayton State University faculty and staff members recently participated in Recreation & Wellness’ Lose to Win Incentive program.

The program was designed to encourage Clayton State faculty and staff to participate in daily physical activity and gain an understanding of the basic American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) physical activity recommendations. The primary purpose of the program is to encourage faculty and staff to achieve a healthy weight and in an effort to enhance their overall health. Participants were encouraged to engage in daily physical activity and reach the minimum exercise recommendations established by the ACSM (150 minutes /week).

From January to April, teams of four Clayton State employees competed to see who could earn the most loss points by calculating the average weight in pounds and centimeters lost by each team member. Bonus loss points were awarded for attending The Weight of the Nation Screening Event held on Jan. 29.

Participants received an initial and final assessment consisting of weigh-in and circumference measurements. Body fat percentage was also calculated during the initial and final assessments as an additional measure of progress, but was not factored in to the total score for the competition. Total losses were calculated based on an average of the team members’ inches and pounds lost from the initial to the final assessment.

The 2013 Lose to Win Faculty/Staff Incentive Program winning team was comprised of Ben Hopkins, Jeslin Harrigan, and Felisha Whitehead. Their

Bram Boroson Places High in Heritage Health Prize Competition

by Samantha Watson, University Relations

Clayton State University Assistant Professor of Physics Dr. Bram Boroson has branched out again. Known on campus as the “man for all seasons,” Boroson has extended his role from physicist to award-winning journalist, mathematician, philosopher, and now to data analyst.

On Apr. 4 2011, Boroson began participation in a two-year competition, held by Heritage Provider Network in California, entitled the Heritage Health Prize. The president and CEO of Heritage Provider Network, Dr. Richard Merkin, implemented this competition in hopes of making Americans more healthy and the American health care system more efficient.

“The contest took a lot of work over a long time. Approaches to ‘Big Data’ are of growing importance in many fields. I learned a tremendous amount during the competition,” states Boroson.

Aspiring to fix a dilemma familiar to most health care executives, Merkin decided to award $3 million to anyone who could build the algorithm that best predicts which patients will be hospitalized and for how many days over the course of a year.

Boroson, operating solely on his own, placed 82 out of 1659 teams, of which most were comprised of several members. The winner, along with the top 10, will be announced on June 3, 2013.

“Considering many who entered the competition had experience with the health care field and training in statistical analysis, I think my placement in the top 5 percent was really good,” comments Boroson, “In the very last week I moved up 295 places in the public ranking… I was learning right up to the end.”

The competition was based on a given data set, created by Heritage, com-
Clayton State Schedules
Fourth Annual FAFSA Day For June 8

Clayton State University Director of Financial Aid Pat Barton has announced that the Office of Financial Aid’s popular FAFSA Day will be held for the fourth time on Saturday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in room UC327 of the James M. Baker University Center.

The 2013/2014 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is the key document for anyone planning to attend college during the 2013/2014 academic year. Students must complete a FAFSA (or a renewal FAFSA) to receive federal aid for the 2013/2014 academic year which begins with fall semester 2013, even if they are currently receiving financial aid. Although there is often a great deal of trepidation among students regarding FAFSA, the helpful staff in Financial Aid can provide any and all guidance needed.

Clayton State financial aid administrators will be available for FAFSA Day on June 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help families who still need to complete and electronically submit their FAFSA forms for the 2013/2014 academic year.

Attendees for FAFSA Day should bring the following documents with them:

* Social Security number for student and spouse if married and parent(s) if dependent
* Driver’s license number of student (if any) and spouse
* 2012 Federal Tax Form (1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, etc.) for student and spouse if married and parent(s) if dependent
* 2012 W-2 Form(s) and other records of money earned for all tax filers
* Parents date of birth and date of marital status if dependent
* Amount of untaxed income including Veterans non-education benefits, child support, and worker’s compensation
* Current balance in checking and/or savings accounts for student and spouse if married and parent(s) if dependent
* Current worth of business and investments
* Alien registration or permanent resident card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

For more information on FAFSA Day, contact the Clayton State Financial Aid Office at FinancialAid@mail.clayton.edu. The Financial Aid Office also urges students and future students to check the Financial Aid website, located at; http://www.clayton.edu/financial-aid, often for updates.

Lose to Win, cont’d. from p. 21

team earned a total of 29.3 total loss points over the three month period. Whitehead saw outstanding results through participation in the Lose to Win Incentive program as she accrued 44.8 total loss points on her own.

“I signed up for the Win to Lose Program in January,” she says. “I’ve started the New Year with the same resolution for the past four years, ‘Lose Weight,’ and never accomplished it until now. One of the contributing factors to my success was attending The Weight of the Nation Screening, hosted by the Department of Recreation & Wellness. The documentary provided me with the information and motivation I needed to begin my health and fitness journey.

“I’ve watched several other health related documentaries since then and I try to make healthier purchases while grocery shopping and eating out. I have apps installed on my phone that I use while grocery shopping, which helps me make healthier choices. This is just the beginning and I’m looking forward seeing where the journey will take me.”

Recreation & Wellness will host the 60 miles in 60 days faculty/staff challenge in early June. Interested participants will run, bike, walk, or swim to see who makes 60 miles in 60 days. If you are interested in participating in the 60 Miles in 60 Days Challenge, please feel free to contact Lisa Williamson, assistant director of Recreation & Wellness (Fitness & Wellness) at lisawilliamson@clayton.edu.

Boroson, cont’d. from p. 21

posed of three years of anonymized, real patient information. Because real data was used in these data sets, Heritage already knew who would get hospitalized and could run a live “leader board,” ranking teams as they refined their algorithms.

Deviating from traditional contracting with a data company for private results, Merkin created the competition and award. The Heritage Health Prize brought alternative forms of expertise to bear on tough questions, breaking down research silos. Offering a prize also tends to be cheaper than contract spending.
Joshua Parker Awarded Best Overall Presentation at Regional Herpetology Conference

Clayton State’s resident herpetologist, Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Joshua Parker, was honored as giving the “Best Overall Presentation” at the University of Florida’s 35th annual regional herpetology conference in Gainesville, Fla.

Parker spoke to the Apr. 5 and Apr. 6 conference on his research over the past four years on his favorite species of snake, the Midget Faded Rattlesnake, which he has been studying since his Ph.D. days.

“My talk was entitled ‘Integrating genetics and habitat modeling to inform conservation of midget faded rattlesnakes (Crotalus ore-oganus concolor),’” he says, adding that the genetics and modeling techniques he uses can be applied to most species, not just the western rattlesnake species he works with the most.

While Parker was in graduate school, he went out to help another graduate student collect rattlesnakes.

“I immediately fell in love with them and knew I wanted to do my Ph.D studying them,” he explains. “I am obsessed with all snakes, but especially rattlesnakes and their venomous kin. I guess you can say they have been my muse in life ever since, both personally and professionally.”

A reception honoring students in the Teacher Education program was held in CE 101 on Apr. 25.
The Clayton State University Alumni Association 2013 Officer Installation Ceremony was held Thursday, Apr. 25, 2013 in Spivey Hall.

Procurement Services hosted Vendor Expo 2013 to connect the campus community with vendors for services and supplies on Mar. 29 in Continuing Education.
Graduate Student Experiences Great Success

by Samantha Watson, University Relations

A legacy of success is what Clayton State graduate student Christie Wooten is in the midst of accomplishing. If Clayton State University helped her dreams be made real in 2008, the year she received her Bachelors of Science in Psychology and Human Services, then Wooten is assured Clayton State will continue to make her dreams real throughout the completion of her master’s degree.

Wooten is the program services coordinator at Southern Crescent Sexual Assault Center (SCSAC) and has served the position since February 2012. Immediately after her graduation in 2008, she started working at SCSAC as a crisis responder.

“The courses and professors at Clayton State that prepared me for crisis intervention and working with culturally diverse clients have made the most impact in my career,” states Wooten.

Wooten quickly moved up the ladder at SCSAC, becoming the community outreach coordinator in 2009, then prevention educator in 2010. From there, she became the mentor program assistant coordinator at Forest Park Street School. In 2012, while serving as SCSAC’s program services coordinator, she worked 10 hours a week as the graduate research assistant for the Department of Psychology, and later held the position of training coordinator at Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault until February 2013.

“Providing prevention programming has become my passion. I love working with teenagers, talking with them, and providing them with techniques and coping methods to navigate through the often confusing years of adolescence,” states Wooten. She claims that she owes her love for education and prevention programming to Dr. Eric Bridges who, “has been my mentor for six years, assisting me with my professional development and always providing me with encouragement.”

In the last semester of Wooten’s undergrad program, she began begging Psychology Department Chair Dr. Donna McCarty to start a graduate program. She claims that when she heard of the program’s announcement, she was hesitant to apply because she had begun working full-time and did not want to stifle her career. After reading the description of the program, however, she immediately knew it was the appropriate fit for her career goals of working with youth.

“All of the psychology department staff are responsible for molding me into the professional that I have become. I could not have asked for better undergraduate professors,” praises Wooten. She knows she made the right decision in returning to Clayton State for her master’s because, “the same professors that had such an impact on me during my undergrad have continued to mold me and enhance my growth today.”

After completing her master’s thesis and graduating on May 4, 2013, Wooten dreams of attaining her Ph.D. in either public health or community psychology. She is interested in creating evidence-based curriculums regarding sexual risk behaviors reduction and sexual violence prevention for under privileged and at-risk youth.

“Ultimately I would like to run a juvenile detention center, planning and implementing educational programming for effective and efficient rehabilitation,” states Wooten.

Loch Shop Makes Collegiate Retailer Honor Roll

Clayton State University’s own Loch Shop was recently nominated for the Collegiate Retailer of the Year (CROY) Award. This award is bestowed on a store that demonstrates the highest level of collegiate retailing excellence. The judging is based on six criteria; campus connection, academic support, customer commitment, shopping experience, workplace culture, and profitability. Clayton State history professor Dr. Randall Gooden and Nebraska Book Company nominated the Loch Shop for this award.

“The Loch Shop has evolved over the past three years from a bookstore serving the student body, to a campus shop for the future. Under Director R. Todd Smith’s direction, the Loch Shop’s re-design of its retail offerings and atmosphere have enabled the guests the chance to enjoy a pleasurable and true shopping experience,” praises Woodie White, the regional manager of the Nebraska Book Company Textbooks, LLC. California State University’s Forty-Niner Shops Bookstore was named the 2013 Collegiate Retailer of the Year by the NACS Foundation, a subsidiary of the National Association of College Stores (NACS). Yet, because of the overall high quality of entries this year, the award selection committee also named 17 additional stores to the CROY Honor Roll, which included the Loch Shop.

“We are delighted that we were able to recognize The Loch Shop in its efforts and the tremendous things it is doing,” comments Kris Spencer, the development manager for the NACS Foundation.

The NACS has only sponsored the CROY award once before, and this is the Loch Shop’s first nomination.
to 400 employees) and the top 50 small companies (less than 150 employees.)

After completing the survey, Workplace Dynamics ran a series of statistical tests to look for questionable results to see if disqualifications were needed.

For more information on the Top 100 Workplaces, go to www.ajc.com/business/topworkplaces.

(L to R): Clayton State’s Leon Wheeler, Kate Troelstra, Tim Hynes, Angela Free, Micheal Crafton
Curry has committed herself to encouraging young people to choose kindness and avoid violence ever since she lost her son at age 21 through a senseless act of violence. “Robert was a young man of promise,” reads Curry’s website, www.robsmemory.com. “He was a talented musician and was often referred to as a young renaissance man. He was honored to be featured on the CBS Early Show during a weeklong segment called ‘People Doing Extraordinary Things.’ Robert had enlisted in the Army, but missed the opportunity to serve due to his untimely death.”

ROB’d With Kindness seeks to provide community outreach, events and initiatives designed to positively impact the lives of others through Acts of Kindness. The non-profit claims to be more than an organization, but movement built from a mother’s vision to actively memorialize her son, continue the legacy of kindness he was known for, and combat violence in communities, especially among young men and women.

“ROB’d With Kindness seeks to empower residents, officials, schools and local partners to make a difference in their communities by being of service to others,” reads a ROB’d With Kindness press release.

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Tsarnaev Brothers Represent a New Form of Terrorism, Says Rodger Bates

“Lone-wolf terrorists have emerged as the major threat to America as they are difficult to identify and require little or no external support in mounting serious threats to our nation,” says Dr. Rodger Bates, Clayton State University professor of Sociology.

Bates recently published online in Journal of Public and Professional Sociology an article entitled, "Dancing with Wolves, Today’s Lone Wolf Terrorists." An expert in the field of homeland security and terrorism, Bates’ 2012 article presages the bombings by the Tsarnaev brothers at the Boston Marathon. In the abstract to his article, Bates writes:

“Terrorism takes many forms. However, the rise of the self-radicalized lone wolf terrorist has created an increasing dilemma in today’s security environment. This type of emerging terrorism is increasingly found among right-wing reactionaries and religiously radicalized jihadists. With increasingly effective security environments, leaderless resistance has emerged as a threat and tactic facilitated by the internet and other modern information outlets. The unabomber, Oklahoma City bomber, Fort Hood and Oslo assailants are examples of this new form of terrorist. Through the development of a sociologically informed typology that categorizes lone wolf terrorism in terms of motivation, extent of radicalization, form and risk-awareness, a more relevant understanding of this form of non-normative behavior is proposed.”

Bates also notes that, “with the extensive Al Qaeda presence on the internet and with many sites which provide motivation and training, the Tsarnaev brothers may well have become self-radicalized jihadists who took advantage of the symbolic nature of Patriot’s Day in Boston to attack the Boston Marathon and America.”

Bates is a graduate of The College of William and Mary (B.A.), the University of Memphis (M.A.) and the University of Delaware (Ph.D.). All of his degrees are in the area of sociology. Prior to coming to Clayton State, Bates was a long-time faculty member at Lambuth University in Jackson, Tenn. He also has served as the vice president for academic affairs at Dakota Wesleyan University, dean of the faculty at Pikeville College, and provost at Richard Bland College of The College of William and Mary. From 2000 to 2006, Bates served as president of New Mexico State University at Alamogordo, N.M., a branch campus in the NMSU System.

While at New Mexico State University, Dr. Bates coordinated the development of distance education opportunities for U.S. Air Force personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq via iPod.

Bates came to Clayton State in 2008 as dean of the College of Professional Studies. With the closing of the College of Professional Studies in 2009, he returned to teaching as professor of sociology and homeland security and has been active in promoting the development of online education within the College of Arts and Sciences and the development the sociology and homeland security programs. His recent research interests have focused on leadership, terrorism and counter-terrorism building upon his earlier experiences as an officer in the U.S. Army, instructor at the Kennedy Center for Special Warfare and as a propaganda development (PSY-OPS) officer in Vietnam.

Homeland Security/Emergency Management is now an approved minor in sociology at Clayton State, as well as a concentration in both the Clayton State B.A.S. Administrative Management degree and in the Criminal Justice major.
Across the Campus...

Athletics
Former Clayton State All-American golfer Will Wilcox captured the biggest win of his young career last Sunday, winning the South Georgia Classic in Valdosta, Ga. Wilcox fired a one-over-par 73 and cruised to a four-stroke win, his first career title on the Web.com Tour. Wilcox began the final round at the Kinderlou Forest Golf Club with a whopping seven-stroke lead – courtesy of a course-record 63 Saturday – and never let any of his challengers get closer than the final margin all afternoon. Wilcox, a third-year pro, picked up a check for $117,000 and vaulted from No. 55 to No. 3 as the Tour reached the one-third mark of the 2013 schedule. His season total of $139,061 puts him on track to finish among The 25 leading money winners this year and earn a spot on the PGA tour in 2014.

Clayton State's Bryce Rauhof and Aryton Azcue led the Lakers in the inaugural Peach Belt Conference Track & Field Championships held in Rome, Ga., this weekend. Rauhof won two events in the meet, while Azcue won one event and placed second in another for the Lakers. Clayton State finished the meet with 64 points to place seventh overall. With Rauhof's two event wins and a fifth place finish, he was named the Peach Belt Field Athlete of the Year.

The Clayton State men's and women's Track & Field teams posted six top five performances, led by a school record and NCAA Division II national meet provisional mark by freshman Jessica Matthews in the triple jump at the Coach O Invitational last Saturday in Troy, Ala. Matthews placed second in the triple jump, leaping 40-feet 7 ¾-inches (12.39m), shattering her own school record in the event. Before Saturday, her best was a 38-10 ½ jump at the Furman Blue Shoes Invitational. Nationally, her jump ranks in the top-10 among all triple jump performances this season. She was less than a foot from hitting an automatic mark for the NCAA Division II National Championship meet this spring.

Women's Tennis Falls 5-0 to Top-Ranked Armstrong In NCAA Division S.E. Regional
The 2013 Clayton State women's tennis season came to an end in the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional, falling 5-0 to the nation’s top-ranked team Armstrong in Savannah, Ga.

Armstrong, 25-1 on the season, swept all three doubles matches and then won two in singles to capture the victory. The closest match of the day was at No. 3 doubles as the Laker team of Zinnia Leamana and Raluca Pavel fell 8-4 to Armstrong’s Clara Perez and Natasa Vukovic.

The Pirates, winners of four of the last five NCAA Division II National Championships, advance to Monday’s Southeast Regional Championship against the winner of Georgia College and Augusta State later today.

Clayton State, ranked #32 in the country, ends its season with a 10-12 mark. The berth in the NCAA Division II National Tournament was the 10th time the Lakers have received a berth in the national championship event.

Lockhart, cont’d. from p. 17
ous other capacities, including serving on the Clayton State Judicial Review Board, representing Clayton State at various external student functions, including USG system-wide events and meetings, being selected to serve on numerous student committees, including a committee consulted in the selection of the current university president, and coaching the Clayton State Debate Team.

Hynes presented the posthumous degree to Lockhart’s mother, Meirley N. Lockhart. Also in attendance on Saturday was Marteace Lockhart’s sister, Dr.Sharbrenia Lockhart-Thompson.

Clayton State’s only previous posthumous degree ceremony in the 21st Century took place on May 8, 2010, when a posthumous Bachelor of Arts degree in History was presented to Crystal Beale on behalf of her late husband, Sergeant First Class (SFC) John C. Beale. A Clayton State history major and an employee of the Clayton County Water Authority, SFC Beale was one of three Georgia Army National Guardsmen killed in action in Kapisa Province in northeast Afghanistan on Thursday, June 4, 2009.
Clayton State Athletics also honored its top female and male academic students at Friday’s event with the Dotty H. Bumbalough and H. Mason Barfield Awards. These awards go to a male and female student-athlete who has attended Clayton State as a full-time student for a minimum of two years; is at least a junior in classification; has participated in a minimum of 50 percent of their sport’s contest; and has a minimum grade-point average of 3.25.

Clayton State senior cross country and track & field runner Paige Galvin was the recipient of the Bumbalough award for the second straight year. Galvin, from Posey, IL, is a member of Clayton State’s honors program and is majoring in Psychology and Human Services.

On the men’s side, senior basketball player Tony Dukes received the H. Mason Barfield Award. Dukes, from Ellenwood, GA, is a two-year letterwinner for the Lakers and is a Communication and Media Studies major.

For the fourth straight season, Clayton State’s top academic team for the 2012-13 season was the Laker women’s tennis team. The squad has a combined 3.43 cumulative grade point average.

The Clayton State Athletic Training Department also presented an inaugural annual award at Friday’s festivities, named the Triumphant Laker Award. The award will recognize a student-athlete who has battled back from injury or pushed through substantial injuries to make a valuable contribution to his or her team.

The inaugural award winner was senior women’s basketball player Keona Dixon from Clearwater, FL. Dixon tore her ACL during the second basketball game of the season. She decided to forego surgery until after the season. After spending two months of vigorous rehabilitation, Dixon returned to her team and earned a starting position on the Laker team.

In addition to the Clayton State awards, two student-athletes were recognized for recently attaining University awards at Clayton State’s Honors Convocation.

Senior tennis player Charlotte Fabricius was honored with an Academic Achievement Award for her 3.84 grade-point average, while fellow senior tennis player Ivana Krommelova received a number of awards at the event.

Not only did Krommelova receive an Academic Achievement Award for her 3.89 grade-point average, she also was the recipient of the College of Business’ Outstanding Graduate of the Year, the Outstanding Graduate of the Year in Supply Chain Management, the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals General Scholarship and the School of Business’ nominee for the Chancellor’s Academic Award.
Harrison, cont’d. from p. 31

record, winning the Southern Conference regular season and tournament titles. The Terriers advanced to their first NCAA Division I national tournament, falling to Wisconsin 53-49. The squad beat both Georgia and South Carolina that season and won 22 of its last 25 games.

The program also advanced to the NCAA Division I national tournament in 2011 after posting a 21-13 record, tying for first in the South Division of the Southern Conference and winning the 2011 Southern Conference Tournament. The Terriers faced BYU in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament, falling to Cougars 74-66.

While coaching at the College of Charleston as an assistant and as a graduate assistant, Harrison was part of four 20-win seasons, several conference and conference tournament championships and two trips to the NCAA Division I national tournament.

“Paul worked as an assistant at the College of Charleston for four years and did a tremendous job in teaching, recruiting and mentoring our players,” said Kresse. “We were successful because Paul was a real professional in handling his duties and responsibilities. I feel like Clayton State has hit a home run with the hiring of Paul Harrison.”

In addition to his coaching experience at Wofford and at the College of Charleston, Harrison also served as an assistant coach at Southeastern Louisiana and as an assistant at Long Island University.

Harrison, 41, attained a law degree from Tulane University in 2004 and graduated from Washington & Lee University with a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1993. He and his wife, Heather, have two children, Grace (10) and Henry (eight).

He takes over the Clayton State program after head coach Gordon Gibbons resigned after 12 years as the Laker men’s coach.

Loch Shop, cont’d. from p. 25

“Making the honor roll for the NACS CROY is just one sign that we are providing great customer service to all of our campus stakeholders,” proclaims Smith.

The Loch Shop provides materials students need to be academically successful, while also offering the items students want to enjoy a happy and productive collegiate lifestyle. The Loch Shop’s goal is to help students save on all of their course material needs, especially through the shop’s strong rental and digital book programs. All of the Loch Shop’s proceeds stay on campus, from their sponsorship of Operation Study’s Study Bucks program to worthwhile improvement and building projects for Auxiliary Service operations.

“I am extremely proud to have the Loch Shop at Clayton State and am impressed with the tremendous progress that it has made in the last few years,” comments Gooden, “The entire staff there has worked very hard to make the bookstore a leader among college retailers.”

Operating for 30 years, the NACS Foundation is the only charitable resource for the collegiate retailing industry. Since its inception, it has disbursed more than $3.1 million for industry education and research, and awarded more than 3,000 professional development grants to college store personnel. The NACS Foundation has touched the careers of thousands of collegiate retailing professionals and counts some of the industry’s leading vendors among its top corporate donors.

Headquartered in Oberlin, Oh., the National Association of College Stores (NACS) is the professional trade association representing the $10 billion collegiate retailing industry. NACS represents more than 3,000 collegiate retailers and approximately 1,000 associate members who supply books and other products to college stores. NACS member stores serve America’s college students while supporting the academic missions of higher education institutions everywhere. Additional information on NACS can be found online at www.nacs.org.

Trivia Time

Benita!

by John Shiffert, University Relations

She’s still much more popular around Clayton State than “Evita!” She’s Dr. Benita Moore, Clayton State graduate, first director of the Alumni Association, former professor and interim dean of the School of Technology, and the answer to the last trivia question… an inquiry, it might be added, that drew some pretty good answers.

“She was Moore or less the best Interim Dean the School of Technology ever had. If she had been “acting Dean” she would have earned the Academy Award for her role!” said first correct respondent Rob Taylor.

“Do I get brownie points for knowing that there’s a Benita Moore scholarship?” asks second place Lou Brackett. (Yes, you do.)

“I never do the Trivia Game, but must answer this time: Benita Moore. Don’t forget that she is also a native of Clayton County and was a majorette at Jonesboro High School. Surely there is a photo somewhere of her twirling at Faculty Frolics a few years back!” commented Dr. Angelyn Hayes, who was fifth. “And we should probably list her for her role!” said first correct respondent Rob Taylor.

To give the complete rundown on the correct respondents, they were; Taylor, Brackett, Vickie Fennell Smith, Kathy Garrison, Hayes, Dirk Morrell, Dottie Bumbalough, and Tom Eddins.

So, just who at Clayton State has had more titles than Dr. Moore? We can think of one candidate who was in the news recently. Don’t send your answers to Dr. Hayes, she’s busy enough as it is, send them to johnshiffert@clayton.edu and we’ll try to sort it out. And, if you’re really good, and want to earn Bonus Points, you’ll know who joined Dr. Moore as one of the all-Ph.D. “Twirling Professors” in the Homecoming Parade some 10 years ago.
Harrison Named New Lakers Men’s Basketball Coach
by Gid Rowell, Athletics

The Clayton State Department of Athletics and Athletic Director Carl McAloose have announced the hiring of Paul Harrison as the program’s new men’s basketball coach.

Harrison, a native of Larchmont, N.Y., most recently served as the associate head coach at NCAA Division I Wofford College and becomes the fourth coach in the 23-year history of the Laker men’s basketball program.

“I am thrilled for the opportunity to lead the men’s basketball program at Clayton State University and would like to thank President Tim Hynes, Athletic Director Carl McAloose and the search committee for trusting me with this task,” said Harrison. “My family and I look forward to getting started.”

McAloose echoed Harrison’s excitement, “We are thrilled to have Paul Harrison emerge from an outstanding group of candidates to become the next head men’s basketball coach at Clayton State. Paul has done an incredible job of recruiting and developing young men in the classroom, on the court and in the community.”

For six years, Harrison has served as the associate head coach at Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C., under head coach Mike Young after coaching several years alongside legendary former head coach John Kresse at the College of Charleston.

“At the beginning of the search process, I called coach Kresse and asked him who is the next Greg Marshall (a former assistant under Kresse and now head coach at Wichita State) and without hesitation he said Paul Harrison,” said McAloose. “Paul brings us to a great deal of excitement, basketball knowledge and contacts. We both have the same vision of building a great academic and basketball environment that will enable us to prepare our student-athletes for graduation and compete for national championships.”

Harrison served as the associate head coach at Wofford for six years and helped build the Terriers into a top men’s basketball program in the Southern Conference. In two short seasons, he helped lead Wofford to its first winning season at the NCAA Division I level and to four straight winning seasons. From 2009 to 2011, the Terriers posted back-to-back 20 win seasons, the first time for Wofford in over 40 years.

“Paul has done an unbelievable job at Wofford over the last six years,” said Terrier head coach Young. “He has been responsible for a great deal of our success. He is an excellent coach and recruiter and Clayton State basketball got better today. I’m thrilled for him and his family and know he will do a great job.”

Wofford’s top season came in 2009-10 when the squad finished with a 26-9 record.

Azcue and Griggs Named Laker Award Winners
At 23rd Annual Clayton State Awards Night

With the 2012-13 academic year coming to a close, the Clayton State Department of Athletics recognized the accomplishments of its student-athletes Friday at the 23rd Annual Clayton State Awards Night.

The highlight of the evening was the naming of the 2012-13 men’s and women’s Laker Award winners, which are given to the female and male student-athletes that best exemplify the ideal Clayton State student-athlete. The award recognizes a male and female student-athlete, who excel both academically and athletically and best represent Clayton State to the University and to the Southern Crescent community throughout their career.

This year’s men’s Laker Award winner was Ayrton Azcue, a four-year letterwinner on Clayton State’s cross country and track & field teams. He is majoring in management and holds a 3.09 grade point average.

Azcue, who is from Zizur Mayor, Spain, was named an All-American this year and the Southeast Regional Track & Field Athlete of the Year. He placed second this season at the NCAA Division II Indoor nationals in the 800 meter run.

On the women’s side, the Laker award winner was senior Drameka Griggs, a captain on Clayton State’s women’s basketball team. A criminal justice major, Griggs led the Lakers to a 32-1 record this year, winning the Peach Belt Conference Tournament regular season and tournament titles along with the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional Championship. Clayton State entered the 2013 NCAA Division II Elite Eight as the only undefeated team in the country and ranked No. 1 in the country before falling in the quarterfinals.

Sweetwater Creek, the female student-athlete who had the highest GPA this year, was named the Female Athlete of the Year.

On the women’s side, the Laker award winner was senior Drameka Griggs, a captain on Clayton State’s women’s basketball team. A criminal justice major, Griggs led the Lakers to a 32-1 record this year, winning the Peach Belt Conference Tournament regular season and tournament titles along with the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional Championship. Clayton State entered the 2013 NCAA Division II Elite Eight as the only undefeated team in the country and ranked No. 1 in the country before falling in the quarterfinals.

Griggs, a three-year letterwinner from Ellenwood, GA, was named the Peach Belt Conference Most Valuable Player, the Peach Belt Conference Tournament Most Outstanding Player, the Southeast Region’s Player of the Year and a NCAA Division II All-American.

Awards, cont’d. p. 29