Clayton State Says Farewell to "The General"

by John Shiffert, University Relations

Clayton State University held a reception for Vice President of External Relations Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert L. “Steve” Stephens, Jr., on Friday, June 22 in the Harry S. Downs Center, in honor of his retirement from the University after 10 years, including serving as the head of Clayton State’s External Relations division since September 2006.

The typical encomiums and presentations (including the inevitable golf-themed gifts and cake) were given to Stephens by the University and his colleagues in External Relations during the reception, and some typical “Steve Stephens” stories were told (like the time he reminded an obsequious student that he wasn’t his brother). Also mentioned were some of his typical aphorisms, his adages. Pithy sayings like, “Never ask a question unless you really want the answer.” And, “There’s no telling how much you can accomplish if you don’t care who gets the credit.” Or, “We’re re-wiring the house with the electricity on.” And, of course, “What time is the nine o’clock meeting?”

However, this was no typical individual being honored. Stephens was born in Welch, W.Va. some 72 years ago, and majored in English and Social Studies at West Virginia State College. While attending WVSC, he served in the Reserve Officers Training Corps, holding ranks such as Cadet Colonel and Commander, and playing a role in leading the largest Corps of Cadets in the history of WVSC.

Stephens’ collegiate introduction to the military would result in more than 30 years of service in the United States Army. During that time he received the U.S. Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Army Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with “V” device and two oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, the Special Forces Tab, the Master Parachutist Badge and other various honors before retiring as a Brigadier General in 1993, following his last assignment, directing the inauguration of President Bill Clinton. While in the military, he graduated from the United States Army Command and General Staff College and the National War College.

As such, Stephens is a genuine American hero who has been a part of American history. Another way to say that is that the

Clayton State Named to Workplace Dynamics’ National Top Workplaces List

In April 2012, Clayton State University was named one of the “Top 100 Workplaces in Atlanta” by the Atlanta Journal Constitution. That honor came about as part of a survey of more than 1000 local organizations held by the AJC and its partner, Workplace Dynamics. Now, as a follow-up to that initial survey, Clayton State has received a more far-reaching honor directly from Workplace Dynamics.

Clayton State Executive Director of Human Resources John Brooks has announced that, in addition to being recognized as one of the top workplaces in metro Atlanta, Clayton State has also been recognized on Workplace Dynamics National Top Workplaces (www.topworkplaces.com) list. This list aggregates results from 30 of Workplace Dynamics’ publishing partners across the nation to identify the best employers in the nation. In all, more than 4,000 organizations across America were surveyed for the Top Workplaces program. The American’s Top Workplaces List includes 319 organizations nationwide, each with more 1,000 employees.

Among the 319 organizations on the unranked National Top Workplaces list, Clayton State is one of just 22 educational organizations (7 percent of the entire list) and one of 12 (4 percent) institutions of higher education.

“I am grateful daily for having so many colleagues committed to finding new ways of advancing our core business — learning — learning for students, faculty, staff and our community,” says Clayton
Clayton State Welcomes
Kate Troelstra as VP for External Relations

Clayton State University, especially the External Relations Division, welcomed Kate Troelstra on June 11 as she officially joined Clayton State as Vice President for External Relations.

“Ms. Troelstra brings to us a wealth of experience in external affairs activities,” says Clayton State President Dr. Thomas J. Hynes. “Her visits to campus drew enthusiastic and positive responses from a large number of colleagues. We are excited to watch her build on the efforts in communication and development already begun here at Clayton State University.”

A graduate of Johns Hopkins University, she began her development career there as a phonathon caller and later phonathon supervisor. Since graduation, she has been in development for more than 20 years, spending seven years in annual giving before moving into major gifts. She has experience in a wide range of fundraising settings including liberal arts colleges, public research universities, professional schools, and independent schools. Her most recent position was senior director of Development at Clemson University, where she oversaw prospect research, managed hiring, orientation, and professional development; prepared reports and analysis for the campaign and reinvestment fee, and carried a portfolio of major gift prospects focused mainly in Atlanta.

Throughout her career in the field, Troelstra notes that she has concentrated her efforts, not so much on fund raising, but on building relationships. At Clayton State, she will be responsible for a wide range of relationship-building functions, including the University’s Development, Alumni Relations, Image and Communications, and University Relations offices.

“I am daily grateful for the work that General Steve Stephens has done in leading the External Relations division for the last several years,” says Hynes of Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert L. “Steve” Stephens, who will be retiring on June 30, 2012, after 10 years at Clayton State. “I am also grateful for the exceptional work that the search committee did to make this a most successful search.”

Prior to joining the development staff at Clemson in September 2008, Troelstra was at Providence Day School in Charlotte, N.C., for 10 years – first as associate director of Development/director of Major Gifts, and then as assistant headmaster for Development, where she was responsible for all development, alumni, and communications programs. Prior to assuming the position of assistant headmaster, she managed a significant portfolio of major gifts prospects, was responsible for all campaign events and directed all prospect and volunteer management.

Prior to her decade at Providence Day, her professional experience included managing a team of 1,500 volunteers as associate director of Annual Giving at Rutgers University and implementing a volunteer structure for both annual and major gifts as a major gifts officer at The Dickinson School of Law of The Pennsylvania State University.

Troelstra is also active in CASE, having served two terms as treasurer for District III and conference co-chair for the 2011 Joint District III/IV Conference. As a speaker she has spoken at the Summer Institute in Educational Fundraising, District III, CASE/NAIS, CASE Newcomers in Development and CASE Campaign Strategies Conferences on topics including campaigns, volunteer management, and annual fund. In 2007, she received CASE’s crystal apple for excellence in teaching.

RA Matika Holmes Selected for NASPA Fellows Program

Matika Holmes, a resident assistant (RA) at Clayton State University in the Department of Housing, Residence Life, and Student Conduct, from College Park, Ga., has been selected for the 2012/2013 class of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Undergraduate Fellows Program (NUFP).

The NASPA Undergraduate Fellows Program is a highly selective, semi-structured mentoring program for undergraduate students wishing to explore and better understand the field of student affairs and/or higher education. Students and mentors apply as a pair, and if selected are provided the foundation to establish a semi-structured mentoring relationship at their institution. Students, once selected, are known as Fellows, and are also given the opportunity to attend a national conference, participate in paid internships, and participate in the Summer Leadership Institute.

Holmes is a rising senior at Clayton State, majoring in Liberal Studies with a minor in Psychology. After graduation next spring, she will be enrolling in a graduate program to obtain her masters in College Student Affairs Personnel and Conflict Analysis Resolution.

The mission of the NUFP is to increase the number of historically disenfranchised and underrepresented professionals in student affairs and/or higher education, including, but not limited to, those of racial and ethnic-minority background; those having a disability; and those identifying as LGBTQ.
Chemistry Professor Working with Morrow High School Student on Summer Research Project

Minh-Thu Phan Studying Alternative Forms of Fuel

Clayton State University’s Dr. Jonathan Lyon is spending part of his summer working with a student research project in the University’s Laboratory Annex Building (The LAB); a not unusual assignment for an assistant professor of chemistry. However, the student Lyon is working with is anything but ordinary.

Minh-Thu Phan is a rising senior at Morrow High School, and her summer project, studying the interactions between metal atoms and fuel alcohols, is funded by a SEED internship through the American Chemical Society. With her $2500 stipend, Phan has been in The LAB since the beginning of the month, working with Lyon and 2012 Clayton State chemistry graduate Patrick Drew. She expects to complete her research by Aug. 3, after which she will resume her high school studies, including, not surprisingly, AP Chemistry.

Lyon describes Phan’s project as follows:

The motivation for the project comes from several aspects related to alternative forms of fuel. As an example, some of the lightest parts of petroleum (e.g., methane) exist as a gas in nature. Collecting these gasses in the field and transporting them to a chemical plant is extremely expensive. If an onsite technique was available to convert these gasses into a useable liquid fuel such as methanol, then that could be more easily transported to the plant via existing pipelines. Our research project is designed to provide information on whether transition metal catalysts can promote the conversion of these gasses to more manageable liquid fuels.

Clayton State Students Take Part in United Way’s Day of Action

Spearheaded by the efforts of Atawanna L. Royal, campus activities coordinator in the Department of Campus Life, Clayton State University students joined in to help the United Way celebrate its 125th anniversary on Thursday, June 21, via the United Way’s annual Day of Action.

Day of Action is a national strategic effort on the longest day of the year, designed to advance the common good. To celebrate United Way’s 125th anniversary in 2012, there were 125 volunteer opportunities for the Day of Action, ranging from scheduled projects at local nonprofits, to individuals doing something on their own for a neighbor, or activities with co-workers.

At Clayton State, Royal and members of various Clayton State student organizations are took part in a service project to collect donations (bread, lunch meat, cheese, sandwich bags) for St. Francis Table Sandwich Ministry in Atlanta. The items were collected on June 21, and the participants then volunteered at St. Francis Table on Saturday, June 23, making sandwiches.

Underlining the scope of the Day of Action, one Clayton State student leader, Douglasville, Ga., native Christina Greenwood, is taking part even though she’s currently out of the country on a study abroad trip in Jamaica. Greenwood’s service project involves painting sidewalk games at a Basic School in Jamaica.

In another Day of Action service project, the Student Veterans Association’s Diana Peters volunteered with the USO in greeting and assisting military members and their families at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Clayton State’s involvement in Day of Action comes through Ann Cramer, past chair of the United Way Board of Directors, and director Americas, IBM Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs. Clayton State’s Commencement
Hollowell Family Headed to Xi’an, China

Clayton State University Associate Professor of Education Dr. Mary Hollowell and her family will be heading to the home of the Terracotta Warriors in 2013.

Following a meeting between Nathan Keltner of the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, and representatives of Shaanxi Normal University (SNNU) in Xi’an, China, Hollowell will be teaching American Educational Policy and American Children's Literature in English to Chinese college students at SNNU for the spring and summer of 2013. The capital of Shaanxi Province in central-northwest China, Xi’an is also home to the famous Terracotta Warriors, a collection of sculptures that depict the armies of Emperor Qin Shi Huang. A form of funerary art, the 8,000 plus statues were buried with the emperor sometime around 210 B.C., to both protect him in the afterlife, and to make sure that he still had subjects to rule over.

Of more recent significance, Hollowell is going to China on a Fulbright Teaching Scholarship. Clayton State faculty members have previously earned a half dozen short-term Fulbright-Hays Grants, but this is the University’s first Fulbright Teaching Scholarship. Journeying to Xi’an from Peachtree City with Hollowell will be daughters Kate and Sophie Mei. Husband Scott Hollowell, who has business commitments in the spring, will join the rest of the family later in the year. The Hollowells have previously journeyed to China to adopt daughter Sophie Mei.

News of Hollowell’s appointment has already appeared on the SNNU website, http://news.snnu.edu.cn/bencandy.php?fid=1&id=8916, although only readers of Chinese pictographs will be able to completely appreciate the story as it appears there. An English version of the SNNU website is available at http://english.snnu.edu.cn/. From the SNNU website, it is clear that the fit between SNNU and Hollowell, one of the nation’s most respected and well-known children’s advocates, and one of Georgia’s foremost teacher educators, is a good one.

“Shaanxi Normal University (SNNU) is one of the key institutions of higher learning directly affiliated to Ministry of Education and it entered ‘211 Project University’ in 2006. It is an important base of fostering teachers of higher education, middle school education and educational administrative cadres. It is regarded as ‘the cradle of teachers’ in Northwest China.” reads the SNNU homepage.

Hollowell’s Fulbright award comes from the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB), the president-

Former Clayton State Dean Shakun In Demand… All the Way to the Yalu River

Dr. Wallace “Wally” Shakun, former dean of the School of Technology at Clayton State University, may have retired from the University System of Georgia in June 2004, but he’s still in demand throughout the world as a technology-related guest speaker and seminar instructor.

Ostensibly retired to Evansville, Ind., after 15 years at Clayton State as dean of Continuing Education, Shakun is currently on his way to Dandong, China, along the Yalu River and just north of North Korea. It’s Shakun’s 10th lecture trip to China at the invitation of the Chinese government, and his fourth appearance in a series of lectures on Test Automation and Instrumentation, as well as a review of the technology associated with same. As has been the case previously, Shakun is the keynote speaker.

A businessman turned educator, Shakun spent 15 years at Clayton State following 10 years as a senior research engineer at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he was responsible for industrial program development and providing administrative leadership in the development and support of contract activities.

Prior to joining the Georgia Tech faculty, Shakun held engineering and research and development positions with General Electric Company, Torin Corporation and Modernfold (American Standard). In addition, in the 1950’s he was an Army Ordinance Corps researcher. Throughout his entire professional career he has delivered a wide range of presentations and authored or co-authored numerous reports and publications.

Shakun earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from

Shakun, cont’d., p. 7
Spivey Hall Holding Annual Sacred Harp/Shape-Note Singing School

One of Spivey Hall’s most interesting annual events is coming up next month.

Although Spivey Hall is best known for the highest level of musical expertise, the Sacred Harp/Shape-Note Singing School, held this year on Friday, July 13 and Saturday, July 14, is an event that emphasizes participation under the instruction of clinician Nathan Rees.

Singers and history buffs alike will enjoy this annual event, which will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Sacred Harp singing, sometimes also called “fa-so-la” or “shape-note” singing, involves singing parts without instrumental accompaniment. The Sacred Harp repertoire includes psalms, fugues, odes and anthems by the first American composers (1770-1810), as well as folk songs and revival hymns (1810-1860). This is a free, non-denominational community music event that emphasizes participation, not expertise. Participants will learn about Sacred Harp at a “Singing School” on July 13, and then join in a large community singing on July 14.

At Friday’s “Singing School” Rees will instruct beginners and experienced practitioners in the history, tradition, and performance practices of this authentic piece of Americana. Participants will learn how to read shape notes and watch a documentary on the tradition of Sacred Harp. On Saturday, Sacred Harp singers will travel from throughout the Southeast for the annual singing and potluck luncheon at Spivey Hall. Join more than 60 singers in celebrating this wonderful tradition and bring a covered dish to share.

Both Friday and Saturday’s events are free and open to the public, but registering for Friday’s singing school is required. The registration deadline is Friday, July 13. Please call (678) 466-4481 to secure your spot for Friday’s Singing School to make a joyful noise in one of the country’s most beautiful concert halls.

Sacred Harp, cont’d., p. 7

Spivey Hall Announces 2012/2013 Education Series

The Education Department at Clayton State University’s Spivey Hall is proud to announce the 2012-2013 Young People’s Concert Series.

The Series begins Oct. 10 with a performance by Via Roman. Incorporating traditional Romany (Gypsy) music with native instruments and dance, this dynamic trio ignites the stage with style and musicianship, offering an exciting lesson about Romany customs and culture.

By popular demand, the 2012-2013 YPC season features three young people’s operas, with appearances by the Atlanta Opera (Stone Soup), Birmingham Children’s Theatre (The Gingerbread Boy), and Capitol City Opera (Sid the Serpent).

The season includes performances by several acclaimed collegiate ensembles, including the Mercer University Singers and Orchestra, the Piedmont College Cantabile, the Ole Miss Concert Singers, the Emory University Concert Choir, and the Clayton State University Jazz Ensemble.

For the holidays, the Mercer University Singer and Orchestra will present A Grand...
Facilities Management
Justin Parkerson reports that the warehouse recently received a pretty good amount of office furniture. He notes that many people inquired earlier this year about surplus furniture, so he’s making it available to the campus before trying to sell it through DOAS. Currently available are desks, bookcases, and assorted sizes/shapes of tables, all in fairly good condition. The furniture will be disbursed on a first come, first serve basis. Just call Parkerson at extension 4251 to set up a time to come and look at the furniture.

ISSO
Brett Reichert, associate director of International Student Services, was a presenter at the 64th Annual NAFSA (the International Educator’s Association) annual conference in May. The annual international conference of professionals involved in international student and scholar services, education abroad, and international recruiting and admissions was held in Houston, and was attended by more than 8500 people. Reichert’s session, “Small ISSO, Medium University, Large Impact” took place on May 30.

NARA
The National Archives at Atlanta will be holding, “Coming to America: Celebrating the Immigrant Experience” on Friday, July 20, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and featuring various activities celebrating the immigrant experience, including the unveiling of "The Lost Mural" a recreation by Andrew Sabori of a mural that hung at Ellis Island. The original mural, commissioned by the WPA in 1938 and painted by Edward Laning, was displayed at Ellis Island until the early 1950s at which time a storm destroyed most of the mural. Several prominent members of the Atlanta community who came to America will also share their experiences about what becoming an American means to them. A naturalization ceremony will conclude the formal program, followed by a complimentary lunch. Anyone from Clayton State is welcome to attend Coming to America: Celebrating the Immigrant Experience.

Recreation & Wellness
The SAC Fitness Center Locker Room showers will be getting a face lift over the next couple weeks and will be closed for repairs from Monday, June 25 through Friday, July 6. The renovation will close the locker rooms to patrons. Athletic Director Carl McAloose has agreed to allow patrons taking Group Exercise classes to use the locker rooms in the Athletic and Fitness Center to take showers. If you have any questions regarding the renovations, please contact Ben Hopkins at (678) 466-5416 or BenjaminHopkins@Clayton.edu.

The Loch Shop
The Loch Shop will be holding Wii Wednesdays from June 13 through July 25 in The Loch Shop’s lounge, starting at noon and ending at 3 p.m. Come relieve some test stress every Wednesday in June and July (except July 4). Play your favorite Wii games – bowling, Mario Kart, basketball three point contest, the Michael Jackson Experience and more. Win prizes just for participating, enjoy free snacks, plus, play for the top score and qualify to enter the June 27 and July 25 prize drawings!

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The Loch Shop will close early for inventory on Wednesday, June 27, at 3:30 p.m., and will be closed entirely on Thursday, June 28 and Friday, June 29. If you need to contact The Loch Shop, please email: lochshop@clayton.edu or call (678) 466-4220. The Loch Shop will reopen on Monday, July 2, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

University Health Services
Wednesday, June 27 is National HIV Testing Day. University Health Services is offering free HIV testing to the first 50 students who come to the clinic (Student Center 211) between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. More than one million Americans are living with HIV infection and about one in five don’t know it, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once in their lives.

Top Workplaces, cont’d. from p. 1
State President Dr. Thomas J. Hynes. “To be recognized by our colleagues as a great place to work is an honor and a responsibility. Our responsibility is to work together daily to find new opportunities to support our learning efforts.”

The list of National Top Workplaces is determined based solely on employee feedback from the 805 companies with 1,000+ employees surveyed from across the 30 Top Workplaces programs. This includes survey responses from more than half a million employees. By way of comparison, the Fortune 100 Best Companies list was determined based on 280 companies with 1,000+ employees and 246,000 survey responses.

The Workplace Dynamics metro Atlanta/AJC survey began in October 2011, when Workplace Dynamics surveyed 188 metro organizations representing 77,848 employees. A total of 43,500 metro workers participated in the survey. They were asked to respond to a set of statements using a seven-point Likert scale. Each statement was tested to ensure a high correlation with how metro employees rate their workplaces. This was calculated by correlating the statement responses to a control question that asked each employee to rate his or her workplace on a scale of zero to 99.

After completing the 20-question survey, metro employees were asked to rank the factors that meant the most to them in terms of job satisfaction. The top five were: company direction, job appreciation, confident of future, career opportunities, confidence in leader. After the survey was completed, Workplace Dynamics ran a series of statistical tests to look for questionable results to see if disqualifications were needed.

United Way, cont’d. from p. 3
speaker in May 2011, Cramer invited Clayton State to take part in Day of Action, noting, “we hope you'll help us reach our goal of 5,000 local participants. Imagine what we can accomplish when we lend a hand to one in order to influence the condition of all!”

Clayton State is also involved with the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta through the Dean of the College of Business, Dr. Alphonso Ogbuehi, who is leading United Way’s 2012/13 fundraising efforts in Clayton County.
Input Requested on Clayton State’s Complete College Georgia Plan
by Micheal Crafton, Provost

You have heard how under the Governor’s request, the Chancellor and his staff have required that we put together a plan for increasing the number of graduates in the state. The idea is that we need to increase our number of degrees by about 250,000 by the year 2020. That is, we, as a state, need to increase the number of citizens with a post-secondary credential to a number that is 250,000 above what we are projecting now.

This movement, Complete College Georgia, is part of a larger movement, Complete College America, the URL for which follows http://www.completecollege.org/.

What is asked of us is a good and noble thing, but not simple or easy. We need to reach out where we can to increase the number of students who might earn a credential, and we need to do what we can to assist students in achieving that credential. So we are asked to look at things like increasing the volume of students receiving AP or CLEP credit and to look at revising our remediation programs to look at ways to remove obstacles in the path of transfer students and so forth.

We learned of this task only a few weeks ago, it seems; I believe it was March when we got our orders. I have asked Dr. Mark Daddona to take the lead in working with the deans and others to create a plan that we must submit to the Chancellor’s Office by July 1. It is meant to be a proposal not a final statement. If you have a chance to look at it (the working draft was sent to all faculty and staff via email on June 19) and make comments to Daddona, please do so. After July 1 when we get a little more reaction from the BOR staff, we will take parts of the plan out to everyone for further elaboration.

During the general faculty meeting in the fall, we can discuss this further and talk about the implications.

Hollowell, cont’d. from p. 4

itially appointed 12-member board that is responsible for establishing worldwide policies for the Fulbright Program and for selection of Fulbright recipients. Hollowell’s grant is made possible through funds that are appropriated annually by the U.S. Congress and, in many cases, by contributions from partner countries and/or the private sector.

“The U.S. Department of State describes the Fulbright program as, ‘...the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the United States Government,’” says Clayton State President Dr. Thomas J. Hynes. “Professor Hollowell’s award recognizes her contributions as teacher and scholar, and brings praise for her and Clayton State University. We are honored that she is our colleague.”

A former public school science teacher and museum director of education, and a member of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Hollowell was awarded the 2010 Equity & Social Justice Advocacy Award from the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME), on the nomination by fellow Clayton State faculty member, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education Dr. Mari Roberts.

Shakun, cont’d. from p. 4

City University, State of New York, and a Master of Science degree in the same from the University of Vermont. He was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Operational Analysis (the business of technology) from the University of Glasgow in 1969 under a grant from General Electric, and in 1976, received a Master of Business Administration degree in corporate finance from the University of Louisville.

And, just to illustrate his versatility in front of all audiences, in the early 1980’s he was the incomparable "Dr. Gizmo," on Atlanta’s Channel 5 weekend television show for children. Shakun’s extraordinary sense of humor and impeccable timing made learning about technology and physics easy and fun for the kids; a trademark he carried to the Clayton State, as is undoubtedly making available to the Chinese, if needed.

Sacred Harp, cont’d. from p. 5

Teachers who wish to earn one PLU by participating in both days’ activities should download the PLU form at http://www.spiveyhall.org/educational-programs/program-registration/. Please secure your principal’s approval and submit the form and $35 fee to Spivey Hall no later than the first day of the class.

Complete information on the Sacred Harp/Shape-Note Singing School can be found online at http://www.spiveyhall.org/professional-development-for-teachers/sacred-harp-singing-and-luncheon.
Alumni Association to Sponsor Clayton State Night at Turner Field

Friends of Clayton State University, it’s time for a special trip to the ballpark.

The Clayton State Alumni Association will sponsor Clayton State Night at the Atlanta Braves’ Turner Field on Monday, Aug. 13. The event is open to alumni, faculty/staff, students and friends of the University.

First pitch will be at 7:10 p.m., as Atlanta faces off against National League West opponent San Diego Padres.

The tickets will be located in the Lower Level Terrace View (Section 225) and will be only $8. Normally these tickets range from $25 to $30 each. Dues-paying Alumni Association members will have the opportunity to receive an additional discount.

Tickets are limited, and the Alumni Association asks that alumni and friends to please RSVP as soon as possible. For more information about purchasing tickets, please contact Gid Rowell, director of Alumni Relations, at (678) 466-4477 or by email at gidrowell@clayton.edu.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.clayton.edu/alumnigift.
What do Tigers, Biochemistry, Gas Lamps, Statistical Inference, San Diego Bay And Chromatography Have in Common?

Tigers, biochemistry, gas lamps, statistical inference, San Diego bay and chromatography; a list that presents a mixed bag of academic subjects. And yet, they all have something in common. They all are Clayton State University Wi2STEM students’ research presentations.

Clayton State Wi2STEM students recently presented the results of their research at the American Chemical Society (ACS) in San Diego. Wi2STEM is a Clayton State organization created to increase knowledge of, and greater interest in, the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines. It is also a means of building a network of resources for women in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math disciplines and a means of communication for women having an interest in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math majors.

Wi2STEM students Smah Abdelhamid, Jennifer Crisci, Aleena Farooq and Sotheavy Vann were able to travel to a nationally-recognized conference this spring because of Georgia Power’s support of the Wi2STEM program. Additional funds came from three Clayton State student organizations, and the University’s Department of Natural Sciences. All four women attended the American Chemical Society (ACS) National Meeting to present posters of their educational scientific research.

Their research was completed over the past year and their research abstracts were accepted by ACS, but they would not have been able to exhibit their research without the support of the Georgia Power Travel Grant. Their research advisors are Clayton State professors Dr. Richard Singiser and Dr. Susan Hornbuckle.

“Attending the American Chemical Society conference in San Diego was not just going to another science conference in some new location, it was more like taking a bite out of a slice of life,” says Vann, who is also one of Clayton State’s first group of Presidential Scholars and a former dual enrollment student at the University. “It really was an educational trip in many aspects of life: academics, culture, friendships, and new experiences.”

Sherwin James Graduates From Leadership Clayton; Co-authors NACADA Article

Sherwin James, professional academic advisor in the College of Business (CoB) at Clayton State University, is one of the 15 graduates of the 2012 Leadership Clayton program. A nine-month program for individuals who either live or work in Clayton County, Leadership Clayton is designed to sharpen management skills. Leadership Clayton has been sponsored by the Clayton Chamber of Commerce since 1972.

While he was attending Leadership Clayton, James was also busy with other endeavors. His work with students in the College of Business recently earned him CoB’s Advisor of the Year recognition, he teaches the University Foundations course at Clayton State, and his membership in the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) has also brought recognition, in the form of an article in NACADA’s Academic Advising Today.

In “15 Tips on the Basics of Advising Student Athletes,” (http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/ePub/AAT35-2.htm) James collaborated with Dr. Holly Martin of the University of Notre Dame in offering tips for advisors who may be new to working with student-athletes. James is also the chair of NACADA’s Advising Student Athletes Commission, a position he is well-suited for, since he represented his native Dominica in the 200 meters at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

“I have always been interested in community development and making a difference in people’s lives,” says James, a resident of Stone Mountain, Ga., who holds a Master’s degree in education. “Dr. Martin was a marvelous individual/co-author to have worked with on making the NACADA article a success. Also, I’d like to give my thanks to the College of Business and Clayton State University for making this possible.”
Army does not give out Bronze Stars without a good reason, nor do they give out Purple Hearts for fun. Stephens earned all those decorations (in the case of the Purple Heart, earned in Vietnam, he also ended up earning an artificial hip), and his role in history is secure. Anyone who has read his autobiography, “When in Charge, Take Charge,” (available at The Loch Shop) knows the places (Vietnam, the Panama Canal Zone, Thailand, Bolivia, the Pentagon) and the names, the notable people that Stephens has served with… Governor Gaston Caperton of West Virginia, Jay Rockefeller, Ron Brown, the King of Thailand, and maybe most significantly, Lieutenant General Stormin’ Norman Schwarzkopf.

Stephens came to Clayton State in fall 2002 as director of Academic Advisement for the College of Business, where he also served as a visiting assistant professor. Stephens was appointed executive assistant to the president in April 2005. In 2006, Stephens continued his position as executive assistant and added the role of interim vice president of External Relations. He was named vice president of External Relations on Oct. 30, 2008 by President Dr. Thomas K. Harden; and, as such, has been responsible for Clayton State’s Development, Alumni Relations, Image and Communications, and University Relations functions.

After earning his degree from WVSC in 1962, Stephens earned Master of Science degree in Education from New York’s Alfred University. His other postgraduate studies include attendance at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and the Terry Stanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University. He is also a graduate of the prestigious Center for Creative Leadership in Colorado Springs. His other civilian accomplishments include; Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities, Who’s Who in America, The African American Hall of Fame, the Council of State Governments’ Toll Fellowship Program and twice being named a Distinguished West Virginian.

Rounding out his 10-year career in higher education, Stephens was recently awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humanities from West Virginia’s Bluefield State College, and honor applauded by all those he has served with at Clayton State.

Still, the definitive word on Stephens’ time at Clayton State comes from one of Schwarzkopf’s famous sayings, one that was equally applicable to “The General.”

"The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it."

Steve Stephens knew the right thing to do, and he did it. ■
The 2012-2013 YPC season also marks its third year of KinderKonzerts. These concerts cater to music-lovers aged six and under. KinderKonzert artists include local favorites Wendy Bennett (Literature Sings), Dave Holland (The Science of Sound), Michael Levine (Music-InterACTION), Julie Austen (Sing Along with Julie), and Donna Wissinger (The Pied Piper and Other Fantastic Tales).

Registrations are already being accepted for the 2012-2013 YPC season. For more information, please visit www.spiveyhall.org/education.

For more information about the Young People’s Concert Series or to register by phone, please call (678) 466-4491. You may also email the education assistant at Leslierobinson@clayton.edu. Registration forms are available at www.spiveyhall.org/education.

Phan’s application and subsequent work in The LAB are indicative of both the quality of students in Clayton County, and the type of students that Clayton State seeks to attract. The following is part of the application submitted to Project SEED;

Describe the specific chemistry, techniques, and other scientific activities that the students will be doing:

The student will work on two different, but related, projects. In the first, the student will aid Dr. Lyon and an undergraduate student to construct an experimental chamber capable of performing matrix isolation experiments. This will allow the student to learn about matrix isolation, vacuum techniques, and the use of lasers. Second, the student will learn about computational chemistry techniques to theoretically model these reactions between metal atoms and fuel alcohols.

Individuals who have been awarded a grant from the Petroleum Research Fund through the American Chemical Society – something Lyon earned last year. According to Lyon, the project is designed to give the students meaningful interaction with a science employee for approximately 40 hours a week.

“I contacted Malakia Wright, coordinator for K/12 Science Education for Clayton County, to see if she thought students would be interested,” recalls Lyon. “I also thought this may be a good way to try to recruit some of the brightest students to Clayton State. She emailed the science teachers throughout the county, and I heard from several students that they were interested in the project.

“After applying for the funding, I had the students complete an application and send them to me. From the applications, I selected Minh-Thu.”

The student will work on two different, but related, projects. In the first, the student will aid Dr. Lyon and an undergraduate student to construct an experimental chamber capable of performing matrix isolation experiments. This will allow the student to learn about matrix isolation, vacuum techniques, and the use of lasers. Second, the student will learn about computational chemistry techniques to theoretically model these reactions between metal atoms and fuel alcohols.

The “Kodály Refresher” workshop, which will run from July 18 to July 20, is $180, and $50 for currently enrolled college students. Individuals already familiar with Kodály can take this refresher course which will explore pedagogy and process in depth. Attendees will also learn to write meaningful lesson plans, create smooth transitions, and expand their knowledge of literature. The workshop is designed to re-inspire and teachers ready to start the new school year prepared and refreshed.

Interested individuals can register for both courses for only $350, with currently enrolled college students getting both courses for only $350, with currently enrolled college students getting both courses for only $350, with currently enrolled college students getting both courses for only $350, with currently enrolled college students getting both courses for only $350, with currently enrolled college students getting both courses for only $350.

For more information, call the Spivey Hall Education Department at (678) 466-4481 or visit http://www.spiveyhall.org/professional-development-for-teachers/kodaly-teacher-training-workshop.
Clayton State Runner Named Capital One Academic All-American

Robert Spezzacatena, a senior on the Clayton State track & field team, was named Capital One Academic All-America to the men’s cross country and track & field teams. Spezzacatena was selected to the third team and is the first track & field Laker in the program’s 16-year history to be named Academic All-America.

The award is widely regarded as the highest individual honor a student-athlete can achieve, as it measures success in the classroom and success on the track. The academic teams are administered and selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Spezzacatena, who hails from North Bergen, N.J., finished his career at Clayton State this spring as a four-year letter winner in track, as well as two seasons on the cross country team. He graduated in May with a Business degree and a 3.90 grade point average.

“This is a very nice honor for Rob to receive as he completed his athletic career here at Clayton State,” says Laker head coach Mike Mead. “Rob was a leader in the classroom and on the track and is deserving of this honor.”

Last month, Spezzacatena, along with teammate Russell Lawless, were named to the Capital One Division II Academic All-District teams for men’s cross country and track & field.

During his track career, Spezzacatena ran primarily the 400m and 800m events. This past season, he raced distances from 100m to 400m and ran legs on the 4 x 100 and 4 x 400m relays. In 2010, he held the team’s 600m indoor record that teammate Ricky Fort bettered in 2011.

Spezzacatena was recipient of the H. Mason Barfield Award for the past two seasons which recognizes the top male academic student within the Clayton State athletics program. He was named Gold Scholar for four consecutive years to the Peach Belt Conference Presidential Honor Roll. Gold Scholars are those student-athletes who earn a GPA between 3.75 and 4.00.

To be eligible for Academic All-America® consideration, a student-athlete must be a varsity starter or key reserve, maintain a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.30 on a scale of 4.00, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standings at his/her current institution and be nominated by his/her sports information director. Since the program’s inception in 1952, CoSIDA has bestowed Academic All-America honors on more than 14,000 student-athletes in Divisions I, II, III and NAIA, covering all NCAA championship sports.

Abdelhamid, Crisci, Farooq and Vann want Georgia Power to know they will be good stewards in their disciplines as a result of their travels.

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“The American Chemical society conference was an opportunity like no other,” states Abdelhamid. “It was an endless supply of knowledge in the sessions that ranged from biochemistry to physical chemistry to acceptance into graduate school. I met people in my field of study. I also met graduate school representatives and students who were able to give me a look at what to expect.

“The opportunity to go to the ACS conference would not be possible if not for WI2STEM and advisor Mary Hudachek-Buswell. From the four ACS attendees, we appreciate you and WI2STEM greatly.”

All four students are active members of WI2STEM and appreciate the opportunity that has been handed to them by Georgia Power and they plan on taking full advantage of it.