Dennis Martino Named Distinguished Alumnus

Alumni Association Welcomes Record Crowd to 16th Annual Dinner at Georgia Aquarium

The Clayton State Alumni Association welcomed a record number of attendees to its 16th Annual Dinner & Auction last Saturday at the Georgia Aquarium.

More than 170 guests made the voyage to the Aquarium for the annual event, which featured a guest speaker, the presentation of the Distinguished & Outstanding Alumni Awards and a silent auction. This year’s attendance was 25 percent higher than last year, which was the previous high in the event’s history.

“We had an overwhelmingly positive response for our dinner this year,” says Gid Rowell, director of Alumni Relations. “It was a special evening at an incredible venue. Our Alumni Dinner has blossomed into the ‘signature event’ of our Association.”

Highlights included the presentation of the 2008 Clayton State Overall Distinguished Alumnus Award, presented to Dennis C. Martino, of Fayetteville. Last year’s overall winner, Charles D. English, also of Fayetteville, spoke at this year’s event. English, a 1981 graduate, is director of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and the Office of Homeland Security.

Along with Martino, other honorees were: Monica L. Martin, Distinguished College of Arts & Sciences Alumnus; Charles E. Crownover, Distinguished College of Professional Studies Alumnus; Latoya N. Hubbard, Distinguished School of Business Alumnus; Jeff M. Wilson, Distinguished School of Nursing Alumnus; and Kristine B. Hopkins, Distinguished College of Information & Mathematical Sciences Alumnus.

Martino, who received an Associate’s degree in Business from Clayton State in 1973, is the general manager and vice president of Martino-White Printing, Inc., and has been in the printing business for 34 years.

Martino has been a member of the Atlanta Airport Rotary Club for the last 25 years,

Bobby Hamil’s Travels Bring Him to Clayton State as Director of Public Safety

by John Shiffert, University Relations

Bobby Hamil’s career in law enforcement has come almost full circle. Or, at least, he’s returning back near his roots as the new Director of Public Safety at Clayton State University.

Originally from southern Alabama, specifically, Headland, Ala., just outside of Dothan, Ala., Hamil just concluded a 25-year career as a Special Agent with the FBI that took him all over the country as both a street agent and a manager with the federal law enforcement agency. On Mar. 29, 2008, he retired from the FBI after 25 years of service, and on Apr. 14, 2008, he was on duty in Morrow as Clayton State’s Director of Public Safety. In between, his professional life took him, his wife Michelle (who spent eight years with the FBI herself), and daughters Rachel (14) and Allison (18) throughout the U.S.

Following his graduation from the University of Alabama and the Birmingham School of Law, Hamil used his J.D. degree in a general civil law practice in Headland. He joined the FBI in 1983, beginning a tour of duty that took him from Houston to San Francisco to New Orleans to Washington, DC to Las Vegas to Clarksburg, WV, to Seattle and finally back to Clarksburg. Hamil’s many postings and promotions within the FBI, in

Alumni Dinner, cont’d., p. 9

Bobby Hamil’s Travels Bring Him to Clayton State as Director of Public Safety, cont’d., p. 6
Spivey Hall Welcomes Prospective Students to Clayton State

by Amber Joy Dimkoff, Spivey Hall

Each year, Spivey Hall brings thousands of potential college students to Clayton State University through its music education programs. For many students, it’s their first time to set foot on a college campus.

In October, 125 high school students took a break from their choir rehearsal to hear about the academic programs that Clayton State offers. Clayton State senior Ivan Segovia, who is a student assistant in Spivey Hall’s box office, addressed the students.

“I participated in the Spivey Hall Choral Workshop when I was in high school, and it’s because of the incredible workshop experience, and the opportunity to sing in this beautiful hall, that I decided to enroll at Clayton State University,” he said.

Candace Henry, a Clayton State alum and current admissions counselor, also spoke to the students. Not only did she inform them about the various academic degrees on campus, but she also revealed that she, too, had been a member of a previous Spivey Hall Choral Workshop. That was her first introduction to Clayton State University.

While some students are actively trying to decide which college to attend when they come to Spivey Hall for the first time, others become acquainted with the hall, and consequently the campus, at a very early age. Young People’s Concerts (YPC), for example, are school-day field trips designed for students in all grade levels, from pre-K to grade 12. It is not uncommon to have a child shyly look up and say, “I was here last year. Do you remember me? I’m so glad I got to come back this year!” Many teachers pack lunches for their students and they sit outside on the lawn, or walk to the gymnasium in the Athletics & Fitness Center, to eat lunch after the concert. The children feel so grown-up knowing that they are on a “real” college campus participating in college student-like activities.

Spivey Hall, cont’d., p. 12

Three Clayton State Faculty Members Selected For Summer 2009 European Council Positions

by John Shiffert, University Relations

Clayton State University’s growing international reputation grew further last week at the annual faculty selection meeting of the European Council of the University System of Georgia.

Meeting at Macon State College, European Council representatives from around the state chose three Clayton State faculty members for the summer 2009 program. Dr. Christopher Ward was chosen as the 2009 program director of the St. Petersburg, Russia program. Dr. Karen Young will be teaching in the Madrid, Spain program and Dr. Nikki Finlay will be teaching in the Bonn, Germany program. In all, the European Council administers five summer study abroad programs, located in London, Madrid, Paris, St. Petersburg, and Bonn.

As the 2009 program director of the St. Petersburg program Ward, an assistant professor of History in the Clayton State College of Arts & Sciences, will be helping to select faculty to teach each summer in St. Petersburg, and will also be recruiting Clayton State, Georgia State University and Georgia Tech students to participate in the program. As a European Council program director, Ward will also be the new Clayton State representative to the European Council for the next academic year, and will also be a member of the European Council Executive Committee.

An assistant professor in the Clayton State Department of Sociology (also in the College of Arts & Sciences), Young will teaching her own two course proposals in the Madrid program, as well as recruiting Clayton State students for the Madrid program.

Finlay, an assistant professor of Economics in the School of Business, will be teaching in Bonn and expects to hear from the director of that program regarding the upper level courses she will be teaching. Finlay will also be recruiting Clayton State students for the Bonn program.

European Council cont’d., p. 15
Clayton State Professors Present “Best Paper” at Business and Health Administration Association Meeting

by Shavaun Brewer, University Relations

Four Clayton State University faculty members from the University’s College of Professional Studies (CPS) were recently awarded Best Paper in the Ethical and Legal Tract at the Business and Health Administration Association (BHAA) meeting held in Chicago from Apr. 2 to Apr. 4, 2008.

The meeting consisted of approximately 900 professionals and academics who presented Dr. Susan I. Duley, Dr. Peter G. Fitzpatrick, Dr. Ximena Zornosa, Cynthia Lambert and Clayton State student Ashlie Mitchell, all from the College of Professional Studies, the Best Paper in the Ethical and Legal Tract for their paper entitled: “An Assessment of Dental Hygiene Students in the United States Relative to Practice Attitudes and Ethical Dilemmas for the Beginning Practitioner.”

Their paper explored the attitudes of dental hygiene students across a variety of ethical spectrums and concluded that, while dental hygiene students have an awareness of ethics in certain areas, there is a need for further education in additional areas. A primary recommendation was made to incorporate a discreet ethics course into existing dental hygiene curriculum.

Both Fitzpatrick and Duley expressed their gratitude to the BHAA for this honor and wished to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of their co-authors. At the same meeting Fitzpatrick, who had served as president of the BHAA since 2007, was recognized as the out-going president and given a plaque for his service.

Also presenting papers at the BHAA meeting, and congratulating their fellow Clayton State faculty members, were Deborah Gritzmacher and Dr. Russell Casey, also from the College of Professional Studies. Casey, along with George Whaley, presented two papers, “Career Crossroads at the Top” and “The Many Sides of the Imus Controversy.”

Gritzmacher, along with Casey and fellow CPS faculty members Debra Cody and Dr. Zi Wan, presented “Student Perceptions of Ethics: Marketing Practices Used in the Business of Health Care,” a pilot study investigating the perceptions of university students about the ethical practices used in the business of health care to market products and services.

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Student Body Elects New Student Government President, Vice President

The Clayton State University student body has elected a new president and vice president for the Student Government Association (SGA).

President Darius Thomas and Vice President Audreianna Smith were sworn in at a ceremony in the James M. Baker Center on Friday, Apr. 18.

Thomas is a sophomore Psychology & Human Services major, originally from Macon, Ga. He has previously been active in SGA during the 2007/2008 academic year as treasurer and fiscal affairs chair, and during the 2006/2007 academic year as a freshman senator.

“I enjoy being a part of SGA because of my genuine care for my peers,” he says. “My overall goal is to further the progression of SGA while ensuring that SGA is both efficient and functional. As student body president, it is my goal to rejuvenate student involvement and school pride by increasing SGA awareness of the student body.”

Smith is a freshman Business Accounting major from Augusta, Ga.

“My vision for SGA next year is to continue to build on the internal structure of SGA while ensuring senators’ involvement on campus and retention in SGA,” she says. “I also plan to work closely with the University Administration while building student awareness of SGA.”

Smith’s prior involvement on campus includes membership in the Gamma Beta Mu Leadership Society, the Caribbean Student Association, and the Kingdom Campus Ministries, as well as serving as a Laker Orientation Leader and second Vice-President of the NAACP. Her prior SGA involvement includes serving on the Student Affairs Committee, the Internal Affairs Committee, the 2008 Spring Student Forum and being recognized as the February 2008 Senator of the Month.

Graduate Student Coaches Mock Trial Team to Victory

by Erin Fender, University Relations

Clayton State graduate student Anna Cox recently helped to coach the Jonesboro High School (JHS) mock trial team to their third consecutive state championship and is now helping the team with preparations for the national competition on May 9 and May 10 in Wilmington, Del.

Cox, a resident of Jonesboro, teaches Latin at the regular and honors levels at JHS. She has been helping to coach
Across the Campus...

Athletics
Clayton State women’s basketball coach Dennis Cox landed one of the top prospects in northwest Georgia with the signing of small forward Tanisha Woodard from Rome High School. Woodard is the first signee for what could be a stellar recruiting class for Clayton State in the 2008-09 season. The Lakers are coming off a 20-11 mark this season, winning their third Peach Belt Conference regular season championship in the last four seasons and advancing to the “Sweet 16” of the NCAA Division II National Tournament. A four-year letterwinner and three-year starter at Rome, Woodard immediately gives the Lakers a dangerous athletic presence on the wing and at small forward. At 5-foot-10 and an explosive playmaker, she is starting to draw comparisons to two-time All-Peach Belt Conference forward Shantel Ragin, who recently completed her Laker career.

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Fresh off an improbable, but amazing postseason run to close out the season, Clayton State men’s basketball head coach Gordon Gibbons began reloading for the 2008-09 campaign on Wednesday with the signing of brothers Jaquas and Juron Dobbs. Jaquas Dobbs is a junior power forward who comes to Clayton State from Truett-McConnell, while Juron Dobbs is a freshman wing who is coming off a stellar prep career at Heritage High School in Conyers, Ga. They are the second set of brothers to ever play together at Clayton State, joining Ben and Ryan Amestoy, who played for the Lakers from 1994-1996. They will join a Laker squad that returns three starters and nine letterwinners off this season’s 19-15 squad that won the Peach Belt Conference Tournament championship and advanced to the “Sweet 16” of the NCAA Division II National Tournament.

Center for Academic Success
On Apr. 28 and Apr. 29, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., the Center for Academic Success will hold its Finals Tutoring Blitz. During this time, students may come into the Center on a walk-in basis to work with peer tutors, staff tutors, and faculty members. This event is an excellent opportunity for students to receive extra help while developing strong relationships with their instructors (and improve retention). Please encourage your students to attend. In order for this to be a success, CAS needs your help. Please plan to volunteer an hour or two (maybe during your office hours) during this event, please e-mail Kathy Garrison the times you will be available and the subjects in which you would like to tutor. Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, please visit our website, http://adminservices.clayton.edu/caa/Tutoring%20Blitz/tutoringblitz.htm, or contact Garrison.

Dental Hygiene
The American Dental Education Association (ADEA), GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Consumer Healthcare, and the National Dental Association (NDA) recently presented three awards to dental educators to enhance their teaching efforts. Three dental hygiene educators were chosen for the ADEA/GSK Dental Hygiene Fellowship Program, which provides opportunities for dental hygiene educators to enhance their teaching skills, develop or refine their presentation methods, and provide support to attend the ADEA Allied Dental Faculty Leadership Program. This year’s recipients are Ann O’Kelley Wetmore, R.D.H., Idaho State University; Colleen M. Brickle, R.D.H., R.F., Ed.D, Normandale Community College; and Susan I. Duley, Ed.D., R.D.H., L.P.C., Clayton State University.

Graduate Studies
The Clayton State University School of Graduate Studies will be holding its monthly informational Open House on Tuesday, May 13 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Open House will give prospective graduate students a chance to learn more about the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, Master of Business Administration, Master of Health Administration, and Master of Science in Nursing. The event will be held in Room 201 of the University’s Harry S. Downs Center. The School of Graduate Studies will be holding open houses on the second Tuesday evening of each month for the foreseeable future.

History
Dr. Gene Hatfield was elected president of the Georgia Association of Historians at the GAH’s recent annual meeting. He was also reappointed to a new term on the Atlanta Regional Commission, beginning in January. If he serves the entire term, he will have served on the Commission for 20 years, and he has currently served longer than any other member.

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Associate Professor of History Dr. Kathryn Kemp gave a talk on Apr. 18 to the Hapeville Historical Society on Asa Candler's connection to the creation of the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. According to Kemp, Candler's son, Asa, Jr., was a member of the Atlanta Automobile Association, which borrowed money to build a racetrack on land that the elder Candler agreed to sell to them. They staged races there that attracted drivers from all over the country, but were never able to cover the costs of building the racetrack. Eventually, the elder Candler called in the debt and sold the bleachers as salvage. The empty race track remained and was used by early aviators as a place to land. When Airmail came to Atlanta, the city acquired the abandoned race track and built the airport, then called Candler Field, which eventually grew to be the busiest in the world.

Public Safety
Rosalind Williams has been selected as the new administrative assistant to
Across the Campus...

Director of Public Safety Bobby Hamil.

Recreation & Wellness
The Department of Recreation & Wellness is sponsoring a Paintball Trip on Saturday, May 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to Wildfire Paintball in Conyers. The cost is $30 a person and includes transportation, equipment, paintballs, and three hours of play on three different fields. Novice and skilled players are all welcome. Registration ends May 2. Registration forms and payment will be taken at the SmartBodies desk located in the Athletics & Fitness building. Twenty spots available.

Staff Council
Join Staff Council’s Professional Development Committee on Apr. 29 at 2 p.m. as Steve Brown from Families First teaches us the act of balancing work and family. The hour long workshop will be held in Room 322 of the Baker University Center. To register for this event, visit http://adminservices.clayton.edu/staffcouncil/WR/wreg.aspx. For general information or to find more events sponsored by Staff Council, visit our website at http://adminservices.clayton.edu/staffcouncil.

University System
This week’s issue of the University System of Georgia’s Legislative Update has been posted and is available for downloading at http://www.usg.edu/pubs/lu/. Back issues of the newsletter are also available there.

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The April 2008 issue of the University System of Georgia publication "Value Added: USG Serves Georgia” is online at: http://www.usg.edu/pubs/value/. There is also a link to "Value Added" on the USG home page, http://www.usg.edu.

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The March/April issue of the University System of Georgia’s The System Supplement is now available online at http://www.usg.edu/pubs/sys_supp/.

Got News?
Send your campus news to johnshiffert@clayton.edu
School of Nursing is Hosting its First Annual Spring Cultural Diversity Forum on Thursday, May 1.

According to Dr. Susan Sanner, associate professor of Nursing and project director of the HRSA funded Division of Nursing, Nursing Workforce Diversity grant, the first forum will focus on the broad concept of diversity and how to promote positive relationships in the university setting and beyond.

The forum will open in Spivey Hall at 4 p.m. on May 1, with the keynote speaker, Dr. Dee Baldwin, professor of Nursing at Georgia State University. At 5 p.m., the group will break and move to the Harry S. Downs Center Atrium for light food and small group discussions with Clayton State faculty facilitators about diversity and how its concepts can be applied in all interpersonal relationships and settings. Following the small group discussions, the group will reconvene as a whole for a final wrap-up with the keynote speaker. The event is expected to adjourn at 7 p.m.

This is an exciting event for all Clayton State students. Attendance at the event is free of charge, but requires the completion of an online registration form at: http://nursing.clayton.edu/NWD/diversityreg.asp.

Facilitators: Jennell Charles, RN, Ph.D., School Of Nursing; Lillian Parker, RN, MSN, Ph.D., School Of Nursing; Carol Isaac Mackusick, MSN, RN, Ccm, School Of Nursing; Dee Tanner, RN, MSN, School Of Nursing; Marilyn Stroy, MSN, RNC, School Of Nursing; Susan Sanner, RN, Ph.D., School Of Nursing; Karen Weaver, APRN, Ph.D., School Of Nursing; Susan A. Walsh, RN, MN, CORN, School Of Nursing; Katrina Barnes, RN, MS, School Of Nursing; Janie Shaw, RN, MSN, School Of Nursing; Debra J. Cody, RN, MSN, College Of Professional Studies, Health Care Management; Deborah Gritzmacher RN, MSN, CMT, College Of Professional Studies, Health Care Management; Dr. Wendy A. Burns-Ardolino, Integrative & Women’s Studies; Celeste Valley-Jean, College Of Arts and Sciences, Psychology; Mario V. Norman, Ph.D. College Of Arts and Sciences, Psychology; Mary Hollowell, Ph.D., College Of Arts and Sciences, Teacher Education; Larnell Flannagan, College Of Arts and Sciences, Teacher Education

Hamil, cont’d. from p. 1

addition to taking him all over the U.S., gave him an extraordinary background in law enforcement practice and management. At various times his service has involved: Asian organized crime; spending time at the Defense Language Institute studying Chinese, and then working in Chinese counter-intelligence matters; counter-terrorism program matters; serving in the National Security Law Unit at FBIHQ; serving as a field supervisor; serving as the Chief of Global Initiatives Unit in the Criminal Justice Information Services Division; and being the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the FBI’s Seattle Division.

After a couple of years in Seattle, Hamil was promoted to SES (Senior Executive Service), managing 500 people at the National Instant Criminal Background Check System Section, or NICS.

Clayton State University Student Nolan Hyde Honored

by Erin Fender, University Relations

For the first time, the Political Science Department at Clayton State honored a student with the Political Science Program Award at this year’s Honor’s convocation. Nolan Hyde (Stockbridge) is the first recipient.

“Nolan Hyde is an exemplary student with a very strong GPA, an exception legislative intern, and a natural leader; someone who both brings a great deal to the classroom and also generates an energy among fellow students,” said Dr. Joe Trachtenberg, professor of political science and program coordinator.

Hamil, cont’d., p. 18
Clayton State to Hold Annual Service Awards April 30

by Erin Fender, University Relations

Clayton State University will gather on Wednesday, Apr. 30 in Spivey Hall to honor faculty and staff with the annual Service Awards ceremony and the announcement of the Alice J. Smith Award winners. The event will begin at 2 p.m. followed with a light reception.

The Service Awards Ceremony is a time for Clayton State to celebrate and honor faculty and staff through recognizing years of service, tenure, promotions, and retirement.

The University’s 2008 Alice J. Smith Awards will be presented at the ceremony. An annual honor 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 award was established by the late Joseph Smith as a memorial to his wife, to honor her career in teaching and her love for learning.

This year’s faculty nominees are: from the College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Patricia Todebush and Dr. Antoinette Miller; from the College of Professional Studies, Lou Brackett; from the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences, Dr. Annita Hunt; from the School of Business, Dr. Anita Whiting; and from the School of Nursing, Dr. Lillian Parker.

This year’s staff award nominees are: Kathy Garrison; from the Center for Academic Success, Mary Alice Gladin; from the School of Business, Sandy Haught; from Plant Operations, Vicky Stewart; from the School of Nursing, and from Administrative Systems, Celeste Wade.

Life’s Transitions...

Joseph Smith, Philanthropist

Many people profess their support for higher education. Joseph Smith lived his support for higher education and Clayton State University.

On Saturday, Apr. 19, 2008, Mr. Smith passed away after a long illness. Clayton State University has lost one of its longest and finest benefactors, a man who truly deserved the title “philanthropist” through his manifest good works on behalf of his community and especially on behalf of Clayton State.

He had a great appreciation for Clayton State as a whole, and wanted to advance the University whenever he could. He highly valued the personal relationships he formed with everyone at Clayton State, and those relationships sustained him through a great deal of personal illness and trying times.

Many individuals at Clayton State know Mr. Smith through the Alice J. Smith Awards. An annual event since 1995, the Smith Awards are presented to the

Clayton State Archives Wants to Know…

Yes, there is an Archives for Clayton State University. It is located in the library. The Clayton State Archives is charged with the responsibility of collecting and preserving the history of Clayton State University.

Each issue of the Campus Review will feature an item, photo, or event from the collections in the Archives. These items have no accompanying information. The Archives would like to collect data and associated artifacts for these “mystery” items.

World Famous Clayton State Kazoo Band

The Archives has a navy tee-shirt with white lettering. Some folks have stopped by and said they remembered or were a member of the kazoo band. Well, now is your chance to answer some questions for the Clayton State Archives.

1. Who was in the kazoo band?
2. When was the kazoo band formed? Why? When did it disband? Why? Or is the kazoo band secretly planning a comeback?
3. Are there photographs of the kazoo band in performance?
4. Are there other tee-shirts (uniforms) for the kazoo band?
5. Does anyone have one of the original kazoos they would like to donate to the Archives?
6. Is there a recording of the kazoo band in performance?

If you can provide answers to these questions or have additional information on this particular item, please email Rosemary Fischer, University Archivist, at rosemaryfischer@clayton.edu.

The Clayton State Archives thanks you for your help.
Clayton State
Spring Fling '08

Photo Credit: Erin Fender
Michelle Craig Honored as Patriotic Employer
by Erin Fender, University Relations

Michelle Craig

On Apr. 23, Clayton State University’s Michelle Craig, a student loan coordinator, was presented an award from the National Committee for Employer Support for the Guard and Reserves (ESGR) for being a patriotic employer.

“Billy Evans, our loan officer, is a Reservist and nominated me for the award in support of the numerous times he has been called to duty. This was a special moment for me at Clayton State,” says Craig.

Ameshiea Buckner with the ESGR and Evans presented Craig the award and a lapel pin.

Craig works as the student loan coordinator at Clayton State University where she certifies and disburses in excess of $27 million annually in federal and private loan funds.

In addition to her student loan responsibilities, she is the staff coordinator for the Peer Financial Counseling program, training students to conduct campus presentations on budgeting, credit and debt, identity theft, savings and investments, and student loans, to name a few.

An employee at the University for 14 years, Michelle appreciates the relationships she’s developed at Clayton State saying, “Clayton State is a great place to work because the people I have come to know and love on campus are my family and it’s hard to leave family.”

Alumni Dinner, cont’d., from p. 1

where he is a past president and currently serves on its Board of Directors. He has been instrumental in facilitating of the Atlanta Airport Rotary Mitchell C. Bishop Scholarship at Clayton State, which is the oldest and longest continuing scholarship at the University, beginning almost 30 years ago and influencing scores of students.

In addition, Martino has served as president of the Airport Area Chamber of Commerce and still serves on their Board of Directors. His community involvement includes Chris Kids, Travelers Aid and Children’s Miracle Network.

Martin holds two degrees from Clayton State, an Associate in Applied Science and an Associate in Sociology. She works as a family independence case manager at the Department of Family and Children Services in Clayton County. In 2007, she was recognized as the DFACS Employee of the Year. She received this award in large part to her strong will and determination in overcoming a disability. Prior 1999, Martin had received six years of disability before becoming employed with DFACS and thriving in her position.

Crownover obtained his Bachelors degree in Applied Science in 2002, graduating with honors. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps and his commissioning ceremony was held in Clayton State’s Technology Building. He has risen to the rank of Captain and has served two seven-year service tours.

Alumni Dinner, cont’d., p. 14
Biology Professor Mentors Research Projects

Clayton State University professor Dr. Jere Boudell, an assistant professor of Biology, promotes hands-on experience through mentoring students in real research projects.

“How can one decide to pursue a career in science if one has no experience actually conducting science? One learns about science in the classroom. Actually participating in science is a wonderful experience,” she says.

Getting students involved in real research is a rewarding goal for Boudell. Currently she is mentoring research projects of four students.

“This involves teaching experimental design and protocol, providing guidance on the topic of investigation, teaching statistical analysis, and finally assisting with analysis interpretation and investigation synthesis,” explains Boudell.

Boudell also offers guidance in writing papers, presentations, and applications for various opportunities (other internships, fellowships, graduate school).

One of Boudell’s research students is documenting the flora of Reynolds Nature

Clayton State University
SEEDS Chapter Awarded Two Grants

by Erin Fender, University Relations

The Ecological Society of America (ESA) has awarded Clayton State University’s Strategies for Ecology Education, Development and Sustainability (SEEDS) Chapter two special grants.

A special project grant of $4,900 was awarded to the SEEDS Chapter for their grant proposal on “An Evaluation of the Jesters Creek Restoration Project.” This grant will fund a multi component assessment project to include outreach and education as well as assessments on the vegetation, soil characteristics, insect, bird, and bat communities in recently restored sections of Jesters Creek in Morrow, Ga.

“This project is multi-faceted and it is hoped that it will not only help improve restoration projects in Georgia, but also provide experience and exposure to ecology for students,” explains Serge Farinas, SEEDS Chapter president.

Student project leaders will train other students, including an ecology class, to assess and monitor the restoration efforts.

The SEEDS chapter along with other project participants will make presentations to Clayton State students through a biology seminar and campus poster sessions. A panel discussion will be held with representatives from the Clayton County Water Authority and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Being awarded this grant feels great! It is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to gain experience and do good work at the same time. I know for myself, it is very motivating to know that my hard work can affect things in a positive way. I hope that this project will be a good contribution to facing the daunting ecological problems affecting us all,” says Farinas.

The Clayton State SEEDS chapter was also awarded a $500 chapter maintenance grant. This grant will help the chapter through funding events and activities. The chapter is working on plans to visit the Georgia Coastal Ecosystems Long Term Ecological Research (GCE-LTER) Project on Sapelo Island. The group is also organizing a caving expedition.

“Understanding and awareness of our native ecosystems can lead to a better appreciation and concern for them. Activities are a really good way to get people immersed in ecology and to get people interested in ecology,” says Farinas.
Student Gives Back to Community Through Internship

by Lauren Graves, University Relations

Clayton State University Integrative Studies major Julia Jones (Forest Park) is giving back to her community through an internship thanks to some encouragement she received from Clayton State Assistant Professor of Journalism Dr. Randy Clark.

Inspired by Clark’s mentoring in public relations, Jones is making a difference by promoting Ovarian Cycle’s 2008 Ride to Change the Future, a stationary bike ride in which participants ride 100 virtual miles on indoor bikes to raise money for ovarian cancer research.

“This assignment has allowed me the opportunity to gain valuable skills and media outlet networks that I will be able to utilize for years to come,” says Jones, who plans to work in the non-profit sector after she graduates from Clayton State in spring 2009.

Jones’ internship has also equipped her with a broad knowledge of fundraising and grant award techniques that gives real-life application to the education she received in the Clayton State classroom.

“I will always remember Dr. Clark’s famous quote ‘Who is the target audience?’ and his methods for getting the exposure necessary to be successful when organizing or working as a publicist,” she shares.

During her involvement with the organization, Ovarian Cycle, Inc., has seen record-breaking registration numbers. The program has also recently expanded to include rides in Birmingham, Al., and Broomfield, Co.

Not only has Jones participated in promoting the 2008 Ride to Change, but she also plans to help at the Atlanta event by supporting the teams and riders and offering towels and water.

“I am also thinking about sponsoring an ‘empty bike’ in memory of my mother,” says Jones, who lost her mother to ovarian cancer.

Jones invites the community to join in the cause saying, “If you have a mother, daughter, sister or aunt, you have a reason to support earlier detection of ovarian cancer….We have the power and the responsibility to make a difference.”

Ride to Change the Future is scheduled for Apr. 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Atlanta’s Midtown Athletic Club. For more, visit www.ovariancycle.org.

Boudell, cont’d. from p. 10

Preserve. Two other students are assisting her with the evaluation of the Jesters Creek restoration project. Another student is assisting with determining the length of time southwestern riverine species need to be in contact with saturated soil in order to germinate (a collaboration with Dr. Julie Stromberg of Arizona State University).

Boudell is the club sponsor for the Ecological Society of America (ESA) Strategies for Ecology Education, Development, and Sustainability (SEEDS) campus chapter. She encourages the students to get involved and apply for the opportunities that ESA provides for SEEDS members.

“Getting out there and getting involved in ecology helps students to find their interests and the ESA provides a lot of great opportunities,” says Boudell.

Boudell encouraged Clayton State senior Serge Farinas to apply for the ESA SEEDS Undergraduate Research

Spivey Hall, cont’d. from p. 2

Similarly, the Spivey Hall Children’s Choir Program (SHCCP) is comprised of students between the ages of 10 and 18. Some have been members for eight years, traveling every Monday night, year after year, to Clayton State University to rehearse and create beautiful music. These children not only “grow up” in Spivey Hall, but they also represent the University as its cultural ambassadors, singing in venues throughout the United States and in countries across the world. This summer the Spivey Hall Tour Choir will represent Clayton State University when they perform at the widely known Oregon Bach Festival, and in June 2009 when they give a 10-day performance tour in China.

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Boudell, cont’d., p. 17

Spivey Hall, cont’d. from p. 2

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Clayton State University’s Division of Continuing Education is once again offering its Youth University program as an exciting alternative to traditional summer day camp. For 2008, the camp sessions will be three weeks in length instead of two and will be held at Clayton State’s newly-renovated location on Tara Boulevard in Jonesboro.

Youth University will offer two new theme-based curricula covering the traditional academic components of Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Math, with a creative bonus in music and dance, drama, and art design. These innovative programs offer students ages seven to 11 a unique learning experience designed to challenge them both academically and creatively to broaden their knowledge of different cultures and experiences.

Youth University hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday with extended morning and evening care available at an additional fee. The location is 9157 Tara Blvd., Jonesboro. The two sessions will run from June 9 to June 27 and from July 7 to July 25. Both will be staffed by qualified teachers and counselors with backgrounds in education, recreation, writing, the arts and athletics. The registration fee is $399 per session.

Session One, from June 9 to June 27, will allow campers to join Mowgli, Bagheera, and a host of jungle creatures for a fun-filled learning adventure. Daily classes will focus on themes from The Jungle Book. Campers will learn the location of jungles around the world; jungle animals, their habitat, and the food chain of survival; and the culture and history of India. They’ll also prepare for an end-of-session theatrical production of Disney’s Jungle Book Kids.

Session Two, from July 7 to July 25 will see students be introduced to pioneers, explorers, Native Americans, and a host of historical figures as they study the great American West. The camp’s comprehensive academic curriculum will cover U.S. Geography, Spanish and French discovery and settling of the American West, the Gold Rush, Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett and other historical pioneers. The end-of-session theatrical production will be of the Wild, Wild West.

For more information, or to register for Youth University, call (678) 466-5050 or go to http://conted.clayton.edu.

Cox, cont’d. from p. 3

the mock trial team for the last three years. Her husband and fellow JHS teacher, Andrew Cox, also coaches the team.

“Both of us participated in mock trial in high school but never at the level that we have enjoyed with our students,” says Anna Cox.

The team is recognized for winning the state championship with a wooden gavel which is kept by JHS until the next year’s competition. The three foot gavel sits on base that boasts the names of each school that has won the championship -- JHS has the most with six wins.

“I feel my strength lies in helping students with their diction and speech since the law is certainly not my liberal arts forte. I like to be the one who encourages and always has a kind word,” expresses Cox.

Aside from coaching the mock trial team, Cox is an advisor for the Latin club, prom committee, and student council for JHS.

Cox is a student in Clayton State’s Master of Liberal Arts program and plans to graduate this summer with the first master’s degree ever awarded by the University.

“I have truly enjoyed all the classes that I have been able to take here at Clayton State and I have been able to use many of the things we discussed in class with my students to enrich my Latin curriculum,” she says.

With graduation soon approaching for Cox and the success of the JHS mock trial team, these are not the only positive things happening for her, since she was also was named Clayton County’s 2008 Teacher of the Year.

“I was truly honored to be named Teacher of the Year for Clayton County. This has been a stressful time for Clayton County and I am glad to lead the charge for positive reinforcement and support,” says Cox.

She thanks her family for their continued support and encouragement. Cox is the daughter of Larry Wiley, a Clayton State Communications instructor. Like his daughter, Wiley worked for the Clayton County School System for many years before retiring. He has taught at Clayton State part-time for more than 25 years.

“My parents never cast teaching in a negative light and always encourage me to continue teaching. I love where I work and hope to continue working at JHS,” explains Cox.
month tours in Iraq and is preparing for his third deployment.

A few of his noteworthy accomplishments include completing Officer Candidate School during his junior and senior years at Clayton State; serving as an AH-1 “Cobra” Gunship Pilot; and serving as a Squadron Flight Officer. He has received the Marine Corps Service Medal, six Air Medals and a number of campaign ribbons.

After obtaining her Bachelor’s Degree in Management from Clayton State in 2001, Hubbard was employed by Nationwide Insurance, where she has climbed the corporate ladder quickly. Initially employed as a casualty claims representative in the Atlanta area, she has risen to the regional position of agency development sales manager, and now resides in Ohio.

Hubbard is a member of The Advisory Committee of DECA, United Way, National Association of Insurance for Women, Atlanta Association of Insurance Professionals, Consortium of African American Organizations, and the National Black MBA Association. She has also volunteered with Hands on Atlanta.

Wilson graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in 2002. He currently is the Education Program Manager at Piedmont Fayette Hospital and is responsible for all academic affiliations between metro Atlanta colleges and universities, placing more than 100 students from multiple disciplines each semester into clinical rotations.

During his time as the manager of the Education Department, Piedmont Fayette Hospital was recognized and awarded the Outstanding Partner in Education by the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce and the Fayette County Board of Education.

Wilson also has military experience, entering the Air Force in 1992 and is currently a Captain. He was named an honor graduate from the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. While being
All three Clayton State faculty members will be required to attend a European Council faculty orientation meeting to be held at Macon State in September 2008, notes Dr. Robert Welborn, Clayton State’s director of International Education and a professor of History in the College of Arts & Sciences. According to Welborn, there will also be a second faculty orientation meeting in April 2009 after the various programs have recruited all of their students, as well as a student orientation meeting at Macon State in May 2009.

“My warmest congratulations,” said Welborn in a letter to his three Clayton State colleagues. “You represent the largest group of faculty ever selected from Clayton State to teach in European Council programs, and it was my pleasure to endorse all of your applications and speak on your behalf last Friday.”
Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!

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Smith, cont’d. from p. 7

faculty member and staff member ranked most outstanding as determined by committees of their peers. The two, $1000 awards were established by Mr. Smith in honor of his late wife, Alice Jenkins Smith, in 1995. It is a measure of the humility of this remarkable man that everything he did for the University was in his wife’s name. Indeed, Mr. Smith would never allow his own name to be mentioned in conjunction with any of his philanthropic works, any more than he would allow himself to be recognized at the annual Smith Awards. In fact, in all the University’s records of Mr. Smith’s generosity, there is but one quote from him about the Smith Awards.

“I just wanted to show my appreciation for what the county has done for us,” he said at the time the Awards were established in December, 1994.

In addition to his contribution of the Smith Awards, Mr. Smith, a resident of Rex for more than 30 years, also gave scholarships in his wife’s name for teacher education (she was a teacher) and nursing (she received good nursing care when she became ill). As with everything he did for the University, these gifts were directly tied to his love for his wife.

Mr. Smith’s good works will live on after him. The endowment that Mr. Smith created with his contributions and estate planning will be used to continue the Alice Smith Awards, and the teacher education and nursing scholarships.

The visitation for Mr. Smith will be held on Tuesday, Apr. 29, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Ford-Stewart Funeral Home in Jonesboro. A Burial Mass will be said on Wednesday, Apr. 30 at 10:30 a.m. at St.

Alumni Dinner, cont’d. from p. 14

assigned to the 94th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, he has flown more than 1000 hours as an Aeromedical Evacuation crew member. His most recent deployment was in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Hopkins graduated in 1991 with an Associates degree in Mathematics, receiving many academic honors. After Clayton State, she graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in Chemistry, then completed her medical training at the University of Alabama School of Optometry. She completed her residency at the Southern California College of Optometry. Hopkins has also recently completed a Masters of Science in Public Health Epidemiology.

She currently holds the rank of associate professor and chief of Vision Therapy Services at the University of Alabama – Birmingham in the School of Optometry. Hopkins has won several teaching awards, including the University of Alabama – Birmingham President’s Award for excellence in teaching for 2008. She is extremely active in research, grant writing and has published numerous articles in the medical community.

She has served the community in a number of ways including, providing optometric screenings at Camp Seale Harris, a summer camp for diabetic children and at the Lion’s Club Special Olympics. ■

James the Apostle Catholic Church in McDonough. Mr. Smith will be buried next to his wife at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on May 12. ■
Men Reach Two NCAA Provisional Marks

Clayton State Women Set Four Records at Seminole Invitational

by Lee Wright, Sports Information

It was a homecoming of sorts for Clayton State Laker women’s track & field sophomore Keisha Etienne as family came from South Florida to watch her run. They did not leave disappointed as the Miami, Fla., native set two Clayton State team records, including victory in the 400-meter hurdles and an NCAA Division II provisional qualifying mark, during the Seminole Invitational last Saturday at Florida State University’s Mike Long Track.

On the day, the Lakers set four team records and hit three NCAA provisional marks. At the same meet, the Clayton State men’s track & field team came away with two NCAA Division II provisional performances and one school record.

Senior Eric Simmons, seeking his fourth trip to outdoor nationals, hit a provisional time in the 400-meter dash, while junior Ahmad Rolle, who was a Division II All-American in the triple jump during indoor season, hit his mark in the triple jump for outdoors.

Simmons, a 2004 Division II All-American, ran 47.85 to finish sixth in the 400-meter dash. He also finished sixth in the 200-meter dash in 21.81, and anchored the Lakers’ 4x400-meter relay team of Rolle, Josh Tiggs and Lawrence DeShields to a 3:17.63 and a third-place finish.

Meanwhile, Rolle began his day breaking the Lakers’ long jump record, leaping 22-7½ feet to place fourth. Later in the meet, before the 4x400-meter relay, Rolle jumped 48-0½ feet to place fourth in the triple jump and better the NCAA Division II provisional qualifying mark.

“Our guys had a very solid meet, led by Eric and Ahmad hitting qualifying marks for nationals,” said Clayton State head coach Mike Mead. “Several guys hit either season-best or career-best outdoor times and marks. This was the right meet with the right competition to do so.

Etienne set the first record of the day in the 400-meter dash, placing seventh while running 57.19. Later in the meet, she won the 400-meter hurdles in 1:02.22, well under the Division II qualifying time of 1:03.00 and another Clayton State record. She improved both of her school records by more than a second each.

The third record of the meet came from junior Jon Taylor, who lowered her 100-meter school record for a second straight week. She ran 12.54 to finish eighth in the event. Taylor also placed eighth in the 200-meter dash and jumped 17-6 to finish sixth in the long jump.

The final record of the meet for Clayton State came from senior Shantel Ragan, who improved the team’s triple jump record for the third straight week. She improved the record by more than a foot to leap 37-2½ feet and finish fifth overall, while closing to within .26m of the Division II provisional mark in the triple jump.

“This was another fantastic weekend for women’s track & field at Clayton State,” said Clayton State head coach Mike Mead. “Not only did we set four team records, but we had a slew of season and personal bests today. We held our own against mostly Division I competition and we were lucky the weather held up for the most part.”

Boudell, cont’d. from p. 12

Fellowship. This year Farinas was awarded the $15,000 fellowship.

“This award is an unparalleled experience for undergraduates that pair them up with a research mentor to do a high quality research project in their field of interest. It is needless to say that I am very grateful for being chosen and very humbled at the opportunity,” expresses Farinas.

Farinas has been working with Boudell on the assessment of the Jesters Creek restoration project since 2006.

“While I won't be his research advisor on his new project, I will be available as a mentor to answer any questions that he may have concerning his project,” says Boudell.

Boudell’s love for science plays a huge role in her life. She will teach two courses in the upcoming summer study abroad program in Montepulciano, Italy.

“It’s special to me because I was born in Italy. However, I am also big supporter of international education,” she says.

Boudell has most recently had three research papers published in the “Journal of Vegetation,” “Functional Ecology” and in “Wetlands.” All of the research papers have been presented at several conferences across the world including Italy, Montreal, and in the Unites States.

“My family has been very supportive of my career. Specifically, my husband Rob,” she adds.

When she is not focused on science, she loves to ride her new Harley touring bike with her husband. She is also in the process of relearning Italian.
Hamil, cont’d. from p. 6

“That’s the gun check section. All prospective purchasers of firearms from federal licensees must undergo a NICS check,” he explains.

As part of the Criminal Justice Information Services Division, located in Clarksburg, WV, the NICS was created by the Brady Act in the aftermath of the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. The FBI manages NICS, in coordination with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

So how does a FBI agent/manager end up in higher education?

“About a year ago I started thinking about what I wanted to do with my next life,” he explains. “I still wanted to use my legal background as well as my law enforcement background.”

While Hamil was stationed in New Orleans he taught basic legal principles on the LSU campus for the Louisiana state law enforcement academies.

“I developed an interest in academia,” he says. “I often thought I’d like to do something in the academic world. I also wanted to come back to the southeast. My wife’s family and mine are from the same area.

“I was steered toward campus security jobs. I thought my background might bring something of benefit, and the job description sounded like a position that I would enjoy.”

Hamil also explains that, with two teenage daughters – Allison, who is a high school senior and will be a student at the University of Alabama in the fall, and Rachel, who is also in high school in West Virginia until the end of the current school year – he has an interest in campus safety from both a personal, as well as a professional viewpoint.

“What attracted me to Clayton State was that it appears to be a real growing community,” he says, pointing to the University’s structural growth. “Also, with the opening of the student housing in the fall, there will be a new set of challenging security concerns, with its migration to a 24/7 presence of students on campus. Lots of visible growth shows me that this university is a progressive university.”

Hamil also has prior direct experience with the issues of campus security. Following the 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech, as chief of the NICS he was asked to serve on a Presidential task force chaired by Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, which focused on campus security issues.

“Each time you transfer, there’s a learning curve. I hope my investigative and management experience will end up bearing dividends for Clayton State,” he says. “My job is to keep my ear to the ground and listen to as many components as possible to ensure the safety of the campus.”

Hyde, cont’d. from p. 6

Hyde is a member of the Clayton State University Honors Program and a 18 charter member of the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society. He has held the office of president in two clubs at Clayton State; the Clayton State University Political Science Association and the Clayton State University Philosophy Society.

“Being the first to win the Political Science Award is an immense honor, to which being able to represent the Political Science Program at Clayton State is a distinct privilege,” expressed Hyde.

Hyde just finished his internship with the Georgia Legislative Intern Program. He was placed with the House of Representatives as an intern in the House Appropriations office.

“Through my position I was able to follow many appropriations’ bills from committee and subcommittee to floor votes on both sides of the Gold Dome,” explained Hyde.

Hyde will graduate from Clayton State this May. He plans to attend law school in the fall.

“Nolan has been a pleasure to have in my upper level political science course, not only because he always is well prepared and willing to participate, but also because he is a natural leader whose positive attitude and friendly disposition encourages others to take part as well,” expressed Trachtenberg.

“Being recognized for the Political Science Award is an incredible tribute, however the true reward for all of the hard work will be on graduation day when for those few fleeting moments my name will be heard over a loud speaker in the presence of my family and friends and then the presentation of my diploma,” said Hyde.

In his spare time he enjoys playing golf and fishing. He is married to Clayton State alumna, Amanda Hyde. They are very active in their church, Highland Christian Center in McDonough, where she teaches Sunday school and he is a member of the praise and worship team.

“I am and have been successful because of the support of my wonderful wife, my parents, and my grandparents. These individuals helped and supported me when I needed them the most,” said Hyde.
Redecsi, Chergova Selected All-Peach Belt Conference for Women’s Tennis

by Lee Wright, Sports Information

Clayton State’s Anna Redecsi and Julia Chergova have both been honored as All-Peach Belt Conference for the 2008 season.

The duo was selected for doubles after another stellar season as the Lakers’ top doubles team, while Redecsi was also selected for singles. It’s the fourth time overall that Chergova has been selected All-Peach Belt Conference (three times in doubles and once for singles), while Redecsi was selected for both singles and doubles for a second straight season.

Redecsi played at No. 1 all season for Clayton State in singles, posting a mark of 15-3 overall going into the Peach Belt Conference Championships. She started the season ranked 15th in the nation in Division II, and is now ranked 27th.

Redecsi and Chergova once again proved themselves as one of the top doubles teams in the nation for Division II. They repeated as ITA Division II Mid-Atlantic Regional champions last fall, and advanced to the semifinals of the ITA Division II National Championships. This season, they were 15-2 overall going into the Peach Belt Championships, ranked seventh in the nation in the latest Division II rankings.

Clayton State’s Anna Redecsi and Julia Chergova have both been honored as All-Peach Belt Conference for the 2008 season.

PBC Women’s Tennis Tournament Concludes on Sour Note for Clayton State

After dropping a tough semifinal match on Saturday against Francis Marion, the 2008 Peach Belt Conference Women’s Tennis Tournament came to a sour conclusion for the Clayton State Lakers on Sunday as they dropped another tough 5-4 decision against Columbus State in the third-place match.

The eighth-ranked Lakers fall to 19-4 on the season, and now await a possible NCAA Division II Regional berth. Columbus State improves to 19-7.

The Lady Cougars took a 2-1 lead in the match by winning two of the three matches in doubles. That included a thrilling 9-7 victory by Columbus State’s Daniela Castillo and Erin Reynolds against the Lakers’ Viktoriya Semyrodenko and Allison Evans.

However, Clayton State prevailed in the first three singles matches with victories from Anna Redecsi (No. 1), Julia Chergova (No. 2) and Semyrodenko at No. 3 to take a 4-2 lead. But Columbus State rallied in the final three matches.

Wilcox wasn’t alone, however, for the Lakers. Sophomore Wade Binfield shot a 74 in the final round and finished third overall with a 1-over 217, one stroke ahead of Peach Belt Conference Player of the Year Chris Wolfe from Armstrong Atlantic. Junior Neil McBride finished tied for 22nd with a 229 (73-79-77), followed by junior Jonathan Visconti in 24th with a 231 (76-81-74).

Rounding out the Laker scoring was freshman Kevin Duncan finishing tied for 27th with a 233 (75-76-82).

The strong finish should be more than enough to qualify Clayton State for the NCAA Division II Southeast Region on May 5-7 in Mooresville, N.C. It would be the Lakers’ first regional berth since 2003.

Trivia Time

Frankly My Dear...

by John Shiffert, University Relations

One of the most famous lines in all of moviedom, and, at the time, one of the most controversial, began that way, even though the word “frankly” wasn’t in the book the movie was drawn from.

We are speaking, of course, of “Gone With The Wind,” the partly Clayton County-based epic that got producer David O. Selznick fined for including Rhett Butler’s memorable line, “Frankly, my dear, I don’t give a damn.” You just didn’t say that on the silver screen in 1939.

Although Mike Mead had the first correct answer, followed by Kurt-Alexander Zeller, Robert Caine, Rob Taylor (from Kiel, Germany), Larry Booth and Chris Wilkie, it was the final correspondent, Kelly Adams, who gets three bonus points for supplying most of the good details above, including that Selznick “knew it wouldn’t have been as dramatic if he’d used ‘Frankly my dear, I just don’t care.’”

Just to see if anyone out there is paying attention, Rhett’s memorable line was in response to what? Do not send your answers to Tara, or to one of the swans on Swan Lake, but to johnshiffert@clayton.edu.

Golf, cont’d. from p. 20

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Team Finishes Second

Wilcox Wins Peach Belt Conference Men’s Golf Championship

by Lee Wright, Sports Information

Spearheaded by junior All-American Will Wilcox winning the individual title, Clayton State finished runner-up in the 2008 Peach Belt Conference Tournament on Tuesday at Houndslake Country Club. The 20th-ranked Lakers shot a final-round 295 and finished with a three-round score of 879, 10 strokes off the pace of tournament champion and fifth-ranked USC Aiken.

Clayton State held off a charge by Georgia College, nipping the 10th-ranked Bobcats by two strokes, while 12th-ranked Columbus State finished fourth in the eight-team field with a 901. The second-place finish was the best ever in the Peach Belt Conference Tournament for Clayton State, and the Lakers set a new 54-hole team record by nine strokes, relative to par.

“Coming into this season, I expected us to be better, but this is tremendous,” says second-year Clayton State head coach Barry Harwell. “Our goal this season was to crack the Division II Top 25 and advance to NCAA Regionals, which we have. Finishing second at the conference championships exceeded those goals.”

Wilcox followed up his first and second round scores of 70 and 68 with another 70 on Tuesday to finish 8-under par overall with a 208, eight strokes ahead of runner-up Roberto Diaz from USC Aiken. The runner-up in last season’s PBC Tournament, Wilcox is the first Clayton State golfer to win an individual Peach Belt Conference championship.

He capped off his dominating performance with a second straight bogey-free round. Wilcox did not record a bogey over his final 43 holes dating back to the par four 11th hole in the first round. He polished off the championship with two birdies in the final round, and was the only player to finish under-par for the tournament.

“I didn’t make many bad mistakes throughout the tournament, and to have only one bogey over three rounds is amazing,” says Wilcox, who transferred to Clayton State last season from Division I Alabama-Birmingham.

“I’ve had a big opportunity here at Clayton State, so I value it tremendously. The fact that we have turned things around so quickly as a team means a lot to us, especially to coach.”

Sports, cont’d., p. 19