

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Morrow, Georgia



CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY



SPRING 2024 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024	3:00 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024	9:00 AM
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024	12:00 PM

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY
ATHLETICS CENTER
MORROW, GEORGIA 30260

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2024 COMMENCEMENT

Dr. Corrie Fountain
Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
PRESIDING

PROCESSIONAL†	“Pomp & Circumstance–March No. 1” - Edward Elgar
NATIONAL ANTHEM†	“The Star-Spangled Banner” - Francis Scott Key, poem John Stafford Smith, music
WELCOME	Dr. Corrie Fountain
SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	Dr. Georj Lewis, <i>President</i>
INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS	Dr. Corrie Fountain
STUDENT ADDRESS	FRIDAY 3 P.M.: Zhareia Smith, <i>Masters in Strategic Leadership and Development</i> SATURDAY 9 A.M.: Marchelle Fletcher, <i>Bachelor of Science</i> SATURDAY 12 PM: Claribel Ross, <i>Bachelor of Business Administration</i>
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	FRIDAY 3 P.M.: Douglas Aldridge <i>Regent, University System of Georgia</i> SATURDAY 9 A.M.: Terreta Rodgers <i>Head of Community Affairs, Atlanta Region, Amazon</i> SATURDAY 12 PM: Jon Ossoff <i>Senior U.S. Senator, State of Georgia</i>
PRESENTATION OF GRADUATE HOODS	Dr. J. Celeste Walley-Jean, <i>Assistant Provost & Dean, School of Graduate Studies</i>
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES	Dr. Dwayne Hooks, <i>Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences and Dean, College of Health</i> Dr. Jacob Chacko, <i>Dean, College of Business</i> Dr. Ebrahim Khosravi, <i>Dean, College of Information and Mathematical Sciences</i>
CONFERRING & PRESENTATION OF DEGREES	Dr. Georj Lewis
INDUCTION OF GRADUATES INTO THE NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION	Joseph Echols '06 '11, <i>Alumni Association President</i>
PRESIDENT’S REMARKS	Dr. Georj Lewis
ALMA MATER	“Walking in Love and Strength” - Dr. Brigitte Byrd, poem Dr. Richard Bell, music
RECESSIONAL†	“Grand March From Aida” - Giuseppe Verdi

†All those who are able, please stand. Please remain standing until the procession has withdrawn.
Please set all mobile devices to silent mode.

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATE DEGREES

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

MASTER OF ARTS

LIBERAL STUDIES

Vladimir Benoit
Sierra Blake
Katherine Elizabeth Johnson
Julianne Mashburn Reynolds
Connie B. Sinclair

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Zandra Carter
Destinee Clark
Hannah R. Rigdon
Tori G. Shook
Tiana Elaine Worrell

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Nicole Marie Cabassa
Mikayla Tianne Fernandez
Dawn I. Krieger
Iesha Pettis
Elizabeth Teasley
Mary Shanetra Williams

MASTER OF SCIENCE

CLINICAL/COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

Hannah R. Mitchell

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Gilbert Cudjoe Akpagana
Angel Armour
Vladimir Bellanton
Nisha Renee Benton
Shondra Carter
Robbie James Christie
Dareon Edward Collier
Donta Comer
Dayaneika Covington
Jozetta Noel Dejean
Melinda Dixon
Markeshia Princess Dumas
Kayla Danielle Frazier
Hector Noel Fuentes
Kendall Isaiah Gantt
Nichole N. Jarrell
Jarred Jones
Lashaunda Diane King

Bridget Jordan Lowe
Maia Kierra Martin
Barry L. Mayers
Anthony Peter McLetchie
Audrey D. Miller
Bethany Morgan Miller
Jack Mullinax
Ruth Wanjiru Ndungu
Auryanna Olufemi Michelle Powell
Simone Ragbeer
Akashia Michal Reed
Paulette Staley Reynolds
Tiffany Nashae Richardson
Vanessa Sanchez
Emely Santos
Ashley N. Simmons
Shalunda Nicole Smiley
Akintunde Gerald Solar
Makeda Fulani Terrell
Ariana M. Thompson
Christopher Vickers
Cahlia Chanel Yasmine White
Brittany Sekai Williams
Harven Wilson III

MASTER OF SCIENCE

SUPPLY CHAIN ANALYTICS

Jalen Bradley
Cordarreo D. Durden
Jaminie Lashea Fernandez
Dennis Masi
Miesha' Lekeita Swain

MASTER OF STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Imani Crystal Bennett-Zackery
Jordan Lunsford Bentley
Juanita Blocker
Jessica Marie Bonds
Elizabeth Dale Greene Crain
Brian C. Dickey
Askari Douglas Lyons
Giena Gilchrist
Jannise Malissa Gray
Timothy Arnold Holly
Tw Tyler T. Johnson
Lasonya S. Keith
Alicia Lipsey Newton
Rushell Lavette Parker
Zhareia Smith
Evan Wayne Snelling
Tyrone Stevens
Nikichelle Tanks
Brilliant D. Williams
Malia Christina Williams
Johnetta A. Young

COLLEGE OF HEALTH

MASTER OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Titus R. Barber
Ifeyinwa Chika Chigbo
Jacqueline Lee Fuller
Earlaysha J. Hamilton
La Verne Alicia Hamilton
Dominique Ronae Hood
Tashima Peek
Sheremee T. Rogers
Adrianna M. Troutman

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Adefunke Abatan
Chena Yvonne Allen
Halima Ali Bashir
Anisha Bridges
Lashaunda D. Clerizier
Duyen Huynh
Lyndon Joel Jones
Adetola Jumole Makanjuola
Ellen Medved
Candice Owens
Nahideh Pazhouhesh
Lydia Peay
Melissa Presswood
Mamadou Sanon
Mahlet Tefera Shawel
Tricia Nicole Singh
Elom Teklu
Sovichearath Vann

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION & MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

MASTER OF ARCHIVAL STUDIES

Debra Holmes
Kristoffer Johnson
Jessie Lynn Merrell
Nathaniel Reid Ricks
Melanie Vincent

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CYBER TECHNOLOGY

William Carroll
Enero Jeffrey Cooper

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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Bacchus Demetrius Jackson, Sr.
Vicki Lachel Johnson
Carla Jones
Jakia R. Jones
Judlyne Kwiatek
Ashanti M. McCants
David Jeremy Montaque
Antoinette Sade Woods

TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

Livy Cooke Daniel

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Carrie Dreibelbis Lunt
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Islah Tahanee Rahmaan
Marilyn Alston Venvenutti
Dena Lynn Yaeger

ENGLISH WITH TEACHER CERTIFICATION

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Alea Ann Nash
Arieana Yvette Robinson

FILM PRODUCTION

Mariah A-E Bethea
Christian Kobina Crentsil
Christopher Leonard Darna
Ferna Davis
Ariana Taylor Jones
Maxwell Paul Mihalís
Madelena Phan
David Edward Ross
Jeremy L. Terrell
Prince Tyrique Thomas
Lester Edward Treadway

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Kirk I. Kelemen

HISTORY WITH TEACHER CERTIFICATION

Bre'asia Tyresha Bussey
Caleb Andrew Lewis
Litzí Guadalupe Sanchez

LIBERAL STUDIES

Michael Kevin Smith
Kennedy Nicole Sullivan
Shuntavious White

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MUSIC

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James Elijah Reeves

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

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Temisan Victoria, Selma Nicholl

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Alia Canisia Eulalie Edward
Claudia Guerrero
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Kionna A. Jones
Elsy M. Lopez
Josette' Michelle Philossaint
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Rasheedat Ashabi Jagun

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Temica Cunningham
Sakhi Thomas Dingle
Oluwakorede Elizabeth Igbosanya
Nora Lee Miller
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Shalettica Denise Walker

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Nicole Marie Fogarty Campbell
Ashlyn Mincey Court
Kimberly Diaz Martinez
Latoria Dixon
Thi Duong
Madeley Estala
Evelin Dayana Garcia
Precious Charnee' Graves
China Zene Griffin
Amaya Tennille Guyton
Lyndetta Clarisa Heard
Kayla T. Le
Katrina Ellen Mitchell
Marie Mower
Antoinette G. Neil
Amira Smith
Sherice Aleah Sutton
Brittina Un
Khajija Michelle Wise

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

Tanisha Ayana Benjamin
Jahlían Borden
Brandy Nicole Bradley
Gloria Ama Dwumfuor
Lakeitha Gillis
Elizabeth Lewis
Geraldine Lewis
Brenda Louise Mack
Jessieka L. Reaves
Muhammad Humza Shahzad
Maliyah T. Tindall
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Demetria Lofton
Penny Qian Powell
Sabrina Fay Salters
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Erica Michelle Garmon
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Nicholas Daniel Hoffman
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Genesis Jewel Keenan
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Erica Perry
Bosco Huynh Pham
Saturne Plaisir
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Mikaila Nicole Wilson

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Makenzie Ashawna Watson

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Jessica Thanh Nguyen
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Kunraya Joy Xayaphet

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Ashley Dieujuste
Quyên Kim Duong
Kayla Edwards
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Sierra Shameka Hardaway
Esther Starr Hoe
Ambriel Hynes
Raven Emani McGhee
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Teresa L. Rhodes
India R. Simmons
Calvin Johnathan Smith
Kaniya M. Thomas
Erika Kantrell Tigner
Lendarius Malcolm Jamaal Williams

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Ny'asia Daniel
Frances Adabelle Harley
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Shakira Patterson
Robert William Slingsby

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Jamal Rasheed Polite
Kyori Ashantee Williams

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Zion Kennede Glover
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Khalilah Murphy
Evelin Ramos-Negrete
Dayna Vernon

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Jaylen Emmanuel Bryant
Ja'lynn Jaria Nicole Campbell
Jayla Campbell
Ruby America Cervantes
Shadey Citlalic Chavez
Latayria J. Chevis
Kayla Davis
Tiyanna Mone't DeBrew
Chelsea Nichole Fairley
Erick Ferreira Rodriguez
Kamree Monay Flewellen
Laquandra S. Floyd
Corina Fowler
Tiana Chantel Fuller

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Tran N. Ngo
Eunice Obenewaa
Monesha Pack
Kesha Paul
Anyah B. Respress
Crystal Rachel San Mateo
Mecca M. Swinton
Vanetta X. Walker
Kennedie Ayanna Watson
Amber Denise Williams
Nailah Lateefah Worthams

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Kayla Gail Barronton
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Ziya D. Coleman
Lavereeya Malayjia Cooper*
Jala Kiane Doles
Nila Fawlkes
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Moriah Dawn Fulmer
Jasmine Shontrese Gasper
Mathilda L. Hoang
Brea Marie Humphrey
Rebeca Jaimes
Diamond Lavel Jones
Marili Juarez Moyao
Lakendria J. Lawhorn
Ngoc Nhu Luong
Gisellia Mouele Makita*
Genesis Ruiz
De-Jhi L. Sims
Ke'andra Nichelle Snead
A'maria M. Thomas
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Tommy Thao Boyles
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Tyra Katrece Thompson
Andrea Weidekamp
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Nailah M. Carr
Joshua David Castellanos
Hannah Kathrine Crittendon
Luckson Richard Dor
Jaymar E. Jaramillo
Azariah Mahal Panlilio

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

COMPUTER SCIENCE

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Justin Lavell Corbett
Darryl Joshua Dalton
Cameron Khayla Davis
Isaiah Griffiths
Christopher Jaleel Kirkland
Kathy Nguyen Kirkland
Eugenia N. Korankye
Victoria Ramirez-Garcia
Joshua David Roca
Anna Marie Hope Tinsley
Yonatan Ibrahim Yesuf

MATHEMATICS

Alia D. Davis

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

Deborah Gadri
Anyah Deon-Louise Thompson
Stephanie Spear Tigner

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Jahlian Borden
Willdaya Jeanae Jones

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN FILM PRODUCTION

Rhonda Gayle Wilson-Hopkins

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

Jewel Etuaje Akhabue
Shriya Chakraborti
Linh Nguyen
Noah Roy Priester
Lona Rashay Thomas
Mya Arianna Watson

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Haja Asmau Bah
Shawana Nicole
Delaney Myrienne Reese

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN PARALEGAL STUDIES

Brandy Nicole Bradley

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION & MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Kelvin Brantley
Lucas Cao
Hannah Kathrine Crittendon
Amber Atrean Harris
Abdul Kamara
Kalp R. Patel
Saad Saleemi
Catherine F. Torres

*DENOTES MEMBERS OF THE CLAYTON STATE HONORS PROGRAM

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC DISTINCTION

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

RECOGNITION IS GRANTED TO BACHELOR'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS WHO
ACHIEVE A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 3.90 - 4.0

Angela Akintokun
Lois Elyse Beer
Lewis Green
Nicholas Daniel Hoffman

Kayla T. Le
Alea Ann Nash
Antoinette G. Neil
Tiffany Thi Nguyen

Jocelyn Caroline Soto
Anna Marie Hope Tinsley

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

RECOGNITION IS GRANTED TO BACHELOR'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS WHO
ACHIEVE A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 3.70 - 3.89

Brianna J. Battle
Angelina R. Boden
Erin Nicole Bryant
Dasia Kierra Burgess
Nguyen Huong Dinh
Steven T. Dong
Gloria Ama Dwumfuor
Evelin Dayana Garcia
Rasheedat Ashabi Jagun

Jaymar E. Jaramillo
Lakendria J. Lawhorn
Martina Michel
Tran N. Ngo
Jessica Thanh Nguyen
Lieu Thi Thuy Nguyen
Minh Hieu Nguyen
Shakira Patterson
Wendy Stephanie Perez-Rodrigues

Penny Qian Powell
Joshua David Roca
Erick Ferreira Rodriguez
Litzi Guadalupe Sanchez
Tyra Katrece Thompson
Brittina Un
Tiffany Zimmerman

CUM LAUDE

RECOGNITION IS GRANTED TO BACHELOR'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS WHO
ACHIEVE A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 3.50 - 3.69

Bernadette Janae Abrams
Morris Bailey
Asmir T. Barnes
Kayla Gail Barronton
Mariah A-E Bethea
Tommy Thao Boyles
Nicole Marie Fogarty Campbell
Lavereeya Malayjia Cooper
Christopher Leonard Darna
Ferna Davis
Kylee Nicolle Dobbs

Emily Samantha Dobles
Kimberly Renee Fernandez
Matthew James Forsyth
China Zene Griffin
Esther Starr Hoe
Yuchen Huang
Keressa S. Huger
Byron Joseph Hurst
Brillith Hernandez Izaguirre
Jada Johnson
Caleb Andrew Lewis

Amber Ciara Meyers
Julie Anne Mitchell
Katrina Ellen Mitchell
Marie Mower
Saturne Plaisir
James Elijah Reeves
Rayne Rigsby
Genesis Ruiz
Amira Smith
Delia B. Stuart
A'maria M. Thomas

HIGH HONORS

RECOGNITION IS GRANTED TO ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS WHO
ACHIEVE A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 3.75 - 4.0

Haja Asmau Bah
Lucas Cao
Shriya Chakraborti

Willdaya Jeanae Jones
Delaney Myrienne Reese
Saad Saleemi

Anya Deon-Louise Thompson

HONORS

RECOGNITION IS GRANTED TO ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS WHO
ACHIEVE A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 3.50 - 3.74.

Jewel Etuaje Akhabue
Deborah Gadri
Noah Roy Priester

ACADEMIC HONORS NOTED IN THIS PROGRAM ARE BASED ON GRADE POINT AVERAGES CALCULATED THE SEMESTER PRIOR TO THE TERM OF GRADUATION. HONORS STATUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON THE CALCULATION OF THE FINAL GRADE POINT AVERAGE AT THE TIME OF DEGREE CONFERRAL.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FACULTY MARSHALS, READER & SPEAKER

**FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024
3:00 PM CEREMONY**

MARSHALS

Faculty Marshal

Dr. Eric Bridges

Deputy Faculty Marshal

Dr. George Nakos

Student Marshal

Dr. Maya Richardson-Echols

ANNOUNCER

Dr. Royal Baxter

MUSICIANS

Dr. Michiko Otaki, DMA, keyboard

Kayla Hart, vocalist

READER

Dr. Larry Menter

USHERS

Clayton State University
Department of Campus Life
provided volunteers.

DOUGLAS ALDRIDGE

REGENT, UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA



Douglas R. Aldridge Jr., CFP®, is a private wealth financial advisor and president of the Aldridge Private Wealth Management Group in the Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network. As president and lead partner of the practice, Doug is responsible for key client relationships, focusing on affluent families, foundations and institutions. He provides a broad array of wealth management and financial strategies as a certified PIM Portfolio Manager, and earned his CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification in 2007.

Prior to starting his own firm in 2022, Doug was Managing Director – Investments at Wells Fargo Advisors from 2009-2022. He held a similar role at Morgan Stanley as a part of their investment bank's Private Wealth Management division from 2003-2009. Prior to Morgan Stanley, Doug spent time on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange working for the specialist firm Wagner Stott Bear. He also spent a year overseas working with a boutique estate planning firm, J. Sanz y Asociados.

Doug earned a B.A. in Spanish and Economics at Washington & Lee University, graduating with Honors. He also holds a MBA from Emory University's Goizueta Business School, where he earned the distinction of Beta Gamma Sigma.

Doug and his wife Grace are both Atlanta natives. They have six amazing children and live on a farm in Chattahoochee Hills, Ga.

MARCHELLE FLETCHER

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE



Marchelle Fletcher is graduating from Clayton State University with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Human Services. She is a military dependent, of Jamaican descent, and the first graduate of all the grandchildren in her bloodline. Despite being an online transfer student, Fletcher made the best of her time at Clayton State having made connections in National Council of Negro Women, Clayton State Internet Radio, and the Psychology Club. Post graduation, Fletcher will be cultivating a career teaching 2nd grade for Clayton County Public Schools, and has been accepted into Georgia Southern's Masters of the Arts in Teaching program in Elementary Education.

FACULTY MARSHALS, READER & SPEAKER

**SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024
9:00 AM CEREMONY**

MARSHALS

Faculty Marshal

Dr. Eric Bridges

Deputy Faculty Marshal

Dr. George Nakos

Student Marshal

Dr. Maya Richardson-Echols

ANNOUNCER

Dr. Royal Baxter

MUSICIANS

Dr. Richard Bell, conductor
Clayton State University Orchestra
Keenan Kade, vocalist

READER

Ms. Penelope Cliff

USHERS

Clayton State University
Department of Campus Life
provided volunteers.

TERRETA RODGERS

HEAD OF COMMITTY AFFAIRS, ATLANTA REGION, AMAZON



Terreta Rodgers is the head of Community Affairs for Amazon's Atlanta region and a member of the corporation's Public Policy Team. She oversees hyperlocal external affairs strategies in support of Amazon's efforts to be the world's most trusted business and community partner.

With more than 20 years of experience in corporate relations, brand and cause marketing, community engagement, and government affairs, Terreta has spent her career leveraging relationships with opinion leaders, elected officials, and stakeholders to support economic growth in Georgia. Terreta started her career in politics, working in the Office of the Mayor of the City of Atlanta and later serving as a press secretary for Vice President Al Gore.

Terreta is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and is chartering president of the Northwest Georgia Section of the National Council of Negro Women. She serves on the board of directors for the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the ATL Airport Chamber.

Terreta is an alumna of Georgia State and Clark Atlanta Universities, having earned a Master of Public Administration degree and a B.A. degree in mass media arts. She has received numerous awards and recognitions, including Women Looking Ahead Magazine's Most Powerful and Influential Woman Award, Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, and the Atlanta City Council Commendation for Community Service. She also was named one of Atlanta's Top 25 Women of Achievement and an Atlanta Business League Woman of Influence.

Terreta resides in Georgia with her husband.

ZHAREIA SMITH

MASTER'S IN STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT



Zhareia Smith is a first-generation graduate student, receiving her second degree from Clayton State University, a Master's in Strategic Leadership and Development. Her journey at Clayton State has been marked by unwavering dedication and a profound passion for serving her community. Throughout her time at Clayton State, Zhareia has exemplified the true spirit of leadership and service. She has been actively involved in various organizations on campus, including University Housing and Residence Life, Student Government Association, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.. In addition to her on campus involvement, Zhareia has also served in the Army Reserves for the past 8 years, assisting her company and fellow battles as a Human Resource Specialist. Each of these organizations have played an integral role in Zhareia's life, helping to build her sense of community, selfless service, and scholarship. Her path forward includes making positive impacts by promoting professional development and economic empowerment in her community.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ...CONTINUED
FACULTY MARSHALS, READER & SPEAKER

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024
12:00 PM CEREMONY

MARSHALS

Faculty Marshal
Dr. Eric Bridges

Deputy Faculty Marshal
Dr. George Nakos

Student Marshal
Dr. Maya Richardson-Echols

ANNOUNCER

Dr. Royal Baxter

MUSICIANS

Dr. Annalisa Chang, conductor
Clayton State University Orchestra
Keenan Kade, vocalist

READER

Dr. Kurt-Alexander Zeller

USHERS

Clayton State University
Department of Campus Life
provided volunteers.



JON OSSOFF

SENIOR U.S. SENATOR, STATE OF GEORGIA

Born and raised in Georgia, Senator Jon Ossoff serves as our Senior United States Senator.

Since his election, Sen. Ossoff has brought together Republicans and Democrats in the Senate to achieve meaningful legislative results for Georgia — even in a divided Congress. In his first two years in office, Sen. Ossoff passed into law more standalone bills than any other freshman Senator.

Sen. Ossoff’s legislative achievements include laws to strengthen mental health services for Georgians and public safety; tackle the opioid epidemic; investigate unsolved lynchings and Civil Rights murders; strengthen mental health care services for veterans; and fight corruption and improve security in U.S. prisons.

Sen. Ossoff has a strong record of delivering resources to expand access to education in Georgia, delivering record Federal funding to Georgia’s institutions of higher education, including historic resources to Georgia’s HBCUs. Sen. Ossoff has also championed efforts to strengthen workforce development opportunities, helping students and families earn the qualifications and certifications needed to gain greater economic opportunity.

Focused on improving the lives of Georgia’s veterans, servicemembers, and military families, Sen. Ossoff has passed into law bipartisan legislation to expand veterans’ access to mental health care and to upgrade child development centers for military families and barracks for enlisted personnel. He also championed passage of historic legislation to strengthen VA health care for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Mentored by civil rights legend Congressman John Lewis, Sen. Ossoff previously led a small business that produced investigative journalism exposing war crimes, public corruption, human trafficking, and organized crime.

Sen. Ossoff lives with his wife, Dr. Alisha Kramer, and daughter, Eva Beth, in Atlanta.



CLARIBEL ROSS

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Claribel Ross is a non-traditional, first-generation student graduating from Clayton State University with a bachelor’s degree in accounting. Throughout her time at CSU, Claribel has been actively engaged in the Society of Human Resource Management organization as the President of the Organization and in the Rho Lambda chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. She became a Campus Ambassador for the National Marrow Donor Program, played an integral part in raising over \$10,000 for a Title IX school, and volunteered for the Greater Way Atlanta and in local animal shelters. She has gladly accumulated over 1000 service hours throughout her four years at CSU and will continue serving the community. Claribel Ross will embark on her professional journey in Colorado this August as an Auditor for the Defense Contract Audit Agency under the DOD. Although her time in Georgia is coming to an end, she will continue to stay engaged and be of service to Clayton State University.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The custom of wearing a distinctive dress for academic ceremonies dates to the Middle Ages when people dressed in keeping with their class. The literate class, the clergy, wore the early academic costume; a heavy, dark gown seems to have been worn at all times. Hoods and caps were necessary during European winters because buildings where scholars lived, studied, and taught, were cold. The faculties of American universities wear distinguishing costumes, a tradition which began with Harvard in 1636. Typically, associate degree candidates wear gray gowns nearly to the knee; and baccalaureate degree candidates wear black gowns. The master's gown has long closed sleeves with a slit for the arm. The doctor's gown is faced with a broad strip of velvet and has three horizontal velvet bars on each sleeve.

The hood shows the greatest degree of symbolism. The master's hood is three and one-half feet long and faced with a three-inch strip of velvet; the doctor's hood is four feet long and faced with a five-inch strip of velvet. The color of the velvet strip on the hood indicates the field of study in which the degree was earned or granted: Science, Yellow; Arts, White; Music, Pink; Business, Drab; Nursing, Apricot; and Philosophy, Blue. Each hood is lined in silk with the colors of the institution that granted the degree.

The appropriate cap for all degrees is the familiar "mortarboard." A black tassel, or one of the colors signifying the field or specialization, hanging to the left of the face is appropriate for all degrees. Those holding a doctorate degree may wear a soft velvet cap or the mortarboard with a gold thread tassel.

Honors—the gold honor cord identifies graduates who have completed their degree requirements with a grade point average of at least a 3.5. Actual honor status is noted on the diploma and on the official permanent record. The Clayton State Office of the Registrar maintains the official list. Honor designations are contingent upon final grades.

Candidates for graduation will be awarded degrees subject to satisfactory completion of all academic requirements. Because the names must be provided to the printer several days prior to commencement, the status of some candidates listed may have changed since that time. Some candidates may not have completed all degree requirements. The listing of a name in this program does not commit Clayton State University to award a degree. An asterisk (*) denotes members of the Clayton State Honors Program.

PRESIDENTS

Dr. Georj Lewis 2023

Kerry L. Heyward, Interim President 2022 – 2023

Dr. T. Ramon Stuart 2021 – 2022

Dr. Thomas J. Hynes, Jr. 2009 – 2021

Dr. Thomas K. Harden 2000 – 2009

Michael F. Vollmer, Interim President 1999 – 2000

Dr. Richard A. Skinner 1994 – 1999

Dr. Harry S. Downs, Founding President 1969 – 1994

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY ALMA MATER

Walking through your majestic pines,
We embrace your simple splendor,
Our hearts and spirits full of hope,
Our minds wide open and ready.
O our dear alma mater,
You give us love and strength.

Walking by your beautiful lake,
We find a new community
Of people from all nations
All joined as one in learning.
O our dear alma mater,
You give us love and strength.

Walking proudly among our peers,
We wear your colors true.
Now shaped and prepared by Clayton State,
We are ready for our future.
O our dear alma mater,
You give us love and strength.

Walking through our unfolding lives,
We take you on the path,
Knowing that the years will change us,
And your standard will remain.
O our dear alma mater,
You give us love and strength.

Poem: Dr. Brigitte Byrd
Music: Dr. Richard Bell

ABOUT CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

- In 1965, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia agreed to create three new junior colleges including one to serve south metropolitan Atlanta. The local community raised \$4.9 million to go along with \$3.3 million from the University System of Georgia and began construction of a campus on a farm with a few lakes and a healthy stand of trees.
- The university has changed substantially since 1969. The pace of change in the economy requires the university to continue to grow and adapt as it empowers students to seek success. Through outstanding programs, dynamic experiences, appropriate support, and an environment that reflects 21st century business and industry, Clayton State University provides students the opportunity and our region the workforce needed to complete and succeed globally. For example, in 2019, the School of Education was formed to meet the growing need for teachers in our public schools. In spring 2020, the College of Business launched a Master of Science in Supply Chain Analytics and a Master of Strategic Leadership Development program. In fall 2022, the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences launched a Master of Science in Cyber Technology addressing the need for cyber security skills and talent development in the south metro Atlanta region.

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Georj Lewis
President

Corlis Cummings
General Counsel

Corrie Fountain
Interim Provost and
Vice President of Academic Affairs

Montrese Adger Fuller
Vice President for University Advancement
and External Affairs

Nick Henry
Vice President for Business and Operations

Jim Pete
Vice President for Information Technology
and Services

Jermaine Rolle
Director of Athletics

Ashlee Spearman
Vice President for Enrollment,
Engagement and Student Success

Don Stansberry
Vice President for Student Affairs

Ceimone Strickland
Special Assistant of Institutional Affairs
and Compliance