



# INTO THE WILD: A FORENSIC FÊTE



*Hosted by the Laker Wildlife Initiative  
Featuring the Wildlife Forensic Academy*

**19th September, 2025 | 7PM**

**Harry S. Downs Atrium  
Clayton State University**



**CLAYTON STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

*Laker Wildlife Initiative*



# About

## **Laker Wildlife Initiative**

The Laker Wildlife Initiative, a division within the College of Arts & Sciences at Clayton State University, is dedicated to advancing interdisciplinary education, research, and action to address wildlife crime and promote the protection of both plant and animal life. Co-led by Dr. Joshua Meddaugh and Dr. Andrea Allen, the Initiative brings together faculty, students, and global community partners to explore the intersection of science, law, and conservation. Whether you are interested in innovative research, hands-on learning, or collaborative service projects, we invite you to join us in making a meaningful impact on wildlife and environmental stewardship.

## **Wildlife Forensic Academy**

The WFA is a global organization dedicated to combating wildlife crime through specialized training, cutting-edge research, and awareness initiatives. The Academy operates across several international branches, each contributing uniquely to its mission: to protect and preserve the African ecosystem through education, innovation and state-of-the-art technology. We aim to raise awareness and mobilise enthusiasm for a global call-to-action. We stand for 'Ubuntu', a South African philosophy that speaks to the universal bond that connects all humanity and beyond. We seek to connect people, the planet, wildlife, business, research, education and corporate social responsibility.

# Program

- **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

*Dr. Andrea Allen, Co-Lead of the Laker Wildlife Initiative,  
Clayton State University*

- **Remarks from University President**

*Dr. Georj Lewis, President, Clayton State University*

- **Remarks from College Dean**

*Dr. J. Dwayne Hooks, Dean, Clayton State University*

- **Special Remarks: Wildlife Forensic Academy**

*Mr. Andro Vos, CEO & Founder, and Dr. Greg Simpson, Co-Founder & Director*

- **Wildlife Protector of the Year Award Presentation**

*Honoree: Zoo Atlanta*

- **Closing Acknowledgements**

*Dr. Joshua Meddaugh , Co-Leads of the Laker Wildlife Initiative,  
Clayton State University*

- **Champagne Toast**



# Wildlife Protector of the Year Award, 2025

## **Zoo Atlanta**

The Laker Wildlife Initiative is proud to present the inaugural Wildlife Protector of the Year Award to Zoo Atlanta in recognition of their outstanding commitment to education, research, and wildlife conservation. Zoo Atlanta's extensive university partnerships and innovative research programs provide deep insights into conservation biology and animal health, fueling both local and global efforts to protect wildlife. Recently accepted into the Wildlife Confiscations Network, Zoo Atlanta plays a crucial role in receiving and providing care for trafficked wildlife, strengthening the frontline response against illegal wildlife trade. Their dedication to advancing knowledge, educating diverse audiences, and rehabilitating endangered species aligns perfectly with the mission of the Laker Wildlife Initiative, making them the deserving inaugural recipient of this honor.



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# Bios

## **Mr. Kevin Payne - Master of Ceremonies**

Mr. Kevin Payne is a veteran sports announcer with more than 30 years of experience behind the microphone. He will enter his 16<sup>th</sup> season as the Public Address announcer for Georgia Tech Men's and Women's Basketball, having previously spent a decade as the voice of Yellow Jacket Football. His career highlights include serving as the PA announcer for the Atlanta Hawks during the 1994-95 NBA season, working two NCAA Men's Basketball regional tournaments, and announcing indoor volleyball at the 1996 Summer Olympic Games.

This year, Mr. Payne also lends his voice to the St. Pius X Golden Lions Football program. Outside of sports, he is Vice President of Business Development at Office Interiors/Facilitec, helping organizations create innovative and effective workplace environments.

## **Dr. Andrea Allen**

Dr. Andrea Allen is a professor of criminal justice at Clayton State University, where she combines expertise in policing research and forensic science. With a PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of South Carolina, her early scholarship focused on policing. This work appeared in leading journals and continues to inform policy and practice in law enforcement.

Building on this foundation, Dr. Allen turned her attention to forensic science as a researcher and educator. Her recent publications are *Forensic Science Anthology* and *How to Investigate a Crime Scene*, reflecting a commitment to advancing evidence-based approaches in the field.

Dr. Allen teaches a wide range of forensic courses, such as Crime Scene Investigation, Death Investigation, Criminal Investigation, Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, Cold Cases, and Gravesite Forensics.



# Bios

Dr. Allen holds professional certifications in Crime Scene Investigation, Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, Bone and Trauma Identification, Tire Impression and Comparison, Alternative Light Source, and Wildlife CSI. These credentials inform her hands-on teaching style and efforts to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

She is also dedicated to providing no-cost, high-impact educational resources and curricular innovation. She continues to mentor the next generation of criminal justice professionals, equipping students with the analytical and technical skills needed for both policing and forensic science careers.

## **Dr. Joshua Meddaugh**

Dr. Joshua Meddaugh is a distinguished professor and chair of Political Science at Clayton State University, recognized for innovative teaching and leadership in interdisciplinary program development. He earned his Ph.D. in Public Law and American Politics from the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, where his expertise in American politics, constitutional law, and civic engagement shaped how students understand democracy and public policy. His work bridges classroom learning with real-world impact, earning awards for instruction and faculty service while mentoring the next generation of civic leaders.

A lifelong commitment to justice, environmental stewardship, and public service drives his passion for animal conservation. He co-founded the Laker Wildlife Initiative, uniting faculty, students, and community partners to combat wildlife crime and promote biodiversity through forensic science and policy advocacy. Dr. Meddaugh's visionary spirit and ethical leadership inspire colleagues and students alike, combining political science expertise with compassion to advance conservation, education, and positive social change.

# Bios

## **President Georj Lewis**

Dr. Georj L. Lewis joined Clayton State University as its sixth president on February 1, 2023.

In his 28<sup>th</sup> year in the higher education sector, Dr. Lewis started his post-secondary education career in admissions and enrollment, coordinating minority recruitment efforts. After five years, he moved into mid-level management positions in the functional area of multicultural affairs and led the student diversity efforts at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and then transitioned to leading the same efforts at Georgia Southern University.

After serving as a diversity professional for approximately three years, Dr. Lewis went on to serve in senior-level administrative positions for the next sixteen years as the dean of students at Georgia Southern University, the vice chancellor for Student Affairs at Indiana University Northwest, the vice president for Student Affairs at Armstrong State University and as the vice president for Student Affairs at Georgia Southern University.

In May 2019, Dr. Lewis was tapped to serve as interim president of Atlanta Metropolitan State College, before officially being named the college's fourth president in November of that year.



# Bios

Dr. Lewis's passion for professional development is evidenced by his participation in the Millennium Leadership Initiative (MLI) through the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), the Executive Leadership Institute and the Advanced Leadership Academy through the University System of Georgia. Additionally, he has contributed to the professional development of others by serving as a faculty member for the American Academic Leadership Institute (AALI) and AASCU's Becoming a Provost Academy (BAPA), and creating the Student Affairs LEAP initiative at Armstrong State University as well as serving as a faculty member and director of the Region III SACSA/NASPA Mid-Managers Institute.

Dr. Lewis has received several awards, most recently recognized as a 2021 Pillar of the Profession by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). He is also a recipient of the Paragon Award for New Presidents by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. He has also taught graduate courses on student services in higher education and undergraduate first-year experience courses, has recently collaborated on a book chapter in the *Handbook of Research on Black Males*, and regularly serves on dissertation committees.

President Lewis is active in the metro Atlanta community. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the ATL Airport Chamber, a member of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Regional Educational Service Agency (Metro RESA), a sub-committee member of the Aerotropolis Atlanta Alliance, Inc., and a Metro Atlanta Industry Partnerships (MAIP) partner.

# Bios

Additional points of pride for Dr. Lewis include but are not limited to: the Georgia Southern University Essence Awards Staff Member of the Year; induction into the Edinboro University Hall of Fame as a football player; Honorary Membership in the Delta Epsilon Iota and Golden Key Honor Societies; Deen Day Smith Service to Mankind Award; and a scholarship named in his honor, the Georj Lewis Leadership Scholarship, at Georgia Southern University. Dr. Lewis is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, and is active in the Eta Lambda Chapter in Atlanta, Georgia, the 100 Black Men of Atlanta, and is also a member of Impact Church in East Point, Georgia.

A native of southwestern Pennsylvania, Dr. Georj L. Lewis earned a Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting, a Master of Arts in Counseling/Student Personnel, both from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Georgia Southern University.

President Lewis's life has been inspired by his grandparents, James and Evelyn Lowe (*both deceased*); Ms. Emma Brown, his 101-year-old grandmother; his first-generation college graduate parents Robert and Faye Lewis (*both deceased*); and a host of family members, coaches, friends and colleagues.

Dr. Lewis is blessed to be the husband of Mrs. Anchelle Lewis and proud to be the father of Miles, Georj II, and Jazmyn and the grandfather of Taylor, Taliya, Miles Jr., and Tres.



# Bios

## **Dr. J. Dwayne Hooks**

Dr. J. Dwayne Hooks serves as the Dean for the College of Health and the Interim Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences at Clayton State University. He is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Executive. He has over thirty years of registered nurse experience in many clinical care areas and over eighteen years of experience as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

Dr. Hooks completed his BSN and MN degrees at Augusta University College of Nursing in 1989 and 2002, respectively; he completed his Ph.D. in Nursing at the University of Kansas in 2015. He is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and has served in the Chief Nurse Executive role for large multi-hospital systems in Georgia and North Carolina.

Dr. Hooks, also a Fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, is dedicated to providing high-quality, patient-centered primary care. Currently, he has clinical responsibility for the Center for Strategic Initiatives in the College of Nursing and has had clinical practice in primary care, infectious disease, and pulmonology. Dr. Hooks presents locally, nationally, and internationally on a variety of clinical, academic, and executive nursing leadership topics.

Dr. Hooks's work focuses on creating innovative patient care models that utilize registered nurses and advanced practice nurses to their highest levels of education, experience, and licensure. He is active nationally in the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), serving as Co-Chair of the Finance, Capital Development, and Marketing Committee. His vision is to create a caring space where patients and their support systems can find comfort in knowing that they have a healthcare home.

# Bios

## **Mr. Andro Vos**

With over 35 years in the Criminal Justice Chain, Mr. Andro Vos's decision to build the Wildlife Forensic Academy came after his visit to the Southern African Wildlife College. After hearing about the extent of wildlife crime, Mr. Vos visited a horrific crime scene. Since there were no witnesses, the poachers were going to get away with it. He then noticed there were forensic traces all over the scene, similar to those found at human crime scenes. No one else seemed aware of this fact. It was then that he decided to build the Wildlife Forensic Academy as a way to educate people about how to solve and prevent wildlife crime.

## **Dr. Greg Simpson**

Dr. Greg Simpson qualified as a veterinarian in South Africa, working in the United Kingdom, Central Asia, and Africa. After receiving a Master of Public Health in Developing Countries, as well as a Master of Wildlife Management, he began developing a unique training clinic for veterinary students in a resource-limited community outside the Kruger National Park in South Africa.

The clinic treated all wildlife in neighbouring reserves and not only made a difference to the local community through clinical service provision, but also school learners' education and research. This service and research led to a Ph.D. on brucellosis in domestic animals, wildlife, and humans.



# Donate

## **Laker Wildlife Initiative**

Contributions empower Clayton State University students to explore wildlife forensics and conservation and study abroad at the Wildlife Forensic Academy.

[DONATE HERE](#)

## **Wildlife Forensic Academy**

Contributions empower the WFA to effect substantial change within the wildlife forensic industry. We sincerely appreciate your support in this endeavour.

[DONATE HERE](#)

## **Wildlife Forensic Fund**

The Wildlife Forensic Fund (WFF) is a non-profit foundation dedicated to raising funds so that wildlife rangers can undergo critical and vital forensic and courtroom training at the Wildlife Forensic Academy (WFA).

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