## Clayton State Hosts Press Briefing on Passenger Rail in Georgia

by John Shiffert, University Relations

It's been a topic of discussion in Morrow, Atlanta and beyond for more than 10 years... the possibility of a passenger rail line running along the present Norfolk Southern tracks located beside the Clayton State University campus.

On Tuesday, May 25, Georgians for Passenger Rail and Clayton State hosted a press briefing, "Passenger Rail in Georgia -- An Investment in Our Future," on a study by The Brookings Institution that defines the economic impact and feasibility of a passenger rail line connecting Macon and Atlanta.

The Clayton State briefing was the middle event of a three-part media tour by Gordon Kenna, executive director of Georgian for Passenger Rail. Clayton State's noon event was preceded by an 8:30 a.m. press briefing at Rhodes Hall in Atlanta (the headquarters of Georgians for Passenger Rail) and followed by a similar event in Macon at 4 p.m. at The Macon Terminal. The three locations mark the general beginning, end and a midpoint of the proposed Atlanta-to-Macon rail line.

The Brookings Institution is a non-profit public policy organization based in Washington, D.C. Its mission is to conduct high-quality, independent research in order to provide innovative recommendations that advance democracy, economic and social welfare and strengthen international relationships.

The Brookings report that Kenna was presenting was broadly about the economic

development impact and financing options for the proposed Atlanta-Macon passenger rail line. However, Kenna and Georgians for Passenger Rail made it clear that their long-term goal is not just a single line that would stop at the Clayton State campus (where the now-unused C-Tran bus stop is located), but a network of passenger rail lines in Georgia, a common site in the late 19th and early 20th Century sometimes thought to have gone the way of the dodo.

The report's executive summary, which Kenna distributed at the press briefing, addressed such aspects of the Atlanta to Macon line as economic development, capital and operating cost estimates, sta-

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## Clayton State Sets 2010 Welcome Week for August 16 to August 20

As a way to welcome Clayton State University's new and returning students to campus, the University's Department of Campus Life is scheduling Welcome Week 2010 for Aug. 16 through Aug. 20.

The purpose of Welcome Week is to provide events, programs and information for students that will enhance their chances of excelling in and outside of the classroom. The week will feature several events and programs that will make new and returning students' college transition and experience memorable and productive.

Student programs are planned in the following areas: academic success; career development and opportunities; social opportunities, networking and diversity; student involvement; and wellness and recreation. The theme for this year's Welcome Week is "Loched and Loaded for Clayton State." Students will be encouraged to prepare academically, learn the campus culture, and engage in community activities.

For more information on Welcome Week, please contact Lakiesa Cantey at LakiesaCantey@clayton.edu. ■

# Dina Swearngin Honored By AJC as One of Georgia's Top Nurses

Dina Swearngin, one of Clayton State University's most accomplished nursing graduates, has received a singular honor from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

As part of National Nurses Week (May 6 to May 12), Swearngin was one of 300 Georgia nurses (out of more than 100,000 in the state) to receive the AJC's 2010 Nursing Excellence Award. For the fifth consecutive year, the AJC and ajcjobs honored Georgia's top nurses with the Nursing Excellence Awards, recognizing those nurses who went above and beyond the call of duty to make a significant impact on their patients. The 2010 winners were honored at a May 5 Celebrating Nurses luncheon at Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.

Swearngin currently works part-time at DeKalb Medical Center in Decatur, Ga., caring for premature infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She is also a part-time clinical instructor of Nursing at Clayton State. Prior to working at

DeKalb Medical, she worked as a senior staff nurse in the Neonatal Services Unit at Grady Memorial Hospital. Next year, Swearngin will be teaching full-time in the Clayton State School of Nursing.

In addition to teaching at Clayton State, Swearngin is also one of a handful of individuals to hold three degrees from Clayton State. Swearngin received her M.S.N. in 2009; a B.S. in Nursing in 1997; and an Associate in Nursing in 1993. This year, she will also be president of the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society at Clayton State, where she's been a member since 1997. She and her husband, Geoff, reside in Tyrone, Ga., and have two daughters, Abbey and Lindsey.

Swearngin has also served the Clayton State Alumni Association in various capacities. She is currently vice president for the 2009 to 2011, term, having previously served as the Alumni Association Board's president from 2005 to 2007. She



also has served as the Association's vice president previously, along with holding the position of secretary.

"It was a completely unexpected honor," said Swearngin of her AJC recognition. "It was so nice to be recognized for a career I've loved for almost 20 years."

## **Kyle Hensel Recognized as SBDC Consultant of the Year**

Kyle Hensel, area director of the Clayton State University Small Business Development Center, was



recently honored as the Georgia SBDC Network's "Consultant of the Year." The annual award, which was presented in Athens on May 4, is based on a consultant's work

with the business community, program development, publications, presentations, and professional development.

Hensel has worked for the Georgia SBDC Network for four years. He began as a business consultant with the

Georgia Southern University SBDC. In 2008, he moved to the Clayton State University SBDC as the area director of the center. When presenting the award, Allan Adams, state director of the Georgia SBDC Network, spoke of the extraordinary scope of services Hensel provides for his clients.

"Kyle is extremely committed to the small business community. He has worked very hard to enhance the SBDC at Clayton State University and has garnered much success both locally and statewide." he said.

The Georgia SBDC Network is a program of The University of Georgia that provides business consulting and con-

Hensel, cont'd., p. 3

## Clayton State Bookstore has a New Manager

Just in time for the rush that typically starts every new semester at Clayton State University, the University Bookstore has a new manager.

He's Todd Smith, and he started his new position on Tuesday, June 1, one week into the summer semester.

Smith previously spent five years as the bookstore manager at Macon State College. He also has experience as a bookstore manager at Barnes & Noble and Books-A-Million in Macon, and as an associate bookstore manager at the University of Georgia.

A Georgia native, he was most recently living in Union Point, Ga., but has just relocated to Jonesboro. ■

# AmeriCorps Members Volunteer at Clayton County Relay for Life for AmeriCorps Week

Clayton State University AmeriCorps members celebrated National AmeriCorps Week, May 10 to May 14.

AmeriCorps members focused on cancer awareness and education during AmeriCorps Week. The main event for the week was 12 hours of volunteering with the Clayton County Relay for Life, which was hosted at Charles Drew High School, on May 14. The Relay for Life is a nightlong event were teams gather at schools, fairgrounds, or parks and take turns walking and running laps to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs for the American Cancer Society.

AmeriCorps Members assisted with the set-up of the program, including decorations, traffic control, and coordinating unloading areas. The members also were the main support for the program's sur-

vivor dinner in which cancer survivors were honored and recognized for their courage during a private dinner for the survivors and their families.

Throughout the night, the members assisted with the luminary ceremony, lighting candles and placing them around the track in honor of loved ones lost to cancer, the children's play area, and the breakdown of all tents, signage, and candles at the close of the event early Saturday morning. More than 45 volunteers from Clayton State, Jonesboro and Morrow high schools and surrounding communities were recruited by AmeriCorps members to participate in this event.

Clayton State AmeriCorps members also distributed sunscreen and skin cancer information to students at the local high schools as well as to their peers prior to the end of spring semester. The members also partnered with the men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., to host a candle light vigil on campus on the lawn of the Student Activities Center (SAC).

The Clayton State AmeriCorps program is a national service program designed to provide all Americans with the opportunity to serve and give back to their communities. The University's AmeriCorps program is in its inaugural year and has participated in more than 15 community service projects throughout the term of service, including volunteering with the Henry County Relay for Life on Apr. 30; and volunteering with the Arthritis Foundation for their awareness walk at Atlantic Station on May 22. Members will also be volunteering at East Clayton Community Day at the Carl Rhodenizer Recreation Center on June 19.

## **Meghoo Runs for the Special Olympics**

Clayton State University Public Safety



officer Gregory Meghoo recently undertook a five mile run for the Special Olympics.

On May 20, Meghoo participated in the Special Olympics Georgia "Flame of Hope,"

which started from the Clayton County Police Headquarters and ran to The Home Depot in Forest Park. Joining the run at the Wal-Mart on Highway 54, just west of the Clayton State campus, Meghoo carried the 10 pound torch some five miles to The Home Depot.

While carrying a 10-pound torch for five miles is normally quite a task, Meghoo had previously undertaken even more intense efforts, say in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, when he ran the second leg on the Jamaican 4x100 relay

team. As a native of a country famous for its sprinters, Meghoo didn't disappoint on that occasion either, as his team took the silver medal behind an American relay team anchored by the greatest sprinter in U.S. history, Carl Lewis.

Currently a resident of Newnan, Ga., Meghoo joined the Clayton State University Office of Public Safety police staff in May 2009. Prior to working for the University, he worked for the Fulton County School District and MARTA Police transit.

More than 75 Clayton law-enforcement personnel participated in the 8.9-mile trek with the Special Olympics flame, as it headed north on Highway 54, from the Jonesboro city limits to the Clayton-Fulton county line, near the intersection of Interstate 285.

"I would like to take this time to thank officer Meghoo for representing Clayton State University Police Department by using his athleticism, dedication, and great endurance in completing the run," says Sergeant Jamal Mustafa, Clayton State Public Safety watch commander.

#### Hensel, cont'd. from p. 2

tinuing education services through 17 locations throughout the state, including offices at six other universities: Georgia State University, Clayton State University, Kennesaw State University, Georgia Southern University, Valdosta State University, and the University of West Georgia.

# Gordon Baker to Continue as Chairman of Henry County Library's Board of Trustees

by T.C. Cox, University Relations

Dr. Gordon N. Baker, director of Libraries, Clayton State University, was



re-elected chairman of the Henry County Library's Board of Trustees on May 3. This election marks the beginning of his seventh year as chairman.

Baker has been associated with

Clayton State since 1979 and has worked as a teacher, media specialist, and a sys-

tem level administrator in Clayton and Henry counties.

Baker is an active member in the librarian community with appointments to Secretary of the Southeastern Library Association (SELA), and to the Chapter Relations Committee of the American Library Association (ALA) in addition to his current membership to the ALA'S National Library Week Committee, Vice-President of the Region 4 Association for Library Trustees and Advocates Division of the ALA, Chairman for the Trustees and Friends of the Library Section of

SELA, Chairman for the Georgia Council of Media Organization and Editor of "The Gait Connection," The Journal of the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology.

In addition to his Associate Degree from Clayton Junior College in Education, Baker received his Bachelor of Science in Education from Valdosta State, his Master of Library Science (MLS), and Specialist in Library Services from Clark Atlanta University, and his doctor of Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

### **Artist's Showcase of Atlanta Auditions Continue at Clayton State**

Auditions are continuing for the Second Annual Artist's Showcase of Atlanta, to be held on Monday, Aug. 2 at 7 p.m. at 7 Stages, 1105 Euclid Ave., Atlanta. Clayton State University is in the process of hosting the auditions for the Showcase, with the next round coming on Saturday, June 12, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., in the Clayton State Theatre.

According to Shontelle Thrash, Clayton State assistant professor of Theatre/Communications, last year's showcase was a success and resulted in a number of actors receiving representation and other gigs. Several of the major agencies in Atlanta attended the showcase including PeopleStore, Houghton, and AMT, as well as casting directors, and other industry professionals.

"The showcase is one of the best ways to be seen by industry professionals," she says.

Some of the benefits of being in the showcase include;

- Actors will receive gifts from the sponsors, i.e. photo shoots, headshot reproductions, workshops, business cards, etc.
- Actors will receive an actor's workshop on the business of show business and auditioning.
- Actors will perform original works by award-winning writers.
- Actors will have an intensive monthlong rehearsal for the showcase with a professional director that will polish acting skills.
- Actors will receive feedback from industry professionals and may walk away from the showcase with agency representation and/or work.

The auditions are for actors ages 18 and older. Those interested in auditioning should send an email to Artistsshowcase@live.com to request an audition slot. In order to be chosen for the Showcase, individuals must audition and bring two headshots/resumes to the audition. Auditioners will need to prepare a monologue no longer than two minutes. Singers should prepare 16 bars to be sung a cappella. There will be an entry fee of

\$275 for individuals chosen for the Showcase.

"This showcase is in no way affiliated with 7 Stages. They have allowed me to use their space for the purposes of the showcase," adds Thrash. "Many thanks go to the 7 Stages family for their generosity."

#### FAST FACTS

Who can audition? Actors 18 and older.

How do I sign up to audition? Email Artistsshowcase@live.com

Where do I come to audition? The Clayton State Theatre, G132

When is the audition?
Saturday, June 12; 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

What do I need for the audition? Bring two headshots/resumes to the audition. Also repare a monologue no longer than two minutes. Singers should prepare 16 bars to be sung a cappella.

## Across the Campus...

#### **Athletics**

Coach Mike Mead's top women's prospect for next year, Sam Walling, recently ran 2:19.47 in the 800 meters and 19:11 for 5K.

\*\*\*\*

Aiming for a spot in the upcoming NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field National Championships, Clayton State's Keisha Etienne competed in two meets on May 14 and May 15 to finish out the season. A senior, Etienne competed in the women's 400-meter hurdles at both the Dr. Keeler Invitational at North Central on Friday, followed by the Georgia Tech Invitational on Saturday. The results, in the process, were mixed. Etienne finished sixth in the 400-meter hurdles in 1:02.20 minutes at the Dr. Keeler Invitational, and then 24th in 1:02.17 at the Georgia Tech Invitational.

#### **Graduate Studies**

The Clayton State University School of Graduate Studies next open house will be held on Tuesday, June 8. The open house will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in room 101 of the University's Harry S. Downs Center. The Clayton State School of Graduate Studies typically holds open houses on the second Tuesday evening of each month. This month's open house will provide information on the newest Clayton State graduate program, the Master of Science in Psychology, in addition to giving prospective graduate students the chance to learn more about the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, Master of Arts in Teaching English, Master of Arts in Teaching Mathematics, Master of Business Administration (which now has cohorts meeting in Peachtree City and Conyers, in addition to the Clayton State campus), Master of Health Administration, Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Archival Studies. For more information on the open house, including application information for Clayton State's eight masters programs, (678)466-4113, or graduate@clayton.edu or go to the website: http://graduate.clayton.edu/.

#### Library

This summer, the Clayton State University Library is undergoing some changes. Due to the transformation, some of the collection will be temporarily moved to accommodate painting, shelving shifts and yearly maintenance. The Library will continue to offer assistance in person at the circulation and reference desks and online. Please visit http://adminservices.clayton.edu/library/for closings and summer hours.

#### MAT

The program coordinators for math, English, and education for Clayton State University's Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) programs are inviting interested students, prospective students, and the general public to a reception and informational session on the MAT programs on Wednesday, June 9. The event will run from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Writers' Studio, room 224 of the University's Arts and Sciences Building. New and returning MAT students as well as potential students and the public are welcome to attend, says Dr. Ruth Caillouet, MAT English program coordinator.

#### **Nursing**

Dr. Lisa Eichelberger, dean of the College of Health at Clayton State University, recently attended an invited national summit on nursing education held by the Center to Champion Nursing in America in Washington, D.C. Eichelberger attended the "Champion Nursing State Team Leader Convening" as one of two representatives for the State of Georgia, along with Dr. Lucy Marion, dean of the Medical College of Georgia School of Nursing. Marion and Eichelberger are the co-team leaders for the Center to Champion Nursing in America for the State of Georgia.

#### **OITS**

On June 28, 2010 Clayton State will decommission the dial – up server which has been in place since near the start of the Information Technology Project (ITP). By disconnecting the phone lines, the University will save on reoccurring costs associated with the system. Usage of this server has been minimal to non-existent since late 2009. Due to the ubiquitous nature of WiFi and broadband, most computers no longer come with a modem. Given the limited speed of modems, loading the Clayton State home page over dialup would take more than five minutes.

#### **University Health Services**

Due to a couple of incidences with fraudulent work and school excuses, University Health Services (UHS) will be having all work and school excuses printed on watermark paper. This will prevent the patients and others from making photocopies of the original to share with friends and family members. If you have any questions regarding the authenticity of a work/school excuse (from UHS) your student or employee gives you, please do not hesitate to contact UHS.



Tammy Wilson of Academic Affairs took this photo of Clayton State's female swan, Bonnie, and her recently hatched cygnet. Rhett II, Clayton State's male swan and the father of the cygnet, recently passed away.

#### Passenger Rail, cont'd. from p. 1

tion area plans (including the aforementioned proposed station across North Lee Street from the Clayton State campus), market assessment, and financing options. The proposed stations would be; Atlanta, Hapeville (across Loop Road from the airport), Morrow, Hampton, Griffin, Forsyth and Macon. The proposed start of construction would be in 2016 with the system opening for revenue service in 2018. Current plans call for an initial 12 round trips per day by six sets of trains consisting of a locomotive and three passenger cars.

Christopher B. Leinberger, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution with experience as a land-use strategist, teacher and researcher, led this research project. At Brookings, Leinberger focuses on research, strategy and management of "walkable urban" places. Leinberger has also recently authored an Atlantic Monthly piece on how passenger rail can reinvigorate the economy: "Here Comes the Neighborhood."

#### Szabados, cont'd. from p. 7

Clayton State advanced to the Peach Belt Conference Tournament Championship finals, followed by a berth in the NCAA Division II "Sweet 16" for the second time in program history.

For two straight seasons under Szabados, the Lakers advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division II National Tournament in both 2008 and 2009. His 2008 squad finished 20-6 overall, the most victories in a season for a Clayton State team. Over the last three seasons, Clayton State has been consistently ranked nationally in the ITA Division II Top 15.

Individually, Szabados produced six Division II All-Americans and had three doubles teams advance to the ITA Small College Doubles Championship finals. The team of Julia Chergova and Anna Redesci advanced in both 2006 and 2007, followed by the team of Katie White and Viktoriya Semyrodenko in 2008. ■

Athletics, cont'd. from p. 7

**Kimberlee Blackburn**, Women's Soccer, Management, Benoni, South Africa

**Veronika Jasenovcova**, Women's Tennis, Management, Hruby Sur, Slovakia

**Au Hai Nguyen**, Men's Cross Country, Accounting, Mesa, Az.

**Kara Stokes**, Women's Track, Management, Augusta, Ga.

Marie St. Fort, Women's Basketball, Health Care Management, West Palm Beach, Fla.

**Bose Tanimola**, Women's Soccer, Health Care Management, Kaba, Nigeria

"The team effort on this campus is the best I have seen in 21 years!" says Barfield. ■



Staff Appreciation Day 2010

#### **Trivia Time**

## The Single Bullet Theory

by John Shiffert, University Relations

Few moments in American history are more controversial than the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Even after almost 50 years, what really happened that day in Dallas is subject to multiple interpretations, most of which read more like a Phillip DePoy whodunit than a Brad Rice history.

One of the reasons for the confusion is the Warren Commission Report, headed by then-Chief Justice Earl Warren, and supposedly the definitive word on what did happen. However, the report probably served to muddy the waters more than clear them, thanks in part to an ingenuous explanation of the shootings, an explanation first promulgated by a Commission member who was also an assistant district attorney in Philadelphia.

His name was (and is) Arlen Specter, and he eventually went on the become Philly's DA and a U.S. Senator (the one who voted "not proven" in the Clinton impeachment hearings). However, Specter's biggest claim to fame is that he authored (or maybe came up with) the "Single Bullet Theory," that explained the non-fatal wounds of both Kennedy and Texas Governor John Connolly. In other words, Specter's theory was that one bullet, fired by Lee Harvey Oswald, wounded both Kennedy and Connolly (aside from the president's fatal head wound.)

While this controversy may never be solved, definitive answers to last issue's question (just placing Specter on the Warren Commission wasn't good enough) came from Penny Brooks, Lou Brackett, Scott Bassett, Kurt-Alexander Zeller, Dotty Bumbalough and Tom Eddins.

In an attempt to mix literature with history, what do two well-known fictional individual creations of C.S. Forester and William Shakespeare have in common with the greatest hero in British naval history? Send your answers to johnshiffert@clayton.edu.

## **Sports**

## May 8 a Big Day for Clayton State Athletics

Mason Barfield, Clayton State University athletic director declared recently, "It's a great day all the way around for Clayton State University. We graduated 22 student-athletes and sent a team to the Sweet Sixteen."

Barfield was referring to Saturday, May 8, 2010. By defeating Columbus State 5-2 in the regional round of 32 of the NCAA Division II Women's Tennis National Tournament, played on the Clayton State campus in Morrow, the Lakers advanced to Division II "Sweet 16" for the second time since in 2002.

Clayton State also graduated 22 studentathletes as part of the University's spring commencement ceremonies on May 8. Among them were eight Georgia residents, nine out-of-state residents, and five foreign residents.

**Wade Binfield**, Men's Golf, History, Fayetteville, Ga.

**Rukayat Olatanwa Busari**, Women's Soccer, Liberal Studies, Lilburn, Ga.

**Jennifer Powell**, Women's Soccer, Communication & Media Studies, Rincon, Ga.

**Jon Barri Taylor**, Women's Track, Liberal Studies, Albany, Ga.

**Sharon Wiles**, Women's Basketball, Liberal Studies, Kingston, Jamaica

**Crystal Nicole Brown**, Women's Basketball, Integrative Studies, Fort Pierce. Fla.

**Keisha Etienne**, Women's Track, Psychology & Human Services, Miami, Fla.

**Shanrika Hardeman**, Women's Basketball, Integrative Studies, Ellenwood, Ga.

**Dominique Jennings**, Women's Basketball, Integrative Studies, Severna Park, Md.

**Kimberlee Lloyd**, Women's Basketball, Integrative Studies, Riverdale, Ga.

**Neil McBride**, Men's Golf, Integrative Studies, Glasgow, Scotland

**Luis Monge**, Men's Cross Country, Integrative Studies, McDonough, Ga.

**Shantel Ragin**, Women's Basketball, Integrative Studies, Pembroke Pines, Fla.

**Lateesha Whitely**, Women's Basketball, Criminal Justice, Stone Mountain, Ga.

**Lawrence Deshields**, Men's Track, Administrative Management, Philadelphia

**Anthony Aguilar**, Men's Cross Country, Marketing, Glendale, Az.

Athletics, cont'd., p. 6

### Szabados Steps Down as Clayton State Tennis Coach

by Lee Wright, Sports Information



After pacing the Clayton State Laker women's tennis program to one its best four-year stretches in program history, head coach Tamas Szabados announced last week that he is stepping down from the helm of Clayton

State women's tennis, Athletic Director Mason Barfield announced.

A native of Salgotarjan, Hungary, Szabados is returning to his home country to pursue professional opportunities. A nation-wide search for Szabados' replacement has begun.

"Tamas has certainly set a high bar for our tennis program," says Barfield. "His teams represented Clayton State at the highest levels of not only the Peach Belt Conference, but nationally as well.

"His student-athletes also represented themselves in the classroom at the highest level, producing team GPAs of 3.00 on a regular basis. We certainly appreciate the many fine accomplishments Tamas produced with his hard work for our program. We wish him the best of luck in his endeavors by home in Hungary."

Taking over the Laker program in 2006, Szabados posted a mark of 59-32 and a winning percentage of .648. His winning percentage is tops amongst all women's tennis coaches at Clayton State, and he ranks second in victories. In addition, he helped pace the Lakers to three NCAA Division II National Tournament berths for three straight seasons.

This past season, he paced the Lakers to an overall 18-8 mark and second place in the Peach Belt Conference at 10-2.

Szabados, cont'd., p. 6

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