

Campus Review

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Serving the CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY Community

June 30, 2006

Clayton State School of Health Sciences Awarded Scholarship Grants for Disadvantaged Students

by Leigh G. Wills, University Relations

On June 6, Clayton State University was one of four Georgia higher education institutions awarded grant money to fund scholarships for disadvantaged students. The School of Health Sciences was awarded \$201,427 in grant monies; \$103,633 to the department Dental Hygiene and \$97,794 to the department of Nursing.

The grants were awarded by the Health and Human Services Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) for academic year 2006-2007 and will specifically target students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment as full-time students at Clayton State.

The purpose of the HRSA program is to promote diversity and to make scholar-

ships available for those who have a financial need. Eligibility of schools receiving funds is based on the proportion of graduating students going into primary care, the proportion of underrepresented minority students, and the proportion of graduates working in medically underserved communities.

In accordance with legislative requirements, preference will be given to students for whom the cost of attendance would constitute a severe financial hardship. The funding for scholarships enables many capable, yet disadvantaged students the opportunity to attend college when they may not otherwise be able to.

In an article released on June 21 by the Chambliss Press Office in Washington D.C., U.S. Senators Saxby Chambliss,

R-Ga., and Johnny Isakson, R-Ga. commended the institutions receiving the grants, which included the Medical College of Georgia, Albany State University and Morehouse School of Medicine.

"I am pleased to announce these funds for these excellent Georgia institutions," says Isakson. "Georgia's health community will benefit from the contributions these students make after completing their training.

"I am proud of these medical institutes for seeking funding which will provide opportunities to these students," continues Chambliss. "This will go a long way in helping those students achieve their goals

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Clayton State to Hold First New Student Convocation & Picnic

Members of the University faculty and staff are invited to participate in the first New Student Convocation on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2006. This will be a formal ceremony intended to inspire, motivate and officially welcome new students to Clayton State University. Faculty members are requested to wear full academic regalia for the convocation ceremony.

The program will provide an opportunity for new students to connect with their faculty, staff and classmates and will consist of the 3 p.m. Convocation, followed by an interactive campus spirit activity and picnic from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Clayton State has had a long tradition whereby Commencement serves as a ritual signifying the completion of study. The New Student Convocation will undoubtedly bring honor and tradition to the beginning of college success for students.

Those interested in participating in this event should RSVP to Francine Schau via email (francineschau@clayton.edu) or call ext. 5426 (Office of Orientation, UC 250). Faculty members who need to order regalia may contact the University Bookstore. Gown orders are now being accepted. Orders placed after July 7 are not guaranteed appropriate hood colors and an additional \$6 shipping fee is required. Orders placed after Aug. 7 will have an extra \$35 fee for shipping, and hood colors are not guaranteed.

Please look for additional information regarding this event in the near future. ■

Health Sciences Students and Faculty Return from Maymester in Europe

by Leigh G. Wills, University Relations

Nine Clayton State University seniors along with School of Health Sciences Dean Dr. Lisa Eichelberger and Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator in Health & Fitness Management Dr. Melanie Poudevigne recently returned from a two-week study abroad experience to England and France.

This two-week learning tour was part of Clayton State's 'Maymester' course HSCI 4800, "A Study of the Western European Health Care Systems and their Legacy," a senior level undergraduate course offered to students of the university and to Georgia State University as a graduate elective for their masters and doctoral students.

Lynda Cokuslu, Nikki Lowe, Susan Pangburn, Loretta Boyd, Justin Swann, Tenesiha Hunnicutt, Priscilla Poole, Lakisha Harden and Teesia Brown spent four days in London visiting Big Ben and Westminster Abbey, the British and Tate Museums, the famous red telephone booths, St. Thomas' Hospital and the Florence Nightingale Museum.

The remainder of the tour in London included visits to Kensington Palace, Notting Hill, the Tower of London, the Anesthesia Museum, Trafalgar Square, and Buckingham Palace. Finally, the crew wound down the week at the Hard Rock Café London and shopping on Oxford Street, then leaving for Paris.



Clayton State nursing students, along with Dean of Health Sciences Dr. Lisa Eichelberger's daughter, pose in front of one of London's famous red phone booths during their 2-week "Maymester" study abroad tour of England and France. From left to right Linda Cokuslu, Tera Eichelberger, Loretta Boyd, Justin Swann, Nikki Lowe, Priscilla Poole, Susan Pangburn, Tenesiha Hunnicutt, Teesia Brown, and Lakiesha Harden

In France, they enjoyed the Eiffel Tower, L'Arc de Triomphe, and one of the most famous streets in history, the Champs-Élysée. They toured the Basilique Sacred Heart in Montmartre, drove to Normandy and Omaha Beach, toured the American and British memorials and were welcomed guests in Poudevigne's parent's home for dinner.

They visited UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and caught the Paris debut of the DaVinci Code. They visited the Louvre Museum where they saw the famous Venus de Milo, and paintings by Rembrandt, Rueben, and Van Dyke.

Study Abroad, cont'd., p. 7

Gordon Baker Named Director of Libraries

by Gina Finocchiaro, University Relations

Gordon Baker, Clayton State University's interim director of Libraries, will officially be appointed Director of Libraries position beginning July 1.

"We [the Library] are headed into a new positive position on campus," says Baker.

After 25 years as a part-time evening and weekend librarian at Clayton State, Baker was named head of Public Services in 2004. Before coming on board full-time, Baker spent 29 years serving the Clayton County School System as a classroom teacher and media specialist, as well as serving as coordinator of Instructional Technology and Media Services for the Henry County School System.

Director, cont'd., p. 6

COMING UP...

Health Sciences, in conjunction with Clayton State's Office of International Education will return to London and Paris next May 13-25. Contact MPoudevigne@clayton.edu for more information

Youth University Gears Up For Two More Sessions



The second session of Clayton State's popular Youth University is underway, but that doesn't mean there isn't time for parents to sign up their children for one of

the two remaining sessions.

Possibly the most popular program of the University's Division of Continuing Education, Youth University is an exciting alternative to traditional summer day-camp, offering students ages seven to 12 a unique learning experience designed to enhance their academic, cultural and physical skills and knowledge by building study schedules from a variety of theme-based courses ranging from academics to art, sports and beyond.

Youth University sessions will be staffed from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to assist working parents. Youth University's next two sessions will run from July 3 to July 17, and from July 18 to July 31. To view Youth University courses and register online, visit www.conted.clayton.edu or call (678) 466-5050 for more information.

All Youth University classes are held on the Clayton State campus and are staffed by qualified teachers and counselors. Selected for their ability to facilitate learning and their enthusiasm in working with students, all Youth University teachers and counselors have backgrounds in education, technology, recreation, writing, the arts and athletics. ■

Scholarships, cont'd. from p. 1

and to make important contributions to the health industry.”

Congressman, David Scott, D-Ga., also called Dr. Lisa Eichelberger, dean of the School of Health Sciences to congratulate her and the University on the award. ■



Martha Wicker, director of Clayton State's Center for Instructional Development, has retired. In a retirement celebration held Thursday, June 22 in the Harry S. Downs Center for Continuing Education, Clayton State faculty and staff, friends and family came to support Wicker, many sharing their memories and recalling examples from her years of dedicated service. Named the "Tech and Teaching Guru" by a humorous publication created for her retirement celebration, Wicker has certainly achieved a super-hero reputation among Clayton State's faculty and staff. Wicker will now turn her attention to travel, spending time with her family, hiking, biking and visiting her cabin in North Georgia.

Clayton State Geese Sent to Dublin



The U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wildlife Services arrived on the Clayton State campus on Tuesday, June 27 to gather the 80+ Canada geese who have been living on and around Swan Lake for the purpose of moving them to Dublin, Ga.

Canada geese are protected under state and federal law but are becoming more and more abundant in Georgia. Lakes with nearby grassy areas are ideal habitats for geese as well as other water fowl and Clayton State has such an

environment, so much so that the flock had become unmanageably large. Thus, it was decided move the geese to a more suitable habitat.

Beginning on June 1, Plant Operations started feeding the geese each morning in order to train them to congregate in one area, making their capture easier for Wildlife Services. Led by Doug Hall, Wildlife Services was on campus for about two hours herding the geese into one area, and then processing them.

Joyce Swofford Awarded Emerita Status

by Gina Finocchiaro, University Relations



Dr. Joyce Swofford, now Professor Emerita of English, participating in the fall 2004 commencement ceremony - the last commencement exercise she attended before her retirement in January 2005.

Dr. Joyce Swofford of Rex, Ga., retired Clayton State University professor of English, was recently honored with the title “Professor Emerita of English” by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents. This honorary title went into effect on June 1, 2006.

“It is an honor that they consider my teaching and service to the University and the community of such a quality to be worthy of the emeritus status,” shares Swofford. “I appreciate it.”

The title of emeritus may be conferred on retired professors and associate professors, administrative officers, librarians, and exceptional staff members who have given 10 years or more of honorable and distinguished service to the University System. Nominations for emeritus status are made by the university and approved by the Board of Regents.

Swofford retired in January 2005 after 28 and a half years teaching at Clayton State.

She was known for her work not only as an English instructor, but also for her work on curriculum, revising the writing and speaking courses and on committees for faculty development using WebCT. She was also a key leader, along with Dr. William Pasch, professor of English, in developing communications assessment programs.

Since retiring, Swofford has been spending her time teaching online English courses at Clayton State and the University of Utah. She also works with the Southeastern Center for the Enhancement of Learning, a center that is designed to train educators and professionals how to administer proven methods for improving a person’s critical thinking skills and capacity to learn.

When she is not teaching, Swofford is hiking, snow skiing and traveling, along with getting in a few golf games. ■

Across the Campus

CE

Clayton State University’s Division of Continuing Education has just launched its newly redesigned website at www.conted.clayton.edu. The new website was designed by Continuing Education’s Jason Thomas and Alex Federov and features extensive information regarding Continuing Education courses, programs and resources and online registration services as well as additional information regarding conference service and small business development opportunities.

Procurement Services

Beginning July 1, 2006, please discard all old forms and begin using the forms that are provided on the Procurement Services website such as travel requests and travel reimbursement forms. Purchase requisition forms are to be used only for purchases that require a purchase order to the vendor. Use check requests for all checks

issued to vendors that do not accept the p-card or must meet State, BOR and Institutional guidelines. Using the proper forms will provide less confusion for our department and will provide more efficient service to our campus. Our website: <http://adminservices.clayton.edu/procurement>. If there are any concerns or questions, please contact Procurement Services.

Public Safety

The University RideShare Program held the monthly “Random Drawing” on Tuesday, June 20. These drawings are open to all employees. To see all the winners, go to http://adminservices.clayton.edu/ps/cac/winnners_commute_trak.htm#May_2006. Employees who won by submitting their Clean Air Campaign Commuter Rewards May report were as follows: Gordon Baker, Library, \$20 Wal-Mart gift card; Lolita Lighting, Testing Center, \$15 Wal-

Mart gift card; and Cathy Jeffrey, Library, \$10 Wal-Mart gift card, and each received a personal radio and mini basketball. For more information or details on employee programs, contact Joan Murphy, Public Safety, (678) 466-4050.

The HUB

The HUB’s hours for the mid-summer break are as follows: On Friday, June 30, walk up locations will be closed, phones/email/desktop support in offices will be available until 5 p.m.; on Monday, July 3, walk up locations will be closed, phones/email/desktop support in offices will be available until 5 p.m.; on Tuesday, July 4, the campus will be closed; and on Wednesday, July 5, all hours of operation return to normal.

Alumni/Development Page

Alum Makes Living Talking to “Dummies”

by Gid Rowell, Alumni Relations



Mark Merchant graduated in 1977 with a dental hygiene degree from Clayton Junior College, but after six months of asking patients to open wide for a cleaning, he had an unanticipated career change — one where he would try his best to keep his mouth shut.

In his early 20's, Merchant put his career at Dr. Michael McDevitt's dental practice in Forest Park on hold for a while and pursued his childhood passion, an entertainment career as a comedian, specializing in ventriloquism.

Thirty years and millions of laughs later, Merchant's artistic gamble paid off, as he is now a renowned ventriloquist. In 2004, he was named Entertainer of the Year for Crystal Cruise Lines, a company that has been named the world's best cruise line for the last 10 years by Condé Nast Traveler magazine.

Merchant's big break into the entertainment business was a bit of luck, as he actually got his first opportunity after applying for a public relations position with Carnival Cruise Lines in 1978. In addition to his Clayton State dental hygiene degree, he also had a journalism degree from Georgia State University

and was also employed at Trust Company Bank in Atlanta, leading to his interest in applying for the public relations job.

On his application for the position, it had a section reserved for special talents, and he listed his ventriloquist skills. It just so happened the cruise line was in need of a ventriloquist, and the rest was history.

“Nothing against the dental or public relations professions, but it just didn't do it for me creatively,” says Merchant. “I love performing; I really come alive when I go on stage.”

Merchant says he began learning ventriloquism at the age of 10 after his parents bought him a book and record on how to master the art. He first became interested after seeing the comedian/ventriloquist Jimmy Nelson, doing his Nestle's commercials with characters Farfel the talking dog and his pal Danny O'Day. The famous jingle went ... “N-E-S-T-L-E-S ... Nestles makes the very best ... chaaawwwwwclate.”

“My parents provided me a lot of artistic opportunities — I took piano lessons for one,” says Merchant. “One Christmas, they bought me a record and book that taught ventriloquism. It was the one art form that I would practice. I would sit in front of the mirror for hours, telling jokes and trying not to move my lips.”

While in high school and college, Merchants says, he performed at parties and other functions and continued to improve and eventually paid his way through college with the skill.

“It was my ticket to popularity as a teenager,” he says. “I wasn't involved in athletics or anything. “I loved to make people laugh.”

One of Merchant's best stories is how he met his wife, Cindy. Back in the late 1980's, he was performing for a metro Atlanta elementary school. As part of

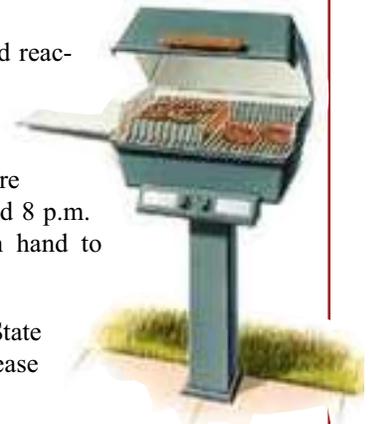
Alum, cont'd., p. 7

Clayton State Alumni Association To Host Alumni Cookout on July 27

The Clayton State Alumni Association will be holding its first “Chomp & Chat” cookout on Thursday, July 27. The cookout will be held just outside the Atrium of the University's Harry S. Downs Center for Continuing Education from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The event will be informal, allowing alumni to meet and reacquaint themselves with friends, as well as get an update on the Alumni Association. Any and all Clayton Junior College, Clayton State College, Clayton College & State University, and Clayton State University alums are invited to stop by whenever they can between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on the 27th. Alumni Association members will be on hand to answer questions.

For questions, please contact Gid Rowell, Clayton State director of Alumni Relations, at (678) 466-4477. Please RSVP by July 20. ■



Student Nurses Association To Run School Supply Drive

by Gina Finocchiaro, University Relations

According to the Children's Restoration Network, more than 3,500 children in the metro Atlanta area will have lived in a shelter or a group home sometime during the 2005/2006 school year. Clayton State University's Student Nurse Association (SNA), in conjunction with the Children's Restoration Network, will be running their own "Back 2 School Campaign" in July to make sure that homeless children have the school supplies that they need to start off the 2006/2007 school year.

SNA will be collecting new bookbags, notebook paper, spiral notebooks, binders, pens, pencils, dictionaries and more in room 37 of the University's Business and Health Sciences Building from July 1 to Aug. 3.

This year's goal for the Children's Restoration Network is to collect 3,500 bookbags filled with school supplies. SNA's goal is to donate 50 bookbags to the Children's Restoration Network.

"This is an opportunity that everyone can get involved with to help a child feel loved and valued," shares Toniese Craft, webmaster for Clayton State's chapter of SNA and leader of the volunteer effort. "With the proper tools needed to succeed, they can eventually escape their homeless situation."

Clayton State's Student Nurse Association volunteers with several charity organizations to help families and communities within the metro Atlanta area through out the year. For more information on the Back 2 School Campaign, visit <http://studentorg.clayton.edu/sna/default.html>.

Craft has been a student at Clayton State since 2000. After graduating in 2003 with a degree in Information Technology, she began pursuing a degree in Nursing. She lives in Fayetteville with her four children. ■

Director, cont'd. from p. 2

"During the last 27 years, working at Clayton State has been rewarding," shares Baker. "I am looking forward to making the library better than before."

Baker also recently accepted an appointment to the American Library Association's National Library Week (NLW) Subcommittee for a two-year term starting on July 1.

"The NLW Subcommittee is one of the most prestigious committees of the American Library Association," says Baker. "Most appointees are from major research university libraries or large public libraries."

Members of the NLW Subcommittee help to choose the theme of National Library Week which is held each April. They also judge the entries of the \$5000 Scholastic Library/Grolier National Library Week

Grant that is given to a single library each year to support NLW activities.

Baker has been a member of the American Library Association for 29 years. In addition, he also serves as a chair for the Trustees and Friends of the Library Section of the Southeastern Library Association, co-chair for the Georgia Council of Media Organizations and editor of "The GAIT Connection," the journal of the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology.

Baker received his B.S. in Education from Valdosta State, his Masters of Library Science (MLS) and Specialist in Library Services from Clark Atlanta University, and his Doctor of Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University. ■

Snapshot...



Youth University instructor Stanley Adkins helps student Kristopher Anderson "lock-n-load" a rocket built in one of eight classes taught during the two-week session. Students shot off their rockets on the last day of the session as parents and siblings looked on; a highlight of the week.

Got News?

Send your
campus news to
JohnShiffert@clayton.edu



Alum, cont'd. from p. 5

his show, one of his puppet characters began flirting with the teacher, who was Cindy, and asked her out on a date.

The proposal from the “dummy” didn’t go on deaf ears. A few days later, Mark and Cindy went on their first date and were married two years later in Gatlinburg, Tn. Merchant’s best man for the wedding was one of his puppets named Sherwood.

“I tell everyone, it [ventriloquism] paid for my school, has allowed me to travel around the world five times and introduced me to my wife,” he says, jokingly adding that two out of three isn’t bad.

Merchant is different than most ventriloquists in that he is constantly updating his material and structures his material to fit specific audiences.

He has as many as 15 characters, with three main ones. They are: Wing Tip Shu, a Chinese male; Alonzo Jackson, an African-American male; and Zelda Rose, a white female. He is also in the process of a developing a George W. Bush character.

“I love performing,” says Merchant. “My goal is make people believe that I’m having a conversation with one of my puppets...to suspend their disbelief and even forget that I’m a ventriloquist.”

Even though Merchant does not use his college degrees directly in his current career, he says his education has been an important part of his development.

“My writing background has helped my career in being able to combine facts with creativity and come up with clever comedy,” he says. “My degree in dental hygiene also helped by making me so aware of the cost of dental neglect and how one’s smile and pleasant looking teeth are one of the first impressions others see in us.”

Merchant has traveled all over the world, recently returning from Alaska on a cruise. Later this month, he’ll be performing in the Mediterranean region. He enjoys the cruises but says corporate events are more lucrative financially and allows him to spend more time at home with his family.

His favorite places to perform are in Reno, Nv., at John Ascuaga’s Nugget. He has opened for Rich Little, Brenda Lee, and Tony Orlando there to name a few. He also worked four years as the comedy act at the Princess Casino in Freeport, Grand Bahama Island.

In 1987, Merchant entertained for nine months at Resorts International in Atlantic City and was nominated by Atlantic City Magazine as “Best Variety Act.” One of his highlights was when he was on camera with David Letterman in 1986 and 1992. Merchant was also once the opening act for the late George Burns in Duluth, Mn.

Growing up in the Gresham Park area in Decatur, Ga., Merchant graduated from Walker High School. He and his wife currently live in Snellville. For more information on Merchant, visit his website at www.markmerchant.com. ■

Study Abroad, cont'd. from p. 2

They cruised down the Seine River and visited the American Hospital in Paris, saw the Cathedral of Notre Dame, and attended the Paris Ballet at the world renowned Opera House –Garnier of “Phantom of the Opera” fame. Finally, they went to the Palace Versailles, where they walked down the Hall of Mirrors.

The exhausted, but invigorated troupe returned home to the United States on Friday, May 26.

“This was truly an unbelievable opportunity for these students,” says Eichelberger. “The perspective they gained looking at the way care is given in these two different countries compared to the U.S. is something that you can’t get from reading a book.

“Beyond that, I believe they gained an appreciation of the culture that is England and France; that is Europe. The European view on end-of-life care, for example, is so radically different than ours. It was very thought provoking for them.” ■

Trivia Time

Born in the U.S.A.

by John Shiffert, University Relations

As Bruce Springsteen can tell you, it’s important to be “Born in the U.S.A.,” especially if you want to be president of the United States. You see, there’s this little codicil in the Constitution that states that only those individuals born in the U.S.A. are eligible to become president.

(Actually, Section I of Article 2 of the Constitution stipulates that being a citizen of the United States at the time the Constitution was adopted was also good enough. Otherwise, George Washington and the rest of the founding fathers wouldn’t have been eligible.)

A technicality? Maybe. There have been two instances in U.S. history when this requirement threatened to become an issue. The second was in 1968, when George Romney was campaigning for the Republican nomination. Romney was born in Mexico to American parents who were part of an LDS colony living south of the border. However, he didn’t get the nomination and the question never came to a head.

The other instance involved Andrew Jackson and a long-standing tale, now generally discredited by historians, that he was not born in Waxhaw, South Carolina in 1767, but on a ship in the Atlantic Ocean, a ship bringing his parents to America. If this story had been true, then “Old Hickory” would indeed not have been eligible to be president.

Although Teresa Bolt knew the issue involved, i.e., the born on the U.S.A. requirement, only that master of trivia, Tom Eddins, came up with the correct answer.

While on the subject of Old Hickory, what was unusual about the military action that made him a national hero and eventually led to his election as president? Send your answers to johnshiffert@clayton.edu.

Sports Page

Simmons Joins Clayton State Athletic Training Staff

by Lee Wright, Sports Information



Mindy Simmons

For the first time at Clayton State, the athletic training staff will be more than a one-person shop. Clayton State Athletic Director Mason Barfield and Head Trainer John Zubal announced the hiring of Mindy Simmons as assistant athletic trainer on Friday. Simmons becomes the first-ever assistant in the Laker Athletic Training Department.

Simmons, who starts her new position at Clayton State on July 10, joins the Laker family after serving two years in the same capacity at Elmira (N.Y.) College.

“Mindy is an outstanding addition to our athletic training staff,” said Zubal. “She will bring good experience and education to us and will be a positive contributor.”

While serving at Elmira, Simmons was the athletic trainer for women’s volleyball, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s ice hockey and men’s and women’s lacrosse. In addition, she was also the Education Coordinator for Sports Medicine at Elmira.

Simmons also served in collegiate athletic training stint for a year at the University of South Florida, and was an athletic training intern for the Tampa Bay Storm of the Arena Football League in 2001.

Simmons earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training from the University of Tampa in 2002. While at Tampa, she was one of the pioneers of Spartan women’s soccer, lettering in the sport’s first four seasons at Tampa. She is currently ninth all-time in goals scored at Tampa.

In addition, Simmons recently completed her Master of Science degree in Education at Elmira. She received her National

Athletic Training Certification in 2003, and has been a National Athletic Trainer’s Association member since 2000. ■

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Editor: *John Shiffert*

Writers: *Gina Finocchiaro*
Lauren Graves
Leigh G. Wills

Layout: *Lauren Graves*

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Morrow, GA 30260-0285

Office of University Relations