

Campus Review

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Serving the CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY Community

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Clayton State Named One of the Top 100 Workplaces in Atlanta

Clayton State University has been named one of the “Top 100 Workplaces in Atlanta” for 2012 by the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

The University was recognized in the Atlanta Journal Constitution’s Top 100 Workplaces section, published on Sunday, Apr. 22, as well as at an invitation-only event held on Thursday, Apr. 19, at the Cobb Energy Center. Clayton State is the only University System of Georgia institution to receive this honor for 2012.

Clayton State is one of 20 institutions in the “large industry category,” which includes Woodward Academy, FedEx, Equifax, Emory Healthcare, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Ernst and Young and Verizon Wireless.

“This accomplishment is truly the result of a team effort, and all faculty and staff at Clayton State University should take pride in the fact that their hard work and dedication has resulted in our recognition as an Atlanta Journal Constitution Top 100 Workplace,” says Clayton State Director of Human Resources John Brooks.

More than 1000 organizations were initially included in the 2012 contest, held by the AJC and its partner, Workplace Dynamics. After employees responded to print and online solicitations beginning in October 2011, Workplace Dynamics surveyed 188 metro organizations representing 77,848 employees. A total of 43,500 metro workers participated in the survey.

They were asked to respond to a set of statements using a seven-point Likert scale. Each statement was tested to ensure a high correlation with how metro employees rate their workplaces. This was calculated by correlating the statement responses to a control question that asked each employee to rate his or her workplace on a scale of zero to 99.

After completing the 20-question survey, metro employees were asked to rank the factors that meant the most to them in terms of job satisfaction. The top five were; company direction, job appreciation, confident of future, career opportunities, confidence in leader. After the survey

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Janet Winkler Named Outstanding Adult Educator in Georgia

Clayton State University Executive Director of Continuing Education Janet Winkler has been named the Outstanding Adult Educator in Georgia by the Georgia Adult Education Association (GAEA).

Winkler received this singular honor, the GAEA’s most prestigious award, at the recent GAEA annual meeting at the Jekyll Island Club. Susan Wirt, the executive director of Continuing Education at Columbus State University, and GAEA vice president of Member Services, presented the award to Winkler.

For 25 plus years, Winkler has worked in Georgia as a continuing education professional, for both Clayton State and Georgia Southwestern State University. She has been a member of GAEA for more than 20 years.

While at Georgia Southwestern State, Winkler was responsible for the Job



Janet Winkler (left) receives the GAEA Outstanding Adult Educator in Georgia award from Susan Wirt, GAEA vice president of Member Services.

Partnership Training Assistance or JTPA, a funded summer youth program, from 1986 to 1999. The program served approximately 350 youth each year. She also managed a JTPA-funded pilot nursing program for welfare recipients and

Winkler cont’d., p. 4

Clayton State Names Zornosa, Davis as Alice Smith Award Winners for 2012

by Erin Fender, University Relations

Dr. Ximena Zornosa and Darius Davis are the winners of the Clayton State University 2012 Alice Smith Awards.

Clayton State's Alice J. Smith Awards, for both faculty and staff, were presented at Clayton State's Faculty/Staff Awards Ceremony on Apr. 24. An annual event since 1995, the Smith Awards are presented to the faculty member and staff member ranked most outstanding as determined by committees of their peers. The two, \$1000 awards were established by local philanthropist Joseph Smith in honor of his wife, Alice.

Zornosa, a resident of Peachtree City, Ga., is married with a three-year-old golden retriever. Now an associate professor in the Department of Dental Hygiene, she began her full-time career at Clayton State in 2005. During the spring of 1999, she was a part-time clinical instructor.

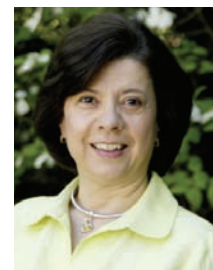
She received her doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania and special-

ized certification in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology at Emory University. She was an active duty Air Force Dental Officer for three years but also worked as a civilian dentist for the Army and the Navy.

She enjoys traveling and is currently taking a photography course with the New York the Institute of Photography.

"While I am obviously honored to have been nominated by my peers for this award as it reaffirms my direction and career path, I am even more pleased that the nomination draws attention to the Dental Hygiene program. While it is a small part of Clayton State University's curriculum, it is a shining example of the University's commitment to community service," expressed Zornosa at the time of her nomination.

Davis hails from Atlanta. He is currently Assistant Manager – Customer Service & General Merchandise in the university



Dr. Ximena Zornosa



Darius Davis

bookstore, The Loch Shop. This fall will mark his 12th year at Clayton State. He is also a 2007 graduate of the Supply Chain Logistics program in the College of Business at Clayton State. And, he is currently pursuing an MBA from Clayton State.

He enjoys traveling, sports, and spending time with his daughter, Ariel.

"Being nominated for the Alice Smith award makes me feel appreciated,

Smith Awards, cont'd., p. 7

\$3.66

by John Shiffert, University Relations

Three dollars and sixty-six cents. Clayton State University undergraduates will be paying slightly more in tuition come this fall, but the tab is less than a five dollar bill for each credit hour... only \$3.66 cents per credit hour. If you spread that over a four-month semester, that's less than a dollar per month per credit hour. For a full course load of 12 credit hours, the additional total comes to \$43.92 per semester, less than a tank of gas.

Throughout the University System of Georgia (USG) this fall, most undergraduate students will see the smallest tuition increase in a decade... approximately 2.5 percent. The price of a gallon of gas should increase so little over a year. At Clayton State, where tuition this spring was \$146.74 per credit hour, that means that tuition for the fall

semester will be \$150.40 per credit hour, or \$3.66 extra per credit hour. In addition, the students in Clayton State's eight undergraduate programs won't pay any more in tuition.

The action on tuition taken by the Board of Regents of the USG earlier this week is possible in part due to Gov. Nathan Deal recommending and the General Assembly agreeing to full funding of the formula for the University System of Georgia. By doing so, the regents were provided with a strong financial base upon which to set current tuition policy in fiscal year 2013.

Another key contributor to the current decision is the goal of the board to maintain affordability.

\$3.66, cont'd., p. 6

Women's Resources Names Jennell Charles To the Leadership America Class of 2012

Jennell P. Charles, PhD, RN, CNE, associate professor of Nursing at Clayton State University, has been selected by Women's Resources to join an elite network of more than 5,000 women as a member of the Leadership America Class of 2012.



Dr. Jennell Charles

Charles is one of 53 outstanding women leaders competitively selected from across the nation to participate in the longest-running women's leadership development program in the U.S.

Charles, cont'd., p. 14

91st Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America Southeastern Section... A Meeting of Big Numbers

Last month, Clayton State University hosted the 91st meeting of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Southeastern Section. There were well over 500 participants, so preparing was no small matter. Under the guidance of Clayton State Professor Emerita Dr. Cathie Aust, the MAA Planning Committee lived up to the challenge, though, and accommodated those in attendance with a style befitting the Clayton State name.

In addition to the numerous Clayton State faculty and staff members attending, approximately 20 Clayton State students attended, presented, or provided some volunteer hours for the conference: Alex Adams (Hapeville), Samuel Adams (Hapeville), Blake Anderson (Stockbridge), Marcus Bartlett (Stockbridge), Michael Bennington (Hampton), Chris Donovan (McDonough), Thao Duong (Riverdale), Tranisha Guthridge (Forest Park), Jessica Heath (Jonesboro), William Knowles (Peachtree City), Christine Lengel (Ellenwood), Sarah Minion (Fayetteville), Maria Morales-Beale (St. Louis), Michael

Ngo (Morrow), Tracey Nicks (Atlanta), Khalid Rajahn (Jonesboro), Jayson Richard (Vicenza, Italy), Jarvis Turner (Morrow), Pedro Torres (Attleboro, Ma.), and Tony Yaacoub (Beirut, Lebanon).

This year was marked by a very important milestone concerning the MAA-SE conference: the first ever Math Jeopardy team, Clayton State Alpha. Bartlett, Donovan, Ngo, and Turner worked great together and learned a lot in participating in the Math Jeopardy competition.

"I enjoyed watching the teams participate in the Math Jeopardy Competition," says Duong. "Overall, the conference was very exciting and I look forward to attending the conference again next year."

"This was my first time attending an undergraduate math conference, and on top of it being a truly enjoyable experience it motivated me to continue doing my own research as an undergraduate," remarks Donovan. "The MAA-SE experience inspired me to look into attending

MAA-SE, cont'd., p. 15

Clayton State Students Take Second in Problem Solving Competition at Eagle Undergraduate Mathematics Conference

On Saturday, Mar. 31, Drs. Elliot Krop and Christopher Raridan of the Clayton State University Mathematics Department in the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences (CIMS) escorted five Clayton State students to the Eagle Undergraduate Mathematics Conference (EUMC 2012) held at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Ga. Highlighting the conference for Clayton State was a second place (to Georgia Tech) in the Problem Solving competition.

The conference was funded by the National Science Foundation through the MAA Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conferences program. Presentations were given by students from the host institute, Clayton State, Kennesaw State University, Macon State College, Savannah State University, and North Georgia College & State University.

The students from Clayton State in attendance were Marcus Bartlett (Stockbridge), Michael Bennington

Second, cont'd., p. 14

Students Attend Sixth Biennial Smoky Mountain Undergraduate Research Conference on the History of Mathematics

Drs. Elliot Krop and Christopher Raridan of the Clayton State University Mathematics Department in the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences (CIMS) recently escorted five Clayton State students to the Sixth Biennial Smoky Mountain Undergraduate Research Conference on the History of Mathematics (SMURCHOM VI) held at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C.

The conference was funded by the National Science Foundation through the

MAA Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conferences program. Presentations were given by students from the host institute, Clayton State, Georgia College & State University, University of North Carolina-Asheville, and High Point University.

Clayton State students attending the conference were Marcus Bartlett (Stockbridge), Michael Bennington (Hapeville), Tranisha Guthridge (Forest Park), Michael Ngo (Morrow), and Tony Yaacoub (Beirut, Lebanon).

Three Clayton State students gave presentations and one presented a poster. Bartlett presented results from his research entitled "On some relations between chemical indices of trees." Ngo presented results from his research entitled "On new bounds for the monophonic number of Cartesian products of graphs." Yaacoub presented his results from research entitled "On Cartesian products of graphs and the Roman domination function."

Research Conference, cont'd., p. 15

CIMS Announces Faculty Awards for 2011/2012

Dr. Lila F. Roberts, dean of the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences (CIMS) at Clayton State University, has announced the recipients of the CIMS Faculty Awards for Excellence for 2011/2012. The award recipients were recognized on Friday, Apr. 13.

Dr. Muhammad Rahman, associate professor of Information Technology, is the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Contributions to Instruction. Rahman consistently receives among the highest instructor ratings in CIMS. He has been very active in course development and has played a significant leadership role in curriculum design for the Information Technology degree programs. He applies technology extensively in his teaching activities.

Rahman was selected as a Governor's Teaching Fellow for the 2011/2012 academic year. Actively engaged in mentoring undergraduate students, he has directed six students in undergraduate internships. He has twice been the CIMS nom-

inee for the University's Alice Smith Faculty Award.

Associate Professor of Mathematics Dr. Kelli Nipper is the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Service. Nipper has been strongly committed to serving the mathematics education community across the metro-Atlanta region, including Spalding, Clayton, and Rockdale Counties, as well as the Atlanta Public Schools. She is also engaged in significant service to the Mathematics Department, the College, and the University, having served in leadership roles on numerous college and university committees. Highly regarded by her colleagues, Nipper has previously received CIMS Awards for Excellence in Scholarly Activity and Contributions to Instruction.

Assistant Professor of Mathematics Dr. Elliot Krop is the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Scholarly Activity. Krop's research has been fruitful, producing 10 research papers (four papers have appeared and six have been accepted). In

addition, he currently has four papers under review. He has presented his research at regional, national, and international conferences.

Krop has demonstrated a sustained commitment to collaborating with his colleagues and undergraduate students in new research and his mentorship of students has resulted in numerous poster and paper presentations by students at professional research conferences. In addition to his own research, he actively serves as reviewer for several journals.

"The contributions of our colleagues are indeed impressive and demonstrate a strong commitment to Clayton State's strategic goals," says Roberts. ■

Winkler, cont'd. from p. 1

other economically disadvantaged individuals. In addition, she organized and executed training for Sumter Regional Hospital administrators and supervisors, numerous divisions of employees for the City of Americus, Cooper Lighting, Department of Children and Family Services (in 18 counties), Sumter Electric Corporation and Textron Automotive.

At Clayton State, she has worked tirelessly to make the Center for Continuing Education successful by helping students gain the training they need professionally and personally. She has earned a reputation as the "can-do" leader on and off campus. Serving on various community boards and workforce development boards, Winkler connects people and makes the most of every opportunity.

"More than simply a leader in adult education, Janet serves as a vital member of our institutional leadership team," says Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Hynes. "She is creative in her strategies

for developing learning opportunities. She is entrepreneurial in identifying opportunities for learning. Moreover, she is entrepreneurial in seeking partners both on and off campus who can provide exceptional intellectual capital to those same learning opportunities."

During her 13 years at Clayton State, Winkler has served on the Fulton County Workforce Investment Board and won an award for Outstanding Service. Currently, she serves on the ARC Workforce Board representing Higher Education, and she is a member of the Clayton and Fayette county chambers, the Atlanta Partnership for Education, and Netweavers International. Formerly, she served on the Education Committee for the North Fulton Chamber and the Georgia Entertainment Work Ready Region Commission.

"Janet Winkler is the consummate professional in all things, but in the arena of developing and directing continuing edu-

cation programs she is unsurpassed," says Clayton State Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. Micheal Crafton. "I have worked with several continuing education professionals and she is quite simply the best.

"And that is why her staff has nominated her for the Outstanding Adult Educator in Georgia!"

Winkler is the second Clayton State continuing education professional to win the GAEA Outstanding Adult Educator in Georgia award. Dr. Bryan Edwards, dean of Continuing Education and executive director of Community Outreach, was the 1999 recipient. ■

Wi2STEM Students Travel to Hopper Conference

by Ciji Fox, University Relations

Clayton State University Wi2STEM students (Women interested in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) had the opportunity recently to travel to Portland, Ore., to attend the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Conference (GHC11).

The number of women in the computing disciplines is in sharp decline across the United States, and the Anita Borg Institute (ABI), Georgia Power and the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences (CIMS) at Clayton State have put their support behind reversing that trend. One means of doing so is by sending young women to the top computing conference for women in the world.

Wi2STEM students, Zoila Angulo (Peachtree City), Esmeralda Duenas

(Atlanta), Christine Gardner (Peachtree City), and Carolina Pichardo (McDonough) were awarded Hopper Scholarships by the Anita Borg Institute to attend the Grace Hopper Conference, aided by a Georgia Power travel grant and funds from two Clayton State student organizations.

The highlight of the conference for these women was hearing the keynote speaker Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook.

“I have never seen so much support for women in the computing industry. Listening to other women talk about their struggles and how they made it in this industry helps me understand that

Hopper, cont'd., p. 11



Wi2STEM Alumni Return with Advice for Their Peers

Clayton State University alumni Latanya Gobin Walker and Mercedes Giles, both currently students at the Morehouse School of Medicine, recently spoke to Clayton State Wi2STEM (Women interested in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) students, offering tips regarding admittance to medical school, or graduate school in general.

Walker graduated last spring from Clayton State with a Bachelor of Science, after travelling to Los Angeles to present research and participate in the Wi2STEM PreMed Shadow program under Dr. Sandea Greene-Harris of Southern Crescent Neurosurgery.

Both Walker and Giles felt strongly about reaching out to those following behind them, giving encouragement and advice. Walker and Giles stated that taking advantage of the Kaplan free practice exams and opportunity for study materials that Wi2STEM provided is crucial to being accepted into medical school. In all of their interviews, they noted, the medical schools wanted to know if they participat-



ed in academic-oriented organizations and held officer positions. Their last piece of advice was for students to learn as much as they can in their science and mathematics coursework at Clayton State, because it is used in medical school.

Giles and Walker also gave their contact information to the Wi2STEM students and offered to mentor any student in pursuit of medical school.

“I am amazed at our students who graduate, and then come back to take care of their own,” says Wi2STEM faculty advisor Mary Hudachek-Buswell. “Wi2STEM is founded on the premise that we must take care of our own and reach down to bring someone up with you.” ■

Across the Campus...

Athletics

The Clayton State Laker men's track and field team finished fifth in the Southeast Regionals at Lenoir-Rhyne. The Lakers recorded 72 points in the 11-team field. Clayton State recorded one individual victory, one team record, one facility record and 10 Top Five finishes. The Clayton State victory came in the 4x400-meter relay as the Laker team of Edlin Veras, Ricky Fort, Shelby Russell and Ayrton Azcue won with a time of 3:16.58. That time was a new facility record at the Lenoir-Rhyne track. Russell Lawless continued his stellar showing in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, placing second overall in a school-record time of 9:41.94.

The Clayton State Laker women's track and field team turned in arguably one of its most productive meets in recent seasons with a strong fourth-place finish in the Southeast Regionals at Lenoir-Rhyne. The Lakers recorded 84 points to finish fourth in the 12-team field. The two Laker victories came in the field events, and both by Clayton State women's basketball players. Senior Kayla Mobley prevailed in the shot put with a distance of 42-7 feet – a team record in the event – while junior Shannon Smith won the high jump with a height of 5-3 feet.

College of Business

The AACSB-accredited College of Business at Clayton State University is proud to announce its inaugural Summer Entrepreneurship and Business Academy (SEBA) for high school students, a program designed to help prepare students for the future by providing a unique and exciting hands-on learning opportunity. The week-long academy, which will be held from June 10 through June 15 will challenge students to think critically and provides them with a taste of college life. SEBA will be moderated by Clayton State professors from the accounting, finance, management and marketing fields. Topics will include entrepreneurship, business, ethics, free enterprise, teamwork, and personal skills. The brightest business-path freshman through junior level high schools students are invited to participate in the 2012 Summer Entrepreneurship and

Business Academy. All meals are provided for this program and students will stay in student housing on campus for the week. The fee for accepted students is \$695 for the entire week of housing, meals and all SEBA programs. Financial aid and scholarships are available for qualified, selected students.

Continuing Education

CE units in the state now have a new presence on the Board of Regents website. Check it out at: http://www.usg.edu/economic_development/continuing_and_professional_education.

Financial Aid

It's less than a month away... the Third Annual FAFSA Day at Clayton State University... the biggest, most informative event of the year for the Clayton State Office of Financial Aid. For 2012, FAFSA Day will be held on Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in room UC327 of the James M. Baker University Center on the Clayton State main campus in Morrow. The 2012/2013 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is the key document for anyone planning to attend college during the 2012/2013 academic year. Students must complete a FAFSA (or a renewal FAFSA) to receive aid for the 2012/2013 academic year which begins with fall semester 2012, even if they are currently receiving financial aid. For more information on FAFSA Day, contact the Office of Financial Aid. The Clayton State Office of Financial Aid also urges students and future students to check the Financial Aid website, located at: <http://adminservices.clayton.edu/financialaid/>, often for updates.

International Programs

Director of International Programs John Parkerson spoke at Clemson University on Apr. 16 to a class on European Politics about "Hungary and the European Union: the Modern Agenda and EU Reactions."

MALS

Dr. Greg McNamara decided earlier this year to step down from the directorship of the MALS program at Clayton State. The program remains under strong guidance, with Dr. Randy Rosenberg as director. As of the end of this semester, Rosenberg

will be the chief contact person for all procedural and scheduling matters related to the MALS program in addition to serving as major advisor for the majority of MALS students.

SGA

Congratulations to the newly elected SGA officials for the 2012/2013 academic year: President; Rasheen Hunter, Vice-President; Christian Reynolds, Treasurer; Ta-Mia McGruder, Secretary; Joshua Davis, Senators; Chelsea Brock, Aja Coney, Cassandra Henry, Jessica Malcom, Corenza Morris, Tyniequa Mosby, Ines Nzumgang, Tevin Smith, Ronya Williams, Xavier Wilson.

Top 100 Workplaces, cont'd. from p. 1

was completed, Workplace Dynamics ran a series of statistical tests to look for questionable results to see if disqualifications were needed.

From those results, Workplace Dynamics compiled the top 20 large (500 or more employees), top 30 midsize (150 to 499 employees) and 50 small (149 or fewer employees) workplaces.

For more information, go to www.ajc.com/business/topworkplaces. ■

\$3.66, cont'd. from p. 2

"The board and I are very sensitive to the present economic realities facing our students and parents," said University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckabee. "We are thankful for the actions of the Governor and the General Assembly of fully funding the formula; it allows us to take a very conservative approach to current tuition. It also helps us maintain accessibility and affordability as we pursue increasing college completion rates across the state." ■

Caillouet Essay Chosen for National Award

An essay written by Dr. Ruth Caillouet, chair, Department of Teacher Education and associate professor of English Education at Clayton State University, has been selected as the recipient of a national award.



Dr. Ruth Caillouet

Multicultural Literature, held at Kent State University each spring.

Caillouet's article, "To Be Young, Gifted, Black, and Lesbian: Wyeth and Woodson, Models for Saving a Life," was selected as the recipient of the 2012 Virginia Hamilton Essay Award.

The Virginia Hamilton Essay Award was established in 1991, and recognizes a journal article published in a given year which makes a significant contribution to professional literature concerning multicultural literary experiences for youth. The award is given annually at the Virginia Hamilton Conference on

The Essay Award for each year is announced in the year it is selected but presented the following year. As the award recipient Caillouet will receive a plaque, a \$100 honorarium, \$250 toward

her travel, and an invitation to the 2013 conference, to be held at Kent State on Apr. 4 and Apr. 5, 2013.

The Virginia Hamilton Conference Board reads numerous articles each year before selecting that one that they feel deserves recognition. For more information on the conference check the website at <http://dept.kent.edu/virginiahilton-conf/>. ■

Award Winners of the 2012 Student Leadership & Involvement Awards Program

The 2012 Student Leadership & Involvement Awards Program was a huge success. Thank you to the faculty, staff, student leaders and student organizations who were in attendance at the ceremony

Congratulations to the 2012 award recipients:

Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award for a Sorority - Sigma Sigma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award for a Fraternity - Beta Beta Beta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Outstanding New Student Organization of the Year - Alpha Phi Sigma - Criminal Justice Honors Society

Outstanding Student Organization of the Year Award - Gay-Straight Alliance

Outstanding Activity/Program of the Year Award - Fall Festival for Foster Families - Alpha Phi Sigma

Outstanding Collaboration Activity/Program of the Year - Delta Sigma Theta & Kappa Alpha Psi - Crimson & Kream Week 2012

Outstanding Community Service Activity/Program of the Year - Student Leader: Michelle Reeves / Student Organization: Gay-Straight Alliance - Annual Drag Show

Student Organization Advisor of the Year - Dr. Lisa Holland-Davis

Excellence in Student Involvement Award - Joshua Davis

Laker Vision Award - Krystal Allen ■

Smith Awards, cont'd. from p. 2

although I never look for recognition," he said about his nomination. "There is a lot of work and industry research involved in determining what to stock that will help our students succeed. This proves that hard work does not go unnoticed. The Loch Shop is my life. I eat, sleep, and breathe this store."

The rest of this year's nominees from the faculty were: from the College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Kurt-Alexander Zeller and Dr. Erica Gannon; from the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences, Dr. Muhammad Rahman; and from the College of Business, Dr. Reza Kheirandish

The finalists for the Smith Staff Award were: from University Health Services, Dr. Julia Spinolo; from the Office of Financial Aid, Patricia Barton; from Department of Facilities Management, Eric Bailey; and from Continuing Education, Seth Davis.

For ceremony photos, please see page 10 of this issue of "Campus Review." ■

Clayton State Celebrates its Scholarship Donors and Recipients

by John Shiffert, University Relations

Clayton State University students and donors gathered together last week to celebrate at the annual Scholarship Recognition Luncheon, held in the Harry S. Downs Center.

An event that celebrates both the donors of scholarships, and the recipients of those scholarships, the Scholarship Recognition Luncheon has been a regular event for the Clayton State University Foundation for several years. This year's event was sponsored by Freeman, Mathis & Gary LLP, and featured speakers from the Clayton State administration, the Foundation, scholarship donors, and scholarship recipients. The entire group was greeted at the start of the program by Clayton State President Dr. Thomas J. Hynes.

"These students justify our faith in them," he said of the scholarship recipients. "They represent a great investment in this area and the state's future."

Also among the speakers was Clayton State Emeritus Professor of History Dr.

Eugene Hatfield, representing the scholarship donors in his capacity as the president of the Clayton State Retirees Association (CSRA), which has funded an endowed scholarship for Clayton State graduate students.

"When I see these students, I see a long line of other students who earned scholarships at Clayton State," he remarked. Hatfield has a particularly good perspective on scholarship students, since he was also the first director of the Clayton State Honors Program, starting in 1996.

Three scholarship recipients were featured speakers among the students attending the luncheon. They were: Khalid Rajahn of Jonesboro, a freshman math major who is also in the Honors Program and who has earned the Michael Edmondson Scholarship; Adelene Panlilio, also of Jonesboro and the Honors Program, who is a nursing major with the Alice J. Smith Scholarship; and Jacob Caldwell of McDonough. Caldwell, a music major, is one of the 2011/2012

Presidential Scholars, and spoke memorably, noting that his high school choir sang at Spivey Hall when he was in ninth grade.

"Music is my passion, I've loved it all my life," he said. "I fell in love with Spivey Hall. I love doing what I'm doing and the music program at Clayton State is excellent. Time well spent is more valuable than anything else."

Following Caldwell on the program was Leonard Moreland, chair of the Clayton State Foundation, who picked up on Caldwell's passion.

"It's on a campus like this that dreams occur," he said. "As we go through life dreams evolve into reality. One of the roles of the Foundation is to make dreams become reality." ■



Alumnus Kristina Ashley Bjoran Featured in Scientific American's SA Incubator

by Ciji Fox, University Relations

Scientific American has a regular feature on its website, "SA Incubator" that profiles "the next generation of science writers and journalists." As it turns out, one of that next generation is Clayton State University alumnus Kristina Ashley Bjoran, a native of Stockbridge, Ga., who has already had two articles published by the distinguished scientific journal.

According to the Scientific American website, <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/incubator/2012/04/10/introducing-kristina-ashley-bjoran/> SA Incubator is "a series of Q&As with young and up-and-coming science, health and environmental writers and reporters. They have recently hatched in the Incubators (science writing programs at schools of journalism), have even more recently fledged (graduated), and are now making their mark as wonderful new voices explaining science to the public."

Bjoran graduated summa cum laude from Clayton State in December 2009 with a B.A. in English with an emphasis in writing (specifically, creative writing.) She came to the University as a homeschooled student, thus she had very little in the way of school records.

"I had SAT scores," Bjoran says. "I had sample work. The Admissions Office set my expectations very high for the school. I wasn't let down. While I started off ready to commit to biology and chemistry, I wound up majoring in English; best decision I ever made. The English department was small enough to actually affect change if necessary; it was small enough to actually be a part of, rather than just a piece within it."

People often ask Bjoran why she didn't complete her undergraduate studies at a big name school.

"My answer is simple," Bjoran says. "I got an education from world-class professors in a setting small enough to be a book club meeting. How lucky is that? I felt at home roaming the halls of the Arts and Sciences Building."

During her experience at the University Bjoran says she had several mentors and professors who encouraged her.

"I was able to connect with professors one-on-one, which I'd argue is more valuable than the readings and essays. Though I'm sure my professors wouldn't like hearing that," Bjoran admits.

She adds that three people in particular stand out from her time at Clayton State, though in no apparent order.

"Joe Johnson. Simply put, he's one of my favorite people to this day. I took four grueling semesters of French with him, where he put up with my feeble attempts to speak a beautiful language. But past French - during his time as interim head of the department - he became a friend and mentor. He'd listen to me complain, express fears about my future, and simply shoot the you-know-what. And he taught me to love graphic novels, which is clearly the most impressive thing.

"Next, Susan Rashid Horn. I owe much of my development as a critical writer to her and our work at the Writers' Studio. When I was a sophomore, I decided to apply for a senior internship with the English department; the task - develop a lab where peer tutors could help out fellow students with the daunting task of writing. I played my own small part in helping her and Dr. Hunter, who was head of the English Department at the time, get the Writers' Studio up and running, and I continued to tutor there for most of my time at Clayton State. Susan, like Joe, was a great friend and mentor to me, both professionally and personally. The Writers' Studio became my home away from home, if you'll pardon the cliché.

"Last, but not least, would be Brigitte Byrd. I can't say enough to do this amazing person justice. I was a writing-focused English major, and Brigitte was my thesis advisor. She tore my writing to pieces when I first started in her classes. I thought she hated me... or that I was just an awful writer. I used too many adjectives. And adverbs. And abstractions. My God, what was wrong with me, I wondered? Of course, this is what writers have to put up with, if they want to ever write for a living. Writers are edited. Writers

need to collaborate with people whose opinions they trust. And that is something I deal with every day of my life now.

"Brigitte was also one of the first people I approached for advice about getting into MIT. As my thesis advisor and friend, she talked me through the ups and downs of that application process, and vowed to do anything she could to help. She played a big part in the impossible: getting a homeschooled English major into the world's top engineering school. If that doesn't speak well to her abilities, I don't know what will!

"There were many, many other memorable fixtures of Clayton State, who I can't imagine my life there without; Phillip DePoy, who taught me to love theatre and mystery novels, Kathryn Pratt, who showed me how the grotesque is beautiful in Critical Theory, Greg Flail, who I learned a ton from by listening to him tutor students in the Writers' Studio, and many more I know I'm forgetting."

When Bjoran was, in her words, wandering the halls of the English department at Clayton State, she came across a poster for MIT's Graduate Program in Science Writing (GPSW).

"As a former biology major turned English major, I knew at once this was what I wanted to do," she says.

"She has been an absolutely wonderful student and is a great young person I feel very fortunate to have crossed paths with. I am terribly proud of her," said Byrd, a Clayton State assistant professor of English, at the time of Bjoran's graduation from Clayton State. "I think this is wonderful news and such a great achievement, one which says quite a bit about our English program at Clayton State University."

Since graduating from GPSW, Bjoran has gone on to internships at Technology Review and WIRED, and is now freelancing and blogging. ■



*Happy Retirement,
Dr. Ludley*

Colleagues and friends of Dr. David Ludley gathered on Tuesday, Apr. 24 to wish him a happy retirement. Ludley, who was granted emeritus status at the ceremony, served as a professor of art history and English at Clayton State for 36 years. Congratulations, Dr. Ludley!



The 2012 Smith Awards Ceremony, held Tuesday, Apr. 24, honored faculty and staff for their years of service, recognized those who have recently retired, and celebrated the 2012 Smith Award winners Darius Davis for staff and Ximena Zornosa, who could not attend the ceremony because she was teaching.

Clayton State Joins CollegeWeekLive's AlwaysOn Program

by Penny Brooks, Recruitment and Admissions

Clayton State University is now part of the new AlwaysOn Program with CollegeWeekLive, a free online service website designed to connect prospective students with colleges and universities in a live interactive environment.

Previously, Clayton State had participated in CollegeWeekLive's international online college fairs and open houses. These events over the past two years have resulted in thousands of prospective students and their parents from around the nation and the world learning about

Clayton State's programs, admissions process and student life. In January, 2012, CollegeWeekLive initiated a new program designed to enable colleges and universities to reach out to prospective students online on a more regular basis.

Through AlwaysOn, Clayton State will maintain a "virtual booth" with a variety of videos, weblinks, and online documents that prospective students and their parents may research at their convenience, any day or time of the week. In addition, Clayton State will conduct regu-

larly-scheduled text chats focused on various admissions-based and academic-based topics. Students who participate in the text chats will be able to ask questions or make comments and get instant feedback from admissions counselors.

To find out more about CollegeWeekLive or to visit the virtual Clayton State University booth, prospective students and parents should register at www.collegeweeklive.com. ■

MAT English Students Present at National Council for Black Studies Conference

Two Clayton State Master of Arts in Teaching English graduate students recently presented at the National Council for Black Studies conference in Atlanta. Matt Bland presented a paper entitled "Sharing the Educational Load: Issues and Solutions for African American Male Motivation in High School." Deidre Rossell presented "Sara Baartman to Black Barbie: Debunking the Negative Labels Assigned to African American Women."

Bland, a resident of Rex, Ga., says that his presentation attempts to address some of the challenges that teachers face in a contemporary and convoluted educational system while providing possible solutions which place the accountability on a three-part structure.

"Only when we diligently confront and seek answers to the problems that we have

will we find solutions to the needs of African American males who desperately need our help," he explains.

"One of the more challenging and confusing factors in the 21st century classroom is the level of student motivation," reads Bland's abstract for his presentation. "Over the last 10 years, studies have found that African American males in public high school have drastically lower achievement scores than their minority counterparts. While the reasons for these appalling numbers vary from one student to another, the common bond that connects each troubled case is student motivation. Despite the rising challenges to public education, African American males have been adversely affected compared to other student populations in the same setting. Part of the problem deals with issues beyond our control as educators, but I am convinced that there is something we can

do to positively influence African American males to succeed even with the turmoil surrounding their lives.

"In the shadow of No Child Left Behind and the mounting expectations for the promise of performance-based compensation from Race to the Top, teachers are facing difficult odds in doing their jobs effectively. As administrations, state initiatives, and national standards demand more from teachers and students under strenuous situations, it is imperative that parents, students, and educators be on one accord for the benefit of the child. Each element plays an essential part in the well-being of the student and without all pieces firing together, the entire support system will fail." ■

Hopper, cont'd. from p. 3

I am not alone in this career path," says Pichardo.

"During the conference, Sheryl Sandberg's speech had the most impact on me. She gave me reassurance I was in the right place and doing the right thing in becoming a technical woman," says Duenas.

The students were accompanied by CIMS faculty member Mary Hudachek-Buswell. Gardner and Duenas are computer science majors, and are recipients of the 2011/2012 CREU Grant for undergraduate research. Angulo and Pichardo are information technology majors who shared a first-time experience at the conference. Angulo, Duenas and Pichardo are

Hispanic and participated in several important sessions focused on retaining Hispanic women in computing. ■

Life's Transitions

Professor Emerita Dr. Martha Wood

by John Shiffert, University Relations

Clayton State University is mourning the passing of one of its original faculty members. Dr. Martha Wood, professor emerita of Mathematics at Clayton State, and a member of the faculty at Clayton Junior College when the University first opened its doors in 1969, passed away Apr. 18 after a long battle with cancer.

Along with her husband, James M. "Jim" Wood, Jr., Martha Wood has been a pillar of the Clayton State and Clayton County community for the past 43 years – the length of the Wood's residence in Forest Park.

In addition to Martha's long years of service on the Clayton State faculty, Jim Wood is the sole remaining founding member of the Clayton State University Foundation Board. In 2010, the Wood's sons set up special funds in the Clayton State University Foundation honoring both parents individually, monies which are designed to benefit and promote faculty and staff improvement at the University.

The purpose of the Martha Wood Faculty Development Endowment Fund is to support professional development for Clayton State University faculty seeking to improve their teaching expertise, while broadening their knowledge of teaching theory. Two \$1,000 scholarships and one \$500 scholarship are awarded annually to any full or part-time faculty with at least one year of teaching at Clayton State who meet the qualifying criteria. Recipients



The Wood Family

are required to submit a written report upon completion of their professional development activities.

The Woods, as well as their family, friends, and business associates, have also donated to the Clayton State College of Business to create an endowed fund for the James Wood Lecture Series, which financially supports the efforts of the College of Business to seek and obtain guest lecturers who are some of Georgia's most celebrated business personalities.

As the lone remaining founding member of the Clayton State University Foundation's Board of Trustees, Jim Wood has watched Clayton State grow from an idea, to a junior college, to a four-year college, to a state university. On Saturday, May 7, 2011, at the University's annual Spring Commencement ceremony, Jim Wood was presented with a Doctor of

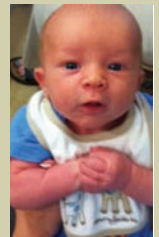
Humane Letters by Clayton State President Dr. Thomas J. Hynes, in recognition of his long career in public service and journalism.

Possibly the most visible of the Wood's work in the community is the Tomato Sandwich Party. For more than 30 years the Woods have hosted the Tomato Sandwich Party fund raiser, usually in early August, offering tomato sandwiches along with entertainment and good fellowship. Martha Wood is also the founder of the Southeastern Center for the Enhancement of Learning, while Jim Wood is a former owner/publisher of the Clayton News Daily.

In addition to her husband, Martha Wood leaves four sons and six grandchildren. ■

Congratulations!

Shannon Crupi, web support specialist in the Office of Image & Communications, welcomed Ian Chase Crupi at 9:52 p.m. on Monday, Apr. 2. Ian weighed 7 lbs 12 ozs and was 19 inches long. Mom and baby are doing great. Congratulations to Shannon!



Dr. Madeleine Eulalie Duvic St. Romain

Dr. Madeleine Eulalie Duvic St. Romain, 79, of Stone Mountain, Ga., passed away on Apr. 21, at Hospice Atlanta.

A professor in the Clayton State Developmental Studies Department from Sept. 1, 1978 to Aug. 11, 1998, Dr. St. Romain also worked part-time for the University after her retirement, and was a dues-paying member of the Clayton State

Retirees Association. She is survived by eight children; Madeleine St. Romain (Atlanta), Joan St. Romain Watkins (Lovettsville, Va.), Stephen St. Romain (Trenton, N.J.), Edward St. Romain (Talking Rock, Ga.), Louise St. Romain (Hendersonville, N.C.), Robert St. Romain (Ft. Myers, Fla.), Theresa St. Romain (Stone Mountain, Ga.), William St. Romain (Stone Mountain, Ga.), 14

grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Dr. St. Romain received her doctorate of Education from Syracuse University and was active with St. Vincent de Paul at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Stone Mountain. ■



The Women's Forum Scholarship Luncheon was held Thursday, Apr. 26. Guest speaker Ronda Rich spoke to a record number of attendees. Congratulations to the following Women's Forum Scholarship Recipients: Anna Marie Byers, Esther Goss, Shelley Grant, Robin Jackson, Tara Lindsay, Debra Ann Martin and Diana Peters.

Charles, cont'd., from p. 2

Throughout the year-long program, she will have the opportunity to broaden her perspective and enhance her recognized leadership skills as the program visits three of our nation's key cities.

"Each city's agenda will feature some of our nation's key decision-makers and future-forward thinkers who will provide our participants cutting-edge information to inform their professional and community leadership for years to come," says Martha P. Farmer, founding and executive director of Leadership America, now in its 25th consecutive year.

Launched in 1988 as the first nationwide program for women's leadership development, Leadership America is patterned after its sister program, Leadership Texas, and is run by the Texas-based Women's Resources.

"We are excited to have Leadership America back under the umbrella of

Women's Resources" says Candace O'Keefe Mathis, CEO of Women's Resources. "Leadership America was started by our founders to allow women leaders the ability to expand their grasp and influence on the issues surrounding our nation and the globe."

The theme for the 2012 program year is 'Leading Into the Future...Changing the World for the Better.'

"Participants will visit Washington D.C., San Francisco and Houston, where each city's opportunities and challenges will illuminate the participants' knowledge and stretch their visions as they consider the future for America as a global leader; the future for national and global consensus; and the future for global business and the economy," Farmer adds. "We consider it a privilege to assemble these influential women leaders from a broad diversity of professional and personal backgrounds and provide them opportunities to consid-

er new modes of listening; to seek new perspectives; and to imagine new collaborations that will provide new solutions to the challenges of today's interconnected global society. We recognize it is necessary for today's successful leaders to understand the cultural, social and economic shifts confronting all nations. The Leadership America experience informs, influences and inspires these women leaders to shape the future of our evolving nation and ever-changing world."

Leadership America is a program of Women's Resources. Established in Austin, Tex., in 1974, Women's Resources seeks to advance the power of leadership and legacy through programs that connect, inspire, empower and honor women. ■

Second, cont'd., from p. 3

(Hapeville), Michael Ngo (Morrow), Jarvis Turner (Morrow), and Tony Yaacoub (Beirut, Lebanon). Bennington, Ngo and Yaacoub won second place in the Problem Solving Competition, coming in second to Georgia Tech. The Clayton State team beat out teams from Georgia Southern, Kennesaw State, Savannah State, and Macon State, as well as others.

"Our math majors are awesome!" proclaims Raridan. "This is the third mathematics conference I have attended in which our students have given talks this semester, and every time I see a marked improvement in their presentations."

Bennington, Ngo and Yaacoub, along with Bartlett, each gave 15 minute presentations at the conference as well.

Bartlett, a senior mathematics and chemistry double-major, presented results from his Capstone Project entitled "On some relations between chemical indices of trees." Bennington, a freshman mathematics and computer science double major, presented results from his research entitled "Newton's Method and Fractals." Ngo, a sophomore mathematics major,

presented results from his research entitled "On new bounds for the monophonic number of Cartesian products of graphs." Yaacoub, a senior mathematics major, presented his results from his Capstone Project entitled "On Cartesian products of graphs and the Roman domination function." Bartlett, Yaacoub, and Ngo are collaborating with Krop and Bennington is working with Raridan. The conference program can be found at http://math.georgiasouthern.edu/math/eumc/2012_EUMC_Program.pdf.

"I feel that going to conferences really helps expose students to the 'big picture' of mathematics," says Ngo. "I enjoy presenting at math conferences because the feeling you get after you present, and you know you did better than last time, is really reassuring. Ngo continued, "I wasn't too surprised that we placed second in the Problem Solving Competition — it shows that Clayton State is more than competitive with other universities."

"I liked the campus and the conference was very organized," adds Turner. "Students need to be given the opportunity to share their research. As a senior

preparing my Capstone Mathematics Project, I found it very helpful to see other students presenting. I even picked up a few tips on how I should present. Scientific talks are different in many ways from other presentations, so anyone who wishes to present or improve on their skills should attend conferences."

The students' travel was funded through the Clayton State Math Club budget and from travel funds provided by CIMS. The students and the professors would like to offer special thanks to the Student Fees Advisory Board, especially Dr. Elaine Manglitz, and to Brandi Davis and Felisha Whitehead in the Department of Student Affairs, for all of their help and support. In addition, they would like to thank Dr. Anthony Giovannitti, Mathematics Department chair, and Dr. Lila Roberts, dean of CIMS, for providing additional support for travel to conferences. ■

MAA-SE, cont'd., from p. 3

more conferences, and hopefully present my own work at those conferences. I think attending and participating in conferences like the MAA-SE are essential to the development of all future mathematicians.”

In addition to fielding the first Math Jeopardy Team, the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences at Clayton State had four students who gave 15-minute talks concerning their undergraduate research. Bartlett and Yaacoub, both seniors, presented results from their respective Capstone Projects entitled “On some relations between chemical indices of trees” and “On Cartesian products of graphs and the Roman domination function.” Morales-Beale, a junior, presented her research on the psychology of learning mathematics entitled “Little Man Tate and Other Great Minds.” Ngo, a sophomore, presented results from his research entitled “On new bounds for the monophonic number of Cartesian products of graphs.”

Bartlett, Yaacoub and Ngo are working under the direction of Dr. Elliot Krop and Morales-Beale is working with Dr. Kelli Nipper. Both professors are faculty in the Department of Mathematics in the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences. The abstracts for the talks can be found at <http://sections.maa.org/southeastern/maase/conference/presentationabstract.pdf>.

“The MAA-SE conference was a great experience,” says Bartlett. “I enjoyed not only presenting my research and having the opportunity to become comfortable speaking in front of others, but also getting a chance to hear about undergraduate research projects from other students from around the southeast. I hope that opportunities such as attending undergraduate research conferences will continue to be made available to all students who show interest.”

“I am very proud of the students who presented—it is a testament to the dedication

of the Math Department’s faculty that we would have so many students prepared to share their research at such a well-respected conference,” adds Raridan. “And to see so many students willing to volunteer their time, many of them giving up their Spring Break, only reiterates the desire that our students are showing for attending mathematics conferences.” ■

Research Conference, cont'd., from p. 3

Bartlett and Yaacoub, both seniors completing their Capstone Research Experiences, and Ngo, a sophomore, are collaborating with Krop. Bennington, a freshman, presented a poster entitled “Newton’s Method and Fractals,” which is a joint project with Raridan. The abstracts for the talks can be found at http://paws.wcu.edu/despeaux/SMURCHOM_VI/Schedule_files/smurchom_vi_program.pdf.

“It was nice to visit Western Carolina University -- the weather was so beautiful -- and I enjoyed presenting my research to people who are interested in the subject,” says Yaacoub.

“It is clear to me that opportunities like this have a significant impact on student interest in mathematics and in research in general,” says Raridan. “This active learning, this active engagement in the discipline, will motivate these students to work a little harder in class because they’ve seen what can be achieved by their peers.”

Ngo reiterated this sentiment.

“Traveling to SMURCHOM gave me a different outlook on the history of mathematics,” he says. “The conference was well-planned, and I got a chance to try rock climbing on campus. Everyone who was involved showed a high degree of appreciation of math and it made the conference more enjoyable and more memorable. I will definitely come back to SMURCHOM.”

The students’ travel was funded through the Clayton State Math Club budget and from travel funds provided by CIMS. The students and the professors would like to offer special thanks to the Student Fees Advisory Board, especially Dr. Elaine Manglitz, and to Brandi Davis and Felisha Whitehead in the Department of Student Affairs, for all of their help and support. In addition, they would like to thank Dr. Anthony Giovannitti, Mathematics Department interim chair, and Dr. Lila Roberts, dean of CIMS, for providing additional support for travel to conferences. ■

Trivia Time

The Single Bullet Theory

by John Shiffert, University Relations

One of the most controversial postulates in American history is the single bullet theory of the JFK assassination, said theory being that one bullet not only caused the President’s non-fatal wound, but also then struck Texas Governor John Connally.

Whether or not you wish to believe the single bullet theory, or if you’re more into conspiracy theories, one aspect of the assassination that is not in question is who came up with the single bullet theory; a junior member of the Warren Commission who was, at that time, an assistant district attorney in Philadelphia. His name was, and still is, for that matter, Arlen Specter. Although Specter’s role in this drama has been well-documented over the years, only Rob Taylor, Jill Ellington, Brett Reichert and B.D. Stillion had the correct answer.

Speaking of controversial presidential moments, who was the only senator to vote something other than “guilty” or “not guilty” in the Clinton impeachment trial?

Send your answer to johnshiffert@clayton.edu ■

Sports

Marie Cercelletti Selected All-Peach Belt Conference for Tennis

by Lee Wright, Sports Information

Clayton State's Marie Cercelletti was the lone Laker selected for the Peach Belt Conference's 2012 All-Conference team for women's tennis.

Cercelletti, a senior from Domvallier, France, was a second team All-Peach Belt Conference selection in singles, marking the first time she has earned an All-Conference honor for her Laker career.

The 2012 All-Peach Belt Conference team was voted on by the conference's head coaches.

Cercelletti has been a bright spot this season in what has been tough for Clayton State. She finished 13-6 overall in singles, playing mostly in the No. 1 and No. 2 positions after the Lakers suffered season-ending injuries to junior Ivana

Krommelova and freshman Hannah Keeling. In Peach Belt Conference regular season play, Cercelletti finished 9-3 in singles.

For her career, Cercelletti is 62-19 overall in singles with a winning percentage of .765, seventh all-time at Clayton State in terms of singles winning percentage. ■

No. 11 Clayton State Falls 5-0 Against No. 7 Columbus State in Peach Belt Conference Tournament

The Clayton State Laker women's tennis team dropped a 5-0 decision to Columbus State in the quarterfinals of the Peach Belt Conference Tournament.

The defeat dropped Clayton State, ranked 11th in the nation, to 7-13 overall. Seventh-ranked Columbus State improved to 24-1.

Down two players due to injury, Clayton State was forced to default matches at No. 6 singles and No. 3 doubles. Clayton State then dropped two doubles matches as Martina Dedaj and Jessica Budd dropped an 8-1 decision at No. 1 to Columbus State's Paola Cigui and Milica Tomic, and Marie Cercelletti and Charlotte Fabricius fell 8-1 at No. 2 to the

Lady Cougars' Carolin Weikard and Olivera Jokic.

The match concluded at No. 1 singles as Cercelletti dropped a 6-1, 6-1 decision against Cigui. ■

Smith Meets NCAA Provisional Qualifying Mark at Coach "O" Invitational

Two weeks ago, Shannon Smith wasn't even a part of the Clayton State Laker women's track and field team. Now, she is on the cusp of an NCAA Division II national championship opportunity.

Smith reach the NCAA Division II provisional qualifying mark in the high jump on Saturday at the Coach "O" Invitational at Troy, Al. Smith, a junior center on the nationally-ranked Clayton State women's basketball team, finished third overall, clearing a height of 5-6.25. The NCAA Division II provisional qualifying height is 5-6.

Laker head coach Mike Mead believes Smith needs another two inches to solidify a berth for her in the 2012 NCAA Division II National Championships next month. She had two opportunities at 5-8.5

on Saturday, but scraped the bar both times.

Overall, Clayton State had six Top 10 finishes for the meet and finished ninth overall in the 13-team field with 18 points.

The men's track and field team closed out the 2012 season on Saturday by finishing sixth overall at the Coach "O" Invitational.

In a meet dominated by Division I teams, the Lakers recorded 36 points and had two individual and relay victories for the in the 13-team meet. Clayton State had the top finish of all the Division II programs participating.

Clayton State recorded victories in the 800-meter run and the 4x400-meter meter

relay. Junior Ayrton Acuze won the 800-meter run with a time of 1:53.23. The Clayton State 4x400-meter relay team of Acuze, Ricky Fort, Shelby Russell and Edlin Veras also won with a time of 3:19.60. ■

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