President’s Corner

Dr. Carlton E. Brown Named to List of 100 Most Influential Atlantans

Clark Atlanta University President Dr. Carlton E. Brown was recently named to the Atlanta Business Chronicle’s list of “100 Most Influential Atlantans,” and is featured in the June 19-25, 2009, special section of the publication.

The leaders named to the prestigious list are selected by the Atlanta Business Chronicle’s editors and have been deemed to be leaders that wield tremendous influence in a multitude of ways. According to the editors, the pervasiveness of the leaders’ influence is felt by residents, businesses and organizations across Atlanta, the state, the nation and the world.

Brown joins a list of many leaders of Atlanta business, education and government such as Mayor Shirley Franklin; Atlanta City Council President and CAU trustee Lisa M. Borders; former U.N. Ambassador Andy Young; Governor Sonny Perdue; Philanthropist Bernie Marcus; Dr. Louis Sullivan; Developer Herman Russell; former Georgia Pacific CEO Pete Correll; Atlanta Falcons owner and CEO Arthur Blank; and many more of Atlanta’s top decision makers.

President Brown Named First Recipient of Prestigious UMass Award

President Brown was recently named the first recipient of the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s Norma Jean Anderson Award for Leadership for Diversity. Brown delivered a lecture, “In Search of Transforming Education,” prior to the award ceremony on Monday, May 4, 2009, in the Massachusetts Room of the Mullins Center at the University.

The award recognizes leadership in promoting diversity in education through research, practice or policy.

According to Christine B. McCormick, dean of the School of Education at UMass Amherst, Brown was selected as the first recipient of the Norma Jean Anderson Award for Leadership for Diversity due to his constant and steadfast belief in and action towards accomplishing access and equity in education.

Brown earned his doctorate in education from University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1979, with emphasis on multicultural education and educational change.

Institutional Advancement and University Relations

AT&T Foundation Makes Final Installment of $1 Million Grant to CAU’s School of Business

Representatives from the AT&T Foundation recently made the final installment, $333,300, of a $1 million gift to the School of Business at Clark Atlanta University. The grant is for graduate scholarships to help support a more diverse technological work force.

“We are steadfast in our commitment to education and work force development. We are pleased to partner with Clark Atlanta University in their efforts to provide scholarship opportunities so they may both educate and develop talented young men and women for the work place of the future,” Dennis Boykin, AT&T regional manager of External Affairs.
Tom Joyner Foundation School of the Month

Clark Atlanta University Named Tom Joyner Foundation School of the Month for October

The Tom Joyner Foundation has selected Clark Atlanta University as School of the Month for October 2009. This designation offers Clark Atlanta the opportunity to increase support for its scholarship programs and build awareness about the University’s Centers of Excellence and other academic initiatives among the more than eight million listeners of the syndicated “Tom Joyner Morning Show.”

Clark Atlanta University (CAU) is one of 11 HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) chosen in 2009 for the Foundation’s School of the Month fundraising program. In the past seven years, the program has raised more than $25 million for HBCUs. CAU has set a $250,000 goal for the campaign, with all monies raised for and by the University earmarked for scholarships.

As a School of the Month, the “Tom Joyner Morning Show” will air segments about Clark Atlanta University and conduct live interviews with members of the CAU community including President Carlton E. Brown, spotlight major national and local CAU donors, and profile scholarship recipients. Throughout the month of October, Tom Joyner will also ask his listening audience to call in donations or to go online to blackamericaweb.com to donate to CAU.

To jumpstart the fundraiser this summer, the Division of Institutional Advancement has developed a series of events and activities to engage alumni, trustees, administration, staff, faculty, students, parents and friends of the University.

“We have to collectively team up to make this [fundraiser] successful and every entity has a role to play,” said Nicole Blount, CAU director of annual and special giving. “As a School of the Month, we hope to leverage our ability to connect with different constituencies. While we want them to consider giving back to the University, it’s important that we engage friends and supporters of the University and make them aware of what’s going on at Clark Atlanta University.”

One of the campaign’s initial activities is the Alumni Chapter Challenge. The Tom Joyner Foundation has pledged to match 50 cents on the dollar for at least 10 CAU alumni chapters that raise a minimum of $5,000 each, for a collective goal of $50,000. All total, CAU has the potential to raise an additional $25,000 through the Chapter Challenge.

Alumni are encouraged to get involved by either signing up to lead a Chapter Challenge or by joining a Chapter Challenge team in their area.

To donate to Clark Atlanta University on behalf of the Tom Joyner Foundation School of the Month campaign, make the check payable to Clark Atlanta University and mail to 223 James P. Brawley Dr., S.W., Atlanta, GA, 30314-4391. Indicate on the memo line that the gift is for the Tom Joyner Foundation School of the Month.

For more information about the School of the Month campaign, call 404.880.8710 or visit www.cau.edu.

President Brown stated, “Our School of Business Administration has for more than 75 years helped shaped some of the nation’s best and brightest business leaders. We are grateful for this partnership with AT&T and for the corporation’s vision for a diverse workforce in a global community. It’s a vision of inclusion that will better position our students and enhance their technological savvy.”

Vice President of Institutional Advancement Aristide J. Collins, Jr. said, “When corporate business objectives meet higher educational opportunities, it’s a win-win situation for both parties. These AT&T scholars will integrate classroom activity and business experiences, preparing for some long-range goals toward leadership positions. Moreover, the scholars will help us recruit perspective MBA applicants for future growth of the school.”

In fact, the School of Business continues to produce one of the largest classes of African-American MBAs in the world, while its undergraduate program is one of the top 10 percent producers of African-American business professionals in the nation.
New Genomics Center at CAU Focuses on Identifying Personalized Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment

CAU Holds Press Conference to Announce Partnership with Georgia Tech

The Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development (CCRTD) at Clark Atlanta University (CAU) is joining forces with the Integrative Cancer Research Center (ICRC) at the Georgia Institute of Technology to establish a Collaborative Cancer Genomics Center (CCGC). The partnership will integrate expertise at both universities that will focus on understanding the underlying causes of prostate, ovarian, pancreatic and lung cancers.

Researchers will also focus on identifying personalized cancer diagnosis and treatment, which will have a significant impact on the field of science and cancer treatment.

The entities involved in the partnership recently held a press conference to announce the collaborative relationship and the creation of the Collaborative Cancer Genomics Center, which will be housed at Clark Atlanta University.

“The molecular, bioinformatic and clinical expertise necessary to move forward with such a personalized cancer diagnosis and treatment program exists at the collaborating institutions,” said Dr. Shafiq Khan, director of Clark Atlanta’s CCRTD. “Establishment of CCGC will complement the existing experimental infrastructure necessary to generate the genomic data required to attain our goals.”

John McDonald, director Georgia Tech’s ICRC, added, “We are particularly interested in developing algorithms that will allow us to use gene expression and DNA sequence data that we gather from specific patients to generate a customized prognosis and optimal therapeutic treatment program for individual cancer patients.”

Under the collaborative agreement, CCRTD will house and operate the CCGC’s high-throughput next generation sequencing instruments. The resulting sequence data will be assembled and analyzed at ICRC.

Patient samples to be examined will be provided by the Ovarian Cancer Institute (OCI) and St. Joseph’s Hospital’s TRIOMPH (Translational Research Initiatives in Oncology for the Management of Personalized Healthcare) program.

Scientists at both GT and CAU will join with clinical experts from OCI and TRIOMPH to interpret and evaluate the resulting data. The goal of the collaboration is the integration of complimentary expertise at the collaborating institutions to bring about a better understanding of the genetic and epigenetic processes underlying prostate, ovarian, pancreatic and lung cancers.

The new Collaborative Cancer Genomics Center is scheduled to begin operation in the fall of 2009.
Black Voices with Jennifer Holiday

Original “Dreamgirl” Jennifer Holliday Joined Cast of “Black Voices: The Hidden Bruises” at Clark Atlanta University July 30

Original “Dreamgirl” Jennifer Holliday was a featured artist in the encore hit presentation of “Black Voices: The Hidden Bruises” from July 30 through Aug. 2, 2009, during the National Black Arts Festival. Presented by the Clark Atlanta University Department of English and the Urban Theater Company of Atlanta, Inc., the play was a fundraiser held at Davage Auditorium in Haven-Warren Hall on the campus of CAU.

Best known for her role as Effie White in the original Broadway production of “Dreamgirls,” Tony Award-winner Holliday said, “Because I am a by-product of African-American theatre and a resident of Atlanta, I felt compelled to step in and help these gifted young students reach higher toward achieving their dreams. Although the recession has affected us all and in every sector, it is now even more important during these difficult times that we as a community make our best effort, both in words and in deeds, to show our youth that we care about them and we believe in their many diverse talents, hopes and dreams.”

Voted “Best Play” in the 2009 CAU Student Life Awards, the production explores the psyche and resilience of African-American children, through song, dance and drama. First presented in March, the work is one of only four university productions invited to the 2009 National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., in August.

“Black Voices: The Hidden Bruises” is a new work, the third and final installment in a trilogy, written by CAU English professor Willie L. Todd, Jr. The first two segments of “Black Voices” received much acclaim and were respectively one of only three university productions invited to the 2003 and 2005 National Black Theatre Festivals.

“We are elated that Ms. Holliday joined us on stage for the Atlanta run,” Todd said. “She is a gem that took our production to a whole new level. I am grateful that she has contributed her time and talent to help us raise funds.”

Broadway’s “Original Dreamgirl” Jennifer Holliday (second from right) receives a Presidential Citation from Aristide Collins (right), CAU’s vice president for Institutional Advancement and University Relations, during the VIP reception for the opening night of “Black Voices: The Hidden Bruises.” The citation from CAU President Carlton E. Brown recognized Ms. Holliday for her support of the University and educational theater. Joining in the presentation are CAU Professor Willie L. Todd, Jr., the playwright, and Dr. Alma Vinyard, chair of the Department of English, which sponsored the production.

CAENS Studies Summer Institute

Each summer, Clark Atlanta University’s Center for Academic Excellence in National Security (CAENS) Studies brings together a top-notch group of Atlanta high school students to research and strategize national and international security issues. This year, students focused on the Haiti food crisis.

The Summer Institute is one component of CAENS Studies. During the academic year, students from Clark Atlanta, Morehouse and Spelman complement their major area of study with sessions at the Center that focus on written and oral communication, critical reasoning, history and information technology. Clark Atlanta is one of 10 universities in the
United States taking part in an initiative sponsored by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to establish Centers that train a diverse pool of individuals to work in the intelligence field.

Dr. Roy George, chair of the Computer and Information Sciences Department, developed CAU’s Center in 2006. “The students did excellent work in bringing out the scale of the problem and the consequent affect on the people of Haiti,” said Dr. George of the 23 participants in the Summer Institute. “They were able to simulate the workings of international bodies such as the United Nations World Food Program, the International Red Cross, United States Agency for International Development, and European Union bodies with remarkable clarity. They conducted simulated negotiations between these bodies to produce a concerted response to the problem. The thoroughness, clarity, and the solution set that these students brought to this complex problem would put many undergraduates to shame.”

On the final day of the 2009 Summer Institute, held from June 15 to June 25, students posed as government officials and organization representatives and presented their simulations. Their presentations will be distributed to the sponsoring agency and also maintained by the Center to showcase the Summer Institute.

Rosa Cromartie, a senior at Booker T. Washington High School who wants to become a forensic scientist, led one of the five student groups creating simulations. “I was a part of the United Nations World Food Program and we researched how we could make Haiti more stable and self sustaining with the help of a better education system and agriculture,” Cromartie said. “The experience was very helpful; it opened my eyes to what is happening around the world.”

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**CAU’s 20th Annual Commencement Exercises**

The Honorable Judge Glenda Hatchett Delivers Keynote Address and Receives Honorary Doctorate during CAU’s 20th Annual Commencement Exercises

The Honorable Judge Glenda Hatchett delivered the keynote address during Clark Atlanta University’s 20th annual spring Commencement exercises, where more than 800 students were awarded degrees on Monday, May 18, 2009, at Panther Stadium.

During her keynote address, Hatchett imparted “Glenda’s Five Golden Rules,” to students:

1. Be grateful. Have a grateful heart and be thankful for what you have.
2. Live with a purpose. Be true to yourself and embrace your purpose with passion.
3. Seek to serve. Be generous with your time, talent and treasure. Your blessings are not just for you to hoard. Give back to CAU because the University needs to keep filling graduation seats.
4. Don’t let the haters steal your joy. You are on the road to greatness. Haters are distractions that keep you from meeting your date with destiny.
5. Know your worth — not your net worth, your spiritual worth. You are more precious than gold and you have to believe that you are worthy to be respected.

CAU President Carlton E. Brown, who presided over the Commencement exercises, conferred an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters on Hatchett during the ceremony in recognition of her distinguished contributions, advancement of humankind, advocacy of children, and extraordinary achievements within her profession.

Hatchett’s connection to Clark Atlanta University spans a number of decades as her father, Paul Hatchett, served on CAU’s board of trustees and on the board of its parent institution, Clark College. Her family’s commitment and contributions to the University are extensive.

The Commencement exercises concluded with Brown charging the 800 graduates to strive for leadership, set long-term goals and to stay connected and engaged with the University.

Prior to the Commencement exercises, Clark Atlanta’s annual Baccalaureate Service for the Class of 2009 took place on Sunday, May 17 at 10 a.m. in the Leonidas S. Epps Gymnasium in the Vivian W. Henderson Center. Bishop Gregory V. Palmer of the United Methodist Church served as the keynote speaker.
Student Affairs

CAU Student Selected for Prestigious Theological Fellowship

Robert King, a religious studies major at Clark Atlanta University, has been awarded an undergraduate fellowship by the Fund for Theological Education. College students from across the United States and Canada selected to receive the fellowship are considering ministry as a profession, demonstrate exemplary leadership skills and hold a minimum 3.0 grade point average.

As a Fund for Theological Education, (FTE) Undergraduate Fellow, King will receive $2,000 for tuition, other educational expenses or a self-designed experience related to the exploration of ministry. In conjunction with the fellowship, King attended the 2009 FTE Conference on Excellence in Ministry, “Becoming Rich Toward God: Pastoral Leadership and Economic Justice,” held in June at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va.

Dr. Philip M. Dunston, interim chair of the Clark Atlanta University (CAU) Department of Religion and Philosophy and director of the Accelerated Interdisciplinary Degree Program, nominated King for the fellowship, which is funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc.

“Robert King is one exceptional young man,” said Dr. Dunston. “When I recruited him into the Accelerated Interdisciplinary Degree Program in the Department of Religion and Philosophy, I knew that we had been blessed with a gifted scholar. His maturity and intelligence far exceed his chronological age. His desire is to create interfaith ministries that will unite people and ensure solidarity among various religious faiths. It is a tremendous honor for our department and Clark Atlanta University to train and mentor a young man who will make enormous contributions to religion and society.”

“The level of accolade was a pleasant surprise to me,” said King, a junior. “I was not aware the fellowship was of such prestige. I am blessed and very pleased to receive the honor.”

In 2009, the Fund for Theological Education (www.thefund.org) presented a total of 167 fellowships to undergraduate, seminary and doctoral students. This year alone, FTE awarded more than $1.5 million in fellowships and program support.

King, a native of Nashville, serves as a chaplain assistant on campus and is a member of the Atlanta University Council of Students, which facilitates programming across the Atlanta University Center to unite students. He is also a member of CAU’s Honors Program. King will spend the upcoming fall semester in Egypt at the American University in Cairo where he will study ancient civilization.

Future plans for King include attending seminary and serving in a parish ministry for the United Methodist Church, after which he would like earn a Ph.D. and pursue his interest in international ministry and ecumenical issues as a professor of international affairs.

Alumni Relations

City of Griffin Renames Road in Honor of Haskell Sears Ward

Haskell Sears Ward (CC ’63) was recently honored by the City of Griffin (Georgia) when the road he grew up on was renamed Haskell Ward Drive in May.

City officials chose to rename Pool Road to Haskell Ward Drive to pay tribute to the Griffin native for his many professional accomplishments and civic contributions to the City of Griffin, the nation and the world. Ward is an expert on development and international affairs and has held high-ranking positions in public service, including his term as the first and only African-American judge in Spalding County (the county seat for Griffin).

Ward and his family moved from another street in Griffin to a housing project on Pool Road while he was still a child. The street from which the family moved had few basic conveniences such as indoor plumbing, central heat and air conditioning. Ward described the tremendous pride that his family experienced upon moving to Pool Road and says that he still cherishes the memories of those years in the housing project.

“I attended an elementary school that was at the lowest socioeconomic level in Georgia and so, for me, this tribute symbolizes the recognition that one is not destined or required to live a life of poverty,” said Ward of the honor. “People sometimes stereotype children who grow up in impoverished conditions but the possibilities to achieve great things do exist regardless of a person’s position or station in life. I hope my accomplishments can serve as an inspiration to others,” added Ward, one of the first graduate students to earn a master’s degree from the African Studies Center at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Ward, who founded Clark College’s first debate team, the Clark College Forum and Forensic Society, currently serves as senior vice president, Government Relations for the Seacom Corporation.

Ward began his career in 1962 as a volunteer in Kenya with Operation Crossroads Africa, a summer work camp program for college students. He became interested in development issues and joined the Peace Corps one year later in 1963, where he was a member of one of the first groups of Peace Corps volunteers posted to Ethiopia.

He has worked for the Ford Foundation in New York City and in Nigeria. Ward was the first African American on the policy planning staff of the State Department during the Carter Administration and served as deputy mayor for human services for the City of New York.

Ward lives in Atlanta with his wife, Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears.
CAU Alumnus and Filmmaker Monty Ross and Spike Lee Honored by Clark Atlanta University

20th Anniversary of “Do the Right Thing,” Presents Opportunity to Celebrate Filmmakers’ Accomplishments, Contributions to the Arts

Filmmakers Spike Lee and Monty Ross (a 1980 graduate Clark College, a parent institution of Clark Atlanta University) were each presented with Clark Atlanta University’s Certificates of Appreciation during a special screening hosted by the Atlanta Film Festival to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the critically acclaimed movie, “Do the Right Thing,” on Saturday, July 11, 2009, at the Fox Theatre.

Ross was a co-producer of “Do the Right Thing,” which Lee directed, produced and wrote.

Ross and Lee, a Morehouse College graduate who took all of his film courses at CAU, were presented with the certificates in recognition of their contributions to filmmaking, the arts and higher education, and were each also presented with a piece of Frabel crystal titled, “Solution.”

CAU continues to provide media education for numerous students in the Atlanta University Center, although those students are enrolled in and graduate from other institutions in the AU Center.

“Clark Atlanta University (then Clark College) was the institution that nurtured Spike’s and Monty’s creativity in the art of filmmaking,” said Aristide J. Collins, Jr., vice president for Institutional Advancement and University Relations, who made the presentations to Ross and Lee. “It was through CAU’s Mass Media Arts program that they learned their craft and developed as filmmakers, producers and actors. The 20th anniversary of ‘Do the Right Thing,’ presented an ideal occasion to recognize their outstanding accomplishments.”

After graduating from Clark College, Ross spent two years collaborating with fellow producers and training young filmmakers, while Lee pursued his interests in directing.

Ross later teamed up with Lee and co-produced several critically acclaimed and award-winning films including “She’s Gotta Have It,” “School Daze,” “Do the Right Thing,” “Jungle Fever,” and “Malcolm-X.”

“I recall Monty and Spike stood out as being very serious and extremely passionate about careers in filmmaking,” said Herbert Eichelberger, interim chair of CAU’s Department of Mass Media Arts and the two filmmakers’ former professor. “Both wanted to make the kind of groundbreaking films that focused on issues that would leave an enduring imprint and an impact on society, and they succeeded.”

Both continue to be committed to mentoring aspiring filmmakers and to providing opportunities for students and new filmmakers to learn and grow as industry professionals, thus the development of 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks Institute. The organization was developed to offer aspiring filmmakers and students opportunities to learn the craft of filmmaking as well as internships.

Ross, who won numerous awards as a producer of films, movies and documentaries, worked diligently to outreach to aspiring filmmakers and continues to teach and mentor new professionals.

Lee and Ross are currently working on individual projects but the New York-based filmmakers continue to collaborate on common interests and projects, when possible.
Clark Atlanta University Gets its Own Specialty Tag

CAU Commemorative License Plate Available Now for 2010

Clark Atlanta University alumni and friends have answered the call to show off the University throughout Georgia streets and freeways with the new CAU commemorative license plate, now available for 2010.

CAU passed the 500 applications needed for a specialty license plate as part of the Clark Atlanta University Commemorative License Plate Project.

“One-on-one contact with dedicated alumni and friends over the years in an attempt to obtain a specialty tag became the driving force for the success of this project,” said Gay-linn E. Gatewood-Jasho, director, CAU Alumni Relations. “In past years, we only missed the mark by a few applications. When more members of the CAU family became aware of this story, they rallied this year to make our goal.”

Marketing components of the project included phone-a-thons, an electronic campaign, assistance from local chapters, mailings and assistance from alumni in the Georgia Tax Commission’s Office.

“Getting the CAU license plate back on the road after a long absence is another benchmark in our alumni and community re-engagement,” said Aristide J. Collins, Jr., vice president for Institutional Advancement and University Relations. “Over the last two years, the University experienced increases in alumni participation in a variety of areas, including giving, involvement in the Alumni Relations Office and connection through alumni chapters; this type of enthusiasm has to be sustained over a period of time so we can move to our next level of institutional advancement. The CAU license plate is a powerful and visible symbol to let the general public know that the Clark Atlanta University family is moving forward. We would like to thank all of the alumni and friends who volunteered to help make this a reality.”

Jazz 91.9 WCLK Celebrates 35 Years

Jazz 91.9 WCLK recently marked 35 years of offering the Atlanta community eclectic music, inclusive news, information and quality broadcasting. To kick off “35 Reasons to Celebrate,” a compilation of live music, community outreach, and fundraising activities, Jazz 91.9 presented a 35th Anniversary Jazz Concert hosted by Actor and Humanitarian Danny Glover.

L-R: Dr. Carlton E. Brown, president, Mrs. T. LaVerne Ricks-Brown, first lady, and Aristide-Collins, vice president, Institutional Advancement, Clark Atlanta University; Wendy Williams, general manager, Jazz 91.9 WCLK; Danny Glover, Jazz 91.9 WCLK 35th Anniversary honorary chair; and special guest Ruben Cannon, producer, Tyler Perry Studios.

L-R: CAU President Dr. Carlton E. Brown greets Actor and Humanitarian Danny Glover, the WCLK 35th Anniversary honorary chair.
CAU View is scheduled to be published six times during the academic year by the 15th of August, October, December 2009 and February, April, and June 2010 by the Division of Institutional Advancement and University Relations. Each issue will include timely information designed to keep faculty and staff informed, engaged and motivated to support CAU’s vision and mission and Five-Year Strategic Plan. Copy deadline: September 30 and November 30, 2009, and January 29, March 30, and May 29, 2010.

CAU View will be distributed electronically to all faculty and staff and will be posted on www.cau.edu. Questions and submissions should be sent to Executive Editor, Jennifer Jiles, jjiles@cau.edu, x8357 or Senior Media Relations Manager, Larry Calboun, lcalboun@cau.edu, x 6040.

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