Six CAU Students Receive Scholarships from Tom Joyner Foundation
Clark Atlanta University is School of the Month for October 2009

ATLANTA (October 21, 2009) -- Clark Atlanta University today announced that six students have been awarded scholarships from the Tom Joyner Foundation as CAU is its School of the Month for October.

The Tom Joyner Foundation’s “School of the Month” initiative raises money for outstanding students at historically black colleges and universities, helping to further their education through scholarships. A new recipient is named twice weekly through the end of the month. To date, the following students have received scholarships:

- Rashida Peaks received the “Single Parent Scholar” award of $1,500, courtesy of the Tom Joyner Foundation and Denny’s. A senior early education major, Peaks is a native of Atlanta and the mother of a 2-year-old. She is a tutor at Parks Middle School, executive secretary of the student chapter of the Georgia Association of Educators, and a parent volunteer at Berean Child Development Center. Upon graduation, Peaks would like to pursue a career with the Atlanta Public School system.

- Jasmeka Battle, a sophomore from Stockbridge, Ga., who is majoring in mathematics, is the second “Single Parent Scholar.” Battle was awarded $1,500 in recognition of
her achievements as a full-time student and dedication to a 4-year-old son. In addition to her academic endeavors, she is heavily involved in community activism. She works tirelessly with Hosea Feed the Hungry and serves as a mentor for other teen mothers interested in furthering their education. Upon graduation, Battle plans to cultivate young talent as a math teacher.

- Julian Dube was named a “Hercules Scholar,” in memory of Tom Joyner’s father. Dube, a senior with a double major in mass media arts and political science, is a member of the African Student Organization and the Gold Key Honor Society. He is passionate about dispelling the gap between African and African-American societies. After receiving his bachelor’s degree, he intends to continue his education at CAU to obtain a master’s degree in political science. He received $2,500 to help attain his goals.

- Rayvon Keith Shelton, a sophomore and journalism major from Chicago with a 4.0 GPA, was the first scholarship recipient. He received the “Hercules Award” of $2,500.

- Teekia Cain is a freshman biology student from Atlanta. She is a full-time student and single parent with an award of $1,500. Teekia is a member of the Student Government Association and volunteers with the Empty Stocking Fund and Hosea Feed the Hungry. After completing her bachelor’s degree, she plans to attend medical school and pursue a career as a neonatal doctor.

- Jerald Washington, a freshman business administration/marketing student from Atlanta, was awarded a $2,500 scholarship. Washington is very active on campus and in the community and is a member of the Clark Atlanta University Honor
Society. He also volunteers with Hosea Feed the Hungry and is a mentor with BFLY, an organization for African-American males. Upon graduation, he plans to pursue a marketing career in the music industry.

Clark Atlanta will receive funds raised from listeners, alumni and other interested parties during the month of October. Throughout the month, the Tom Joyner Morning Show, airing in 115 markets around the country and reaching nearly 8 million listeners every week, will promote the university, while awarding scholarships to deserving students. The school’s goal is to raise $250,000 as a result of the School of the Month selection. CAU’s academic schools, administrative departments, and several of alumni chapters have accepted the challenge to raise funds. Other interested donors can do so at www.cau.edu.

The university has also produced radio and TV public service announcements featuring campus leaders that are airing on campus-operated media, CAU-TV, WCLK-FM and WSTU-FM.

Formed by the nationally syndicated radio personality Tom Joyner, the Tom Joyner Foundation since 1998 has been a major driving force in raising money for historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Joyner, who has an honorary doctorate degree from CAU, said the university was chosen as part of the foundation’s ongoing effort to assist these HBCUs in broadening and strengthening their efforts to raise money to help keep students attending these institutions.
Formed in 1988 by the consolidation of two historic institutions, Atlanta University (1865) and Clark College (1869), Clark Atlanta University is the largest of the United Negro College Fund institutions with an enrollment of nearly 4,000 students. Clark Atlanta University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone 404-679-4501) to award the Bachelor’s, Master’s, Specialist and Doctor’s degrees. The Carnegie Classification lists CAU as a Research University – High Research Activity. CAU is listed as one of the best southeastern colleges by The Princeton Review and has been selected to the Washington Monthly’s 2008 list of best colleges and universities. National business and consumer publications rank Clark Atlanta high among the best buys in American higher education.

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