At the cutting edge!

Firsts of the CAU family...

...the vision unfolds.

At the cutting edge!

CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

PAST REFLECTIONS
PROPEL FORWARD VISION
Celebrating CAU: A Sterling Idea

It is my great fortune to be at the helm of this magnificent institution on the occasion of our 25th anniversary. In 1988, our parent institutions, Atlanta University (1865) and Clark College (1869), consolidated to become what was appropriately characterized as “one exceptional University.”

I am often asked what makes a university great. The question is easy to answer. We pride ourselves on the fact that, despite protracted economic pressures and monumental paradigm shifts in higher education, this institution continues to set high standards for a progressive, student-centered, research-focused, service-oriented university experience.

The better question ponders what makes a university exceptional. I believe we are exceptional for at least two reasons.

First, Clark Atlanta excels in the education of global change agents. We continue to produce leaders of integrity, professional excellence, intellectual depth and social consciousness. But the Clark Atlanta pedigree is such that our leaders do more than lead. They change the game. Our 2013 MBA Case Team, for example, recently topped 30 other national universities to win first-place and $25,000 in this year’s National Black MBA Association/Chrysler Case Competition. That is exceptional!

We also are exceptional in that we have accomplished in 25 years what some have not in a century. On July 1, 1988, Clark College alumnus and Board Chair Carl Ware and Atlanta University Board Chair Thomas Cordy formalized the consolidation of Clark Atlanta University. Thomas W. Cole, Ph.D., that day took office as the University’s first president. Since then, we have prevailed against odds that for many would have been insurmountable. Our innumerable accomplishments include our position as the only HBCU represented in the prestigious Georgia Research Alliance, over half of our student athletes are Dean’s List and Honor Students, and our acceptance of leadership in HBCU sustainability as pushed by UNCF, NAFEO and the Department of Energy. Most important, we continue to equip remarkable young change agents for global service and activism.

Our institutional birthright is steeped in a tradition of excellence spanning three centuries and two converging institutional traditions. In the pages that follow, you will meet a small but exceptional sampling of alumni who represent myriad aspects of the “CAU Experience” over the past quarter century. Each is a unique, and sterling reflection of who we are and, more important, each enlivens Clark Atlanta’s abundant promise of future greatness.

We all must do more to deliver on this promise. And, as your great work on behalf this institution is, in large part, responsible for past and present successes, I am confident we will. In this bright window of time, let us now look to alumnus James Weldon Johnson (AU, 1894), author of “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” to articulate our esprit de corps, honoring our history, affirming our present and harkening our future:

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

Happy 25th Anniversary, Clark Atlanta! Let us indeed march on until new and greater victories are fully won.

Carlton E. Brown
President, CAU
FEATURES

Celebrating CAU: Past Reflections, Forward Vision  
A university is more than bricks and mortar, meeting minutes and archived records. The lifeblood of any institution is its people. As CAU celebrates its 25th anniversary, these 25 alumni reflect upon their unique, diverse experiences and look forward, sharing their visions for CAUs bright future. Photos by Jay Thomas.

Leadership Ledger

Natasha Woody: No Excuses  
44
Lionel Cross: Mixing Things Up at CAU  
45
Milagros Griggs: Fostering Positive Change  
46
Marquez Davis: Taking Care of Business  
47

DEPARTMENTS

University News  
2
Commencement ’13  
12
Faculty Forum  
14
Sports Update  
48
Clark Atlanta University’s Profile Rises in College Rankings

Clark Atlanta University (CAU) in August was listed in the top 650 American colleges and universities by Forbes magazine. CAU ranked 625th and is one of only 16 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to make the national list.

For the sixth year, Forbes partnered exclusively with the Washington, D.C.-based Center for College Affordability and Productivity to produce the list. The magazine looked at the factors of greatest concern to the parties most responsible for footing a bill, prospective students and their families. Considerations included whether or not classes were deemed interesting; likelihood of graduation after four years; amount of student debt incurred; and likelihood of finding a good job in a chosen profession. Visit Forbes.com for the complete listing of top colleges and universities.

In U.S. News and World Report’s September 2013 “Best Colleges” rankings, Clark Atlanta tied with Delaware State University and Florida A&M University as the ninth highest ranked HBCU out of 34 ranked institutions. A total of 69 HBCUs, 35 of which were not ranked, were profiled. To see the U.S. News & World Report rankings, go to http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/rankings/hbcu.

CAU President Carlton E. Brown said that the rankings are yet another affirmation of the University’s ability to fulfill its mission despite ongoing economic challenges, but that “what matters most is each individual student’s academic and co-curricular experience. We take great pride,” Brown added, “in being able to prepare young men and women to become global change agents, one student, one class at a time.”

MBA Graduates Win Innovation Challenge

Clark Atlanta University 2013 MBA graduates Christopher Gladney and Jarvis Robertson in May won a privately held competition that stands to shake things up. The two were selected from a national field of candidates vying for the opportunity to develop a strategic marketing campaign for the Seagram’s national brand.

The competition, called “The Innovation Challenge,” is the world’s largest and most established online innovation competition. For more than 10 years, the brightest and most creative people throughout the world have been matched with leading companies in an experience designed to address pressing business and social challenges. In creating the case for Seagram’s, Gladney and Robertson produced an integrated campaign that encompassed both traditional and non-traditional marketing tactics to increase the company’s market share and optimize its return on investment. The two graduates now are working with company executives to execute the plan.

Dr. Charles Moses, interim dean of CAU’s School of Business Administration, said, “We are delighted with the outcome of such hard work and commitment from our students competing in a two-month project against more than 40 top-tier schools and international MBA programs. This was the University’s first time participating in the Innovation Challenge, and we look forward to future competitions as we continue to train students for global responsibility and leadership.”

Innovation Challenge winners Christopher Gladney (left) and Jarvis Robertson (right).
CAU Inducts 100 Students Into Prestigious First-Year Honor Society

One hundred CAU students were inducted into the University’s newly chartered Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society on May 9 during a ceremony hosted by chapter advisor Cynthia Clem, Ph.D. Phi Eta Sigma is the first and largest honor society devoted to the achievement of the first-year college student. Established at the University of Illinois in 1923, Phi Eta Sigma has chartered more than 365 chapters and inducted more than 975,000 members.

CAU President Carlton E. Brown, a new honorary member of the honor society, said, “The chartering of Phi Eta Sigma at Clark Atlanta University creates an opportunity for recognizing promising scholars, as well as opportunities for student leadership and scholarship within the organization. The induction ceremony was a public acknowledgement of our outstanding first-year scholars, and we are especially proud to have had such a large inaugural class of inductees.”

For more information on Phi Eta Sigma, visit www.phietasigma.org.

CAU Enters Agreement with Barnes & Noble

Clark Atlanta University officials announced July 10 that the University has entered into an agreement with Barnes & Noble College to manage and operate its campus bookstore. The bookstore reopened under new management on July 15.

CAU associate vice president for Business Services Bonita Dukes said the university welcomes this new partnership. “Barnes & Noble is a national leader not only in providing an unparalleled retail experience, but its long-standing celebration of the literary tradition, its expansive catalog of titles and the manner in which the company has embraced technology and made it accessible to a cross-section of readers that aligns perfectly with Clark Atlanta University’s focus on educational engagement, research and discovery,” she said. “I am confident that this relationship will serve our campus community and the broader community well.”

Students and faculty will enjoy a campus bookstore that reflects the Clark Atlanta brand, including a wide selection of school spirit apparel, award-winning NOOK devices and other technology gadgets, as well as gifts for alumni, friends and family. Course materials will be offered in a variety of cost-saving options, including rental, digital, used and new formats, ensuring students have access to the options that best suit their needs. Faculty also will have access to a groundbreaking online community through FacultyEnlight, a streamlined textbook adoption platform that combines advanced search capabilities with detailed information on course material formats, pricing and reviews by other faculty.

Moreover, students will benefit from the new partnership with opportunities to participate in the company’s GenNext Panel. The GenNext Panel is a national, online student insight panel, designed to provide students an opportunity to share their opinions on course material needs and emerging trends on campus to help Barnes & Noble College ensure products and services deliver the utmost value to the student community.

Max J. Roberts, president and CEO of Barnes & Noble College, said, “We’re very proud to have formed this new partnership with a university that has a long tradition of excellence characterized by a focus on the intellectual and personal development of each student. We’re fully committed to providing the Clark Atlanta University campus with a strong and thriving bookstore, dedicated to presenting the latest in educational content and technology and an unmatched retail experience.”

Donor’s Trees Enhance CAU’s Landscape Legacy

As spring 2013 evolved into summer, an anonymous donor gifted CAU with more than 22 trees from the Legacy Tree Project. Valued at $32,000, the trees will help beautify the campus for generations to come.

Bonita Dukes, associate vice president for Business Services at CAU, said, “This generous donation of new trees will help to create a visually engaging atmosphere of permanence on the campus, which is essential to attracting prospective students. This also will provide outdoor ‘rooms’ where classes can meet, colleagues talk, and students play and study. Also, since trees have such an important role in the quality of life, we are especially grateful to incorporate this gift into the University’s livable footprint.”

According to the Arbor Day Foundation, over the course of 50 years, a single large shade tree can generate more than $160,000 in environmental benefits. This includes $31,250 worth of generated oxygen, $62,000 worth of air pollution control, $37,500 worth of recycled water and $31,500 worth of soil erosion control.
CAU is First Private HBCU to Host Phi Kappa Phi

Seventy-five Clark Atlanta University administrators, faculty and students were inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society in May. CAU is the first private historically black college or university to be granted a chapter.

Founded in 1897 at the University of Maine, Phi Kappa Phi has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Since its founding, Phi Kappa Phi has inducted more than one million members and has become a global network. Its mission is to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage its community of scholars in service to others.

CAU President Carlton E. Brown, one of the Phi Kappa Phi inductees, said, “The chartering of Phi Kappa Phi at Clark Atlanta University’s Phi Kappa Phi chapter poses with campus executives, trustees, advisors and faculty inductees.

Clark Atlanta University is the ultimate recognition of the high standard of academic excellence we uphold for our students, faculty and staff. To be the first private historically black college or university to be granted a chapter is a milestone in our University’s history and in the history of the HBCU community. The University owes a special debt to our provost, Dr. James Hefner, who initiated and orchestrated the Phi Kappa Phi application process in a steady and steadfast manner over the last nine months.”

Chapter officers include Dr. Timothy Askew, president; Dr. Bettye Clark, vice president; Dr. Stephanie Evans, secretary; Dr. Jeffrey Phillips, treasurer; and Dr. Hefner. For more information on Phi Kappa Phi, visit www.phikappaphi.org.

CAU Signs MOU with Environmental Defense Fund

Clark Atlanta University officials on July 16 announced that the University had signed a memorandum of understanding with the Environmental Defense Fund to transfer from Wells Fargo Bank to CAU a primary grant that promotes conservation, environmental protection and restoration. The grant was created with funds from the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Special Programs Corporation.

The Building Green Initiative was established at UNCF in 2010 to advance sustainability at minority-serving institutions (MSIs). With the program transition, CAU will now lead the charge to transform 20th century campus infrastructures into living, learning laboratories that foster academic excellence and technological innovation needed to solve complex social, economic and environmental problems.

The initiative also reinforces connections among the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Interior and other governmental agencies to educate MSIs about doing business with the federal government, producing and promoting webinars on energy efficiency, renewable energy technology and various environmental sustainability topics.

CAU professor Olugbemiga Olatidoye, Ph.D., said, “We are excited about the opportunity for Clark Atlanta University to lead this transition to a green economy. The Building Green Initiative promotes interdisciplinary approaches to environmental studies and curriculum, while cultivating students to become global sustainability leaders. Already, major environmental organizations such as Eco-America and Momentus look to this collaboration for participation with historically black colleges and universities.”

A proposal is under review to create a state-of-the-art living, learning energy lab at CAU that would house the Clark Atlanta Center for Alternative, Renewable Energy, Technology and Training (CARET2). Under Olatidoye’s watch, the center will serve as an energy hub where engineers and scientists can engage in cutting-edge research, an incubator that contributes to commercialization, and a faculty network that supports collaboration between the Atlanta University Center and national laboratories.
CAU President Carlton E. Brown proudly joins a delegation in unveiling the long-awaited bust of W. E. B. Du Bois on the Harkness Quadrangle. To Brown’s left are Atlanta City Councilman Michael Julian Bond (left); W.E.B. Du Bois International Conference Chair Stephanie Evans, Ph.D. (right). Facing the statue are Du Bois’s great grandson, Arthur McFarlain (center, foreground) and CAU First Lady T. LaVerne Ricks-Brown (to McFarlain’s right).

After International Buzz, Moment of Silence Marks Du Bois’s CAU Legacy

It was during his days at Atlanta University, now Clark Atlanta University, that scholar-activist William Edgar Burghardt Du Bois wrote his most influential works. A University administrator and professor from 1897-1910 and again from 1934-1944, Du Bois penned The Souls of Black Folk: Essays and Sketches (1903); The Negro American Family (1908); and Dusk of Dawn (1940); and founded the legendary review of then-contemporary social science thought, the Phylon, in the same year. While teaching economics and history and later, chairing the University’s sociology department and organizing conferences, Du Bois authored some 21 works, including poetry and plays. While known throughout social and intellectual circles as a “race man,” much of his work also dealt with his commitment to peace.

The University in February 2012 launched a year-long reading series to study his works, culminating in a February 2013 international conference that brought more than 100 scholars from 40 institutions to CAU’s campus. The conference was scheduled to coincide with DuBois’ birthday, Feb. 23, 1868, and also marked the 50th anniversary of his death. On the actual date of his death, Aug. 27, the University marked his great contributions to its legacy and to all of mankind with a moment of silence. It also launched the Du Bois graduate seminar on Aug. 27.

School of Business Team Sweeps Supply Chain Case Competition for Second Consecutive Year

CAU’s School of Business again took first place during the Institute for Supply Chain Management’s Annual Black Executives in Supply Chain Management Summit’s Case Competition. The event was held in New Orleans, on Feb. 7. Team members Stephen Tolbert, Erica Devieux and David Montogo, all second-year students in CAU’s Supply Chain master’s degree program, received a $5000 prize for their network optimization solution and recommendations for a complex, real-life European company network. The students were coached by Dr. Marcia Daley, assistant professor in the Department of Decision Sciences and assistant professor Su Gao.
In the wake of the Trayvon Martin case and unnerving school shootings around the nation, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder kicked off the University’s inaugural Presidential Lecture on Feb. 7 with remarks on “Rights and the American Polis: Prospects for the Future.” Speaking in Davage Auditorium to a standing room only audience of mostly students, Holder addressed civil rights, voting rights and other issues. He also discussed concerns about the increasingly widespread problem of gun violence. He noted that, in the wake of tragedies that included shootings at the Newtown, Conn., Sandy Hook Elementary School, Atlanta’s own Price Middle School and, of course, the Sanford, Fla., Martin shooting, national leaders are pushing for a practical approach to keeping deadly weapons from falling into the wrong hands.

According to Holder, the nation’s first African-American U.S. attorney general, the government is seeking a means to balance between advocating for tougher gun laws and preserving the rights of Americans. Students attending the event were afforded a rare opportunity to engage in a question-and-answer session with Holder, moderated by CAU Trustee Michael Melton.

Richardson Named American Council on Education Fellow

Charles W. Richardson Jr., Ph.D., assistant professor of marketing in the Clark Atlanta University School of Business Administration, is an American Council on Education (ACE) fellow for the 2013-2014 academic year.

The ACE Fellows Program, established in 1965, is designed to strengthen institutions and leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing promising senior faculty and administrators for responsible positions in college and university administration. Richardson is among 50 fellows nominated by the presidents or chancellors of their institutions, who were selected this year following a rigorous application process.

According to Margarita Benitez, interim director of ACE’s Emerging Leaders Group and the ACE Fellows Program, most previous fellows have advanced to major positions in academic administration. Nearly 2,000 higher education leaders have participated in the program since its inception, with more than 300 fellows serving as chief executive officers of colleges or universities, and more than 1,300 serving as provosts, vice presidents and deans.

Richardson teaches courses in consumer behavior, marketing strategy, multicultural marketing and sustainable marketing. His research has been presented at numerous conferences and published in the Journal of Marketing Development and Competitiveness, the International Journal of Business, Marketing and Decision Sciences and other publications in the marketing and international business disciplines.

Richardson holds a doctorate degree in marketing and international business from Pace University’s Lubin School of Business. He earned an M.B.A. degree in marketing (New York University, Stern School of Business), an M.S. degree in operations research and statistics (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), and a B.S. degree in mathematics and data systems management (Pratt Institute). In addition, he has earned master’s certificates in finance (University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business) and project management (Stevens Institute of Technology).

Moreover, he is co-chair of CAU’s Sustainability Council and has won the “Faculty of the Year” award in the CAU School of Business Administration. His community involvement includes serving as the board chair of The Floral Project, on the board of directors of the Greening Youth Foundation, and on the board of trustees of Keep South Fulton Beautiful.

Prior to entering academia, Richardson spent more than 25 years in the corporate sector, in the financial and telecommunications industries. His experience includes marketing, finance and economic analysis applications, with ten years of work in the international business arena.

The ACE Fellows Program combines retreats, interactive learning opportunities, campus visits and placement at another higher education institution to condense years of on-the-job experience and skills development into a single semester or year.
Clark Atlanta University honored three CAU alumni, a president emeritus and a dear friend of the University on May 18 at the annual Spirit of Greatness Gala. This year’s event, chaired by CAU Board of Trustees Chairwoman Juanita P. Baranco and longtime Trustee Carolyn M. Young, raised more than $115,000 to help fund scholarships for deserving students. The night also featured a live concert by the Grammy Award-winning Isley Brothers, known for such chart-topping hits as “Summer Breeze,” “Shout” and “Who’s That Lady?”

Co-hosted annually with the Clark Atlanta University Alumni Association, the gala also provided an opportunity to honor five distinguished individuals: Dr. James K. Bennett, F.A.C.S, a world-renowned urologist on the front lines of the fight to eradicate prostate cancer; Mary Frances Early, the first African-American graduate of the University of Georgia and the first African-American president of the Georgia Music Educators’ Association; Dr. Helen Gayle, M.P.H., president and CEO of CARE USA, an international humanitarian organization fighting poverty in more than 80 countries; Tharon Johnson, managing director of the international law firm of McKenna, Long & Aldridge LLP, who also served as the national southern regional director for the 2012 Obama for America campaign; and CAU President Emeritus Thomas Cole, a nationally recognized leader in higher education, who served as the first president of Clark Atlanta University.

According to CAUAA national president Devin P. White, “the annual Spirit of Greatness Gala, although only in its fifth year, allows the University to illuminate the sterling cadre of leaders whose professionalism and service elevate our historic mission.”

Dr. Valerie Odero-Marah, associate professor and researcher in the Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development (CCRTD), in April received a new grant of $289,494 from the National Cancer Institute to support her research. Her project, titled “The Role of SNAIL Signaling in Prostate Cancer Metastasis,” will be conducted over the next three years.

African Americans have a higher bone density than any other race. This project will study whether the SNAIL protein found in the human body is higher in African-American prostate cancer patients compared to other races, and whether these cancer cells expressing SNAIL are more attracted to high bone density found in African-American men, resulting in more aggressive prostate cancer.

Several factors, such as SNAIL transcription factor, are associated with epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT), and contribute to motility, invasion and tumor progression. Odero-Marah said, “Understanding the factors that contribute to EMT and prostate cancer metastasis is crucial for the development of cancer therapies. My laboratory focuses on the role of SNAIL transcription factor in prostate cancer progression.”

Dr. Shafiq Khan, director of CCRTD, said, “We are proud of Dr. Odero-Marah and her achievements noted by this prestigious award. The funds will help us continue to develop therapeutic strategies for fighting prostate cancer, bringing us closer to a medical solution.”

Odero-Marah joined CAU in January 2007 as an assistant professor in the Department of Biology and was promoted to associate professor in 2012. She received her bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from the University of Nairobi, Kenya, in 1990. She then obtained her master’s degree in molecular biology at Free University of Brussels in Brussels, Belgium, in 1993. Odero-Marah received her doctoral degree in molecular biology from the University of Iowa in 2001. Her postdoctoral work, under the mentorship of Dr. Leland Chung at Emory University, involved establishing an EMT model for human prostate cancer, a process that occurs during normal embryonic development and epithelial tumor progression.
CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY Campus community gathered on Sept. 16 to welcome the 2013 National Black MBA Association/Chrysler Championship Case Team back to campus after their first-place showing at the Sept. 13 competition in Houston. The team beat out 30 national business schools, defeating Emory University’s School of Business in the finals. They received a $25,000 grand prize for their efforts. Clark Atlanta’s 2012 MBA case team placed second in the competition.

Ruby L. Thompson, Ph.D., professor of reading and English education in the University’s School of Education, is the recipient of a 2013 Vulcan Teacher of the Year Award from the Vulcan Materials Company. Thompson has dedicated nearly 50 years to preparing reading and English teachers. The Atlanta University (Department of English) alumna is the recipient of numerous awards and honors for teaching, and holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Florida A&M University, a master’s degree in English from Atlanta University, and a doctorate in reading education from Penn State University. For the past 19 years, Vulcan Materials Company has through the Georgia Independent College Association (GICA) sponsored a Teaching Excellence Award to deserving faculty members at a number of colleges and universities around the state.

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Pictured left to right are: Interim Dean Charles T. Moses, D.M.; Lynne Patten, Ph.D., team advisor; championship MBA team members Shermika Dunner, Keith Edmonds and Amber Dyess; and President Brown.

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CAU President Delivers 2013 Opening Convocation Address

Clark Atlanta University President Carlton E. Brown delivered the 2013 Opening Convocation address before a standing room only crowd on Sept. 17, in Epps Gymnasium. The annual event marks the beginning of each academic year. This year’s event also celebrated the University’s 25 years of academic excellence, a significant milestone in its historic 292-year legacy. In his remarks, the president highlighted CAU’s continued push toward excellence, despite a “cauldron of change” in the higher education environment.

Jazz Under the Stars Capped Off by Ramsey Lewis Concert

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the annual Jazz Under the Stars concert series, the Clark Atlanta University Guild on May 4 presented the legendary pianist Ramsey Lewis in concert. In addition, the three-time Grammy Award-winning artist, known for hits such as “The In Crowd,” conducted a master class for music students. Founded in 1992, the CAU Guild, a group comprising some of Atlanta’s most influential women, has raised nearly $2 million in scholarships for Clark Atlanta University students in the performing arts.
Aldridge Returns to Intellectual Roots for Founders Day Observance

Clark Atlanta University celebrated its 2013 Founders Day Convocation on March 21 with a keynote address by renowned educator, CAU trustee and alumna Delores Aldridge, Ph.D. One of the most celebrated university professors in the United States with more than 150 awards and citations to her credit, Aldridge earned both the bachelor's and master's degrees from Clark College and Atlanta University, respectively. She has served as the secretary of the University's board of trustees since 2003 and is one of two founders of the University's Aldridge-McMillan Faculty and Staff Awards for Excellence.

Her career is marked by innumerable honors, awards and citations and her research and writing stand as benchmarks for excellence, particularly in the field of African and African-American studies. Aldridge in 1971 became the first African-American woman to receive the doctorate degree in sociology from Purdue University and became the founding director of the first degree-granting Black Studies Program in the South, launched at Emory University, that same year. She administered the program until 1990 when she was named the Grace Towns Hamilton Distinguished Professor of Sociology and African-American Studies at Emory. In 2003, Emory inaugurated the Delores P. Aldridge Excellence Awards, and in 2012, named its Graduate Research Award in her honor. More than 10 other awards from various organizations bear her name.

To read the full text of Trustee Aldridge’s speech, scan the QR code underneath the photo.

The Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development Hosts Ninth Annual National Symposium

The Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development (CCRTD) this year held its ninth annual National Prostate Cancer Symposium, March 18-20, in the Thomas W. Cole Center for Research in Science and Technology. The proceedings were dedicated to Dr. Sidney A. McNairy, a stalwart crusader for the advancement of minorities in the sciences and STEM educational and research opportunities at the nation’s HBCUs.

The annual meeting is the only gathering of its kind in the United States and routinely draws the top cancer researchers from across the nation. Keynote speakers participating in this year’s proceedings included Dr. Curtis Pettaway, M.D., Anderson Cancer Center; Dr. Davis F. Jarrard, University of Wisconsin; Dr. Shuk-Mei Ho, University of Cincinnati; Dr. Donald Tindall, Mayo Clinic; and Dr. Dolores Di Vizio, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (UCLA).

Under the direction of eminent scholar Shafiq A. Khan, Ph.D., CCRTD has a team of 50 research scientists, students and research associates devoted to significantly increasing the body of knowledge on cancer research, particularly as these diseases disproportionately impact African Americans. The center seeks to do this through research, advocacy and community education and outreach. For more information and the program’s agenda, visit www.ccrtd.cau.edu.

CAU Board of Trustees Secretary Delores Aldridge (B.S.W. ’63; M.A. ’66) delivers the 2013 Founders Day Convocation address. www.cau.edu/cmfiles/docs/aldridgetextcopy.pdf
CAU’s CIA Simulation Team Bests AUC Institutions

The Clark Atlanta University CIA Analytic Simulation Team on Sept. 19 won the 2014 CIA Analytic Simulation after a day-long competition against fellow Atlanta University Center schools Morehouse College and Spelman College. The exercise was originally conceived by the agency to offer prospective analysts a sense of what duties at the agency entail. During the simulations, students engage in role play throughout which hypothetical world crises unfold. Teams must quickly digest mock intelligence and, using their expertise and judgment to make decisions, prepare briefings for CIA analysts who role play as U.S. government policymakers. CAU’s winning team this year included students from the schools of Business Administration and Arts and Sciences.

CAU’s Quiz Bowl Team Makes Strong Showing at Annual Honda Tournament

During the 2013 annual Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) National Championship in Los Angeles, the team from Clark Atlanta University made a strong overall performance, ranking sixth out of the 48 historically black colleges and universities that participated.

HCASC is the first-ever academic competition between HBCU students demonstrating incredible intellect and fast recall. CAU has been a part of this program since 1990.

The team members are (front row, left to right) Shayla Harris, Dorian Grace Longshore, Jazmyne Preston and Khadeidra Billingsley. In the back row (left to right) are Keena Jones, Bryson Hodges-Owens, David Chapman and Ayanna Smith. The team is coached by Department of English faculty member Gwendolyn D. Morgan.

Hefner Named Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Clark Atlanta University President Carlton E. Brown announced on May 22 that James A. Hefner, Ph.D., an alumnus of the University, will serve as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. Hefner (AU, M.A. ’53) had served in this capacity on an interim basis since October 2012, following the departure of former provost and vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Joseph H. Silver Sr., Ph.D (AU, M.A. ’77, Ph.D. ’80).
Give the Gift of Membership!

Help those you want to remember make more great memories at Clark Atlanta University!

By giving the gift of membership in the Clark Atlanta University Alumni Association, you allow your family, friends and colleagues to enjoy the best of CAU all year long. They’ll enjoy special discounts, programs, travel opportunities and much, much more!

This is a gift that’s easy to give! No trip to the mall, no gift wrapping, and it’s very affordable!

Give the gift of CAU Alumni Association membership, or renew your membership today!

Visit www.cauaa.org or simply scan this QR code and give the gift of CAU today!

The 2014 Spirit of Greatness Gala

Save The Date!

The Clark Atlanta University Alumni Association, Inc. invites you to attend the 2014 Spirit of Greatness Gala Saturday, March 22, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.

Visit www.cauaa.org for details.
The Honorable Valerie Jarrett, the 2013 commencement convocation orator, challenged graduates to never give up.

Valedictorian Lorin A. Crawford (left) and Salutatorian Tam N. Quach (right) were best friends and roommates throughout their college careers. During that period they pushed each other to excel academically.

Legacy Alumna Edith Arnold Hambrick (AU, ’43) celebrated her 70th anniversary reunion with classmate and revered former professor of Education Pearlie Craft Dove, Ed.D. Behind her are some of the 65 other Golden and Legacy Sons and Daughters who this year celebrated their 50th and 65th class reunions.
President Brown prepares to award the bachelor of arts degree posthumously to Brianna Ford, who was killed in an automobile accident in December 2012. The late art major was represented at the commencement convocation by her sister, Katrina Ford (left); mother, Elizabeth Castro (center); and farther, Rinard Ford.

Clark Atlanta University this year awarded the Doctor of Sciences Degree honoris causa to Dr. Sidney A. McNairy, a pioneering biomedical researcher and advocate for the advancement of African Americans in research, particularly the funding of STEM programs at HBCUs. Left to right are: Dr. Shafiq A. Khan, Ph.D., director of Clark Atlanta University’s Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development; Dr. McNairy; Dr. Shelia A. McClure, National Institutes of Health; and President Brown.

President Brown reminds newly commissioned army officer Herman Lockhart II of the University’s motto, “Culture for Service,” during his charge to the 2013 graduate.

Board Vice President Alex Cummings Jr. (center) awaits the start of the formal program with Honorary Doctorate Recipient Sidney A. McNairy, Ph.D., (left) and the Honorable Valerie Jarrett. Presidential Marshall Laurent P. Monyé stands behind her. To the right are President Brown and Trustee William E. Shuck.

Raphael O. Boyd, J.D., MBA, professor and chair, Departments of Management and Marketing, School of Business, was selected in June 2013 as a Charles F. Kettering Foundation Public Scholar. The appointment is for a two-year term, 2013-2014, focusing on original research addressing the fundamental problems of democracy. Boyd is also a faculty investigator for an ongoing grant, NSF Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST), Center for Functional Nanoscale Materials. He also is serving as a SECRA fellow of the Southeast Case Research Association, for which he was selected in spring 2013 to review and finalize detailed components of various SECRA policies and procedures.

Boyd has co-authored five peer-reviewed journal articles with Lila L. Carden, University of Houston-Main Campus. His first article, entitled “Workplace Bullying: Utilizing a Risk Management Framework to Address Bullying in the Workplace,” was accepted for publication in the Southern Journal of Business & Ethics. “The Workplace: Integrating Corporate Social Responsibility,” was published in the Mustang Journal of Business and Ethics. “Big Brother is Watching! Corporate Monitoring of Employee Social Media in the Workplace,” was published in the Southeast Case Research Journal. “Corporate Citizenship: An Integrated Operational Approach” was published in the Southern Journal of Business & Ethics. An article entitled “Ethical and Legal Considerations for Project Managers” was published in the Mustang Journal of Business and Ethics.

In addition to these publications, he and Carden also presented “The Devil is in the Details: What is in a Contract Does Matter,” to the Southeast Case Research Association, Myrtle Beach, S.C., and “The Workplace: Integrating Corporate Social Responsibility,” to the Mustang Business Academy International Conference, Oklahoma City, Okla.

CAU Art Instructor Hadley Breckenridge is an artist with a Master of Fine Arts in photography from Georgia State University whose work has been featured in exhibitions throughout Atlanta and other cities. Most recently, her installations, The Highball Artist (2013) and “Enterchange” (2011) were featured as part of the Atlanta's Beltline Project, designed to raise awareness of the 22-mile Beltline biking and pedestrian pathway through art and bring unity to the community through common interests as people cross paths.

The Highball Artist, railroad slang for an engineer known for running the train fast, is a minimalist mural with intense color on a large scale, covering the sides and inside of the city’s Lucille Ave. tunnel. The title and design imply that the speed of the train has come out through the tunnel, spilling color down one side of the bridge and exploding out of the other. It is an experience about movement, perspective, scale, time, space and the simple elements of color.

Mass Media Arts professor Shawn Bulloch, Ph.D., in August published an article “An Examination of the Hybrid Implementation of Customized Smartphone and Tablet Applications with Traditional Classroom Instruction” in the International Journal of Computer Applications. He also presented this research at the Texas Southern University Communication Week Conference. Bulloch discussed the use of customized smartphone applications in a classroom setting to enhance pedagogical strategies for instructional and educational technology. His article and presentation included an analysis of how mobile devices can become virtual mobile classrooms in an effort to substantiate the efficacy of using smartphone/tablet applications as supplemental instructional tools.

His work also examines technologies that improve and foster interpersonal skills between students and faculty members within a finite network environment. He analyzed the role of social media in the classroom and the convergence of social media and pedagogy in a
virtual academic community, a synthesis of theory and praxis using the system’s approach. Client- and security-side issues of the customized smartphone/tablet application were addressed as they pertain to networking considerations.


Rebecca Dashiell-Mitchell, Ed.D., adjunct professor in the School of Education, published *I Got My Breath Back*, (www.beccadash.com), and presented the “Collaboration Between University & Community Partnership School Using Digital Storytelling” at the National Association for Peace/Anti-Violence Conference in Atlanta. She also was awarded the biennial Aldridge-McMillan Teaching Excellence Award for Outstanding Adjunct Faculty.

Kelly DeLong, Ph.D., assistant professor of creative writing in the English department, published the novel *The Poor Sucker* in June (Owl Canyon Press).

Philip Dunston, Ph.D., assistant professor and chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy, was a featured panelist on Atlanta-based, WSB Sunday morning show *IN CONTACT*. He and colleagues discussed “The Current State of Black Spirituality.” Celebrating 13 years on the air, *IN CONTACT* is a news and public affairs presentation, owned and operated by the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists and addresses issues surrounding and impacting the African-American community. This episode was one of the program’s most acclaimed to date and has re-aired several times.

Professor Ralph D. Ellis of the Religion and Philosophy Department has been invited to deliver the keynote address for the Mid-South Philosophy Conference at Rhodes College in Memphis in February 2014. This is one of the largest philosophy conferences in the U.S., with 100 or more presentations, each followed by a commentary and discussion.

Ellis also has a forthcoming article in the *Encyclopedia of Clinical Psychology* on “Emergent versus Reductive Theories of Mind and Consciousness.” In his research, Ellis explores recent developments in cognitive theory, and particularly new work on consciousness, that suggest that the old dichotomy of “emergence versus reduction” is now an oversimplification. Instead, he considers a variety of theories that include various degrees of non-reductive physicalism, based largely on the implications of neural plasticity from brain research, and the theory of self-organization coming from theoretical chemistry, biology, and chaos theory. These new trends allow for new ontologies of mind and consciousness that are neither “reductive” in the sense of reduction to push-pull linear causal mechanisms, nor are they necessarily “emergent” in a sense that could entail a counter-scientific metaphysical dualism. Along with the breakdown of the emergence versus reduction opposition, a number of other “us versus them” disputes also promise to lead to less rigid oppositions.


She also presented “Inviting Digitally Native Students to Learn in Higher Education Institutions” at the 2013 International Alliance of Invitational Education in Orlando, Fla. “The Highway to the Ph.D.: Avoiding Roadkill” at the 2013 Southern Regional Educational Board’s (SREB) Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, Alexandria, Va.; and conducted a session on Active Teaching and Learning Strategies there.

Kandace Harris, Ph.D., recently graduated from HERS Bryn Mawr Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration, held this summer at Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Penn. Since 1976 the institute has offered women faculty and administrators the opportunity to participate in an intensive program that prepares them to be leaders in higher education. She and 66
facultty members and administrators, representing 63 institutions across the U.S., engaged in an intensive 12-day curriculum that focuses on knowledge, skills and perspectives for achieving institutional priorities and maximizing institutional resources. In response to the current environment for higher education, this year’s Institute focused on “Women Leaders: Facing the Challenges as We Re-Invent Higher Education.”

Harris joined Clark Atlanta University in 2012 and serves as chair in the Department of Mass Media Arts. Her current research examines the use of social networking sites and mobile applications as a student engagement tool.

Christopher Hickey, professor of Art, has had two drawings accepted in the Fifth Annual Pinnacle National Juried Art Competition at the Foster Tanner Fine Arts Gallery at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Fla. Hickey also is exhibiting two prints in the 2013 Atlanta Printmakers Studio Members exhibit, Printing Matters IV, at the Cultural Arts Council of Douglas County, Douglasville, Ga.

Antoinette Hollis, Ed.D, LPC, NCC, BCPC, assistant professor, recently presented “Ethics for Counselors” at the Racial and Ethnic Minorities with Behavioral Addictions Conference (REMBA) in April, at North Carolina A & T University in Greensboro, N.C. She also presented “Poverty and its influence on addiction and criminality with Black families” at REMBA. Hollis presented “Using games to engage and teach students” and “Teaching and learning with technology: a faculty development approach” at the Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching in February at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Professor Veda Jairrels, J.D., Ph.D., completed a manuscript review for the African Journal of Business Management and a book review for the publication Giving Our Children a Fighting Chance.

The University’s Board of Trustees renamed the CAU Honors Program the Isabella Taylor Jenkins, Ph.D., Honors Program during its February 2013 meeting. Jenkins led the Honors Program for 25 years and now serves as a senior advisor in the School of Education.

Phyllis Lawhorn, assistant professor of English, designed and installed the Hall of Distinction on the first floor of the University’s Haven-Warren Hall. Completed in November 2012, the Hall of Distinction is a collection of eight walls of art and literature created to inspire and empower students, faculty and staff to strive for their highest potential. Positioned above the hall’s east and west entrances, is a quote announcing its purpose: “To all who enter the Hall of Distinction, may the art and literature motivate and inspire.”

Felicia Mayfield, Ed.D., director of Field Services, University Partnerships and Clinical Experiences in the School of Education, presented two Head Start case studies, “From 4 Years to 23 Years Age: Review of Commonly Used Predictors of Student Success” and “Predictors of Success,” at the Institute for the Study of the African-American Child. She also presented Supporting Students with Behavioral Problems to the Georgia Council for Exceptional Children. Mayfield is part of a team recently awarded a $300,000 National Science Foundation capacity building grant, and received $50,000 to administrate the Horizons National Summer Project.


Mickens also delivered three keynote addresses and lectures recently. He lectured on “The Leah-Cosine Function” at the David Blackwell Memorial Lecture Series, Mathematics Department, Howard University, November 2012; “The Scientific Training for W.E.B. Du Bois: Implications for His Future Work,” during a session on health and science at the landmark W.E.B. Du Bois International
Conference held at Clark Atlanta University in February 2013; and delivered the keynote speech, “Maintaining, Acknowledging, and Making Public the Contributions of African American Researchers in Mathematics and Science,” as the David Blackwell – J. Ernest Wilkins Keynote Speaker during the 19th CAARMS Conference at the University of California, San Diego, Calif., July 2013.

Papers of Ronald E. Mickens has been placed in the AIP Niels Bohr Library and Archives in College Park, Md., documenting the period during which Mickens served as program chair, vice-chair, and chair of the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society. A dedicated book, edited by Professor Abba Gumel, is being written in celebration of Mickens’ 70th birthday, chronicling his many significant contributions to applied, numerical, and modeling mathematical activities. This volume will appear in the American Mathematical Society’s Contemporary Series.


Doris Terrell, Ph.D., associate professor in the School of Education, wrote a book chapter in Alleviating Bullying: Conquering the Challenge of Violent Crime, University Press of America. She also is currently working on the publication K12 Bullying Through a Generational Lens, with Ashraf Esmail and Taylor C. Terrell.

Ruby Thompson, Ph.D., professor in the School of Education, is co-principal investigator for a $300,000 National Science Foundation capacity building grant. She also was awarded the Aldridge-McMillan Teaching Excellence Award for Outstanding Faculty. Thompson recently presented Dispositions on Assessment at the Georgia Professional Standards Commission Meeting in Atlanta.


Myron N.V. Williams, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry, created and conducted a bioengineering workshop at the annual meeting of the Ghana Biomedical Convention at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana (www.ghanabiomedicalconvention.org). In the workshop entitled “Build a PCR Machine”, two dozen students and professional researchers assembled an open-source thermal cycler. Best known for their forensic science use in popular crime scene dramas like CSI, a thermal cycler is laboratory equipment used to amplify small quantities of DNA from biological samples to quantities useful for sequencing and manipulation. Although they typically cost upwards of $3000, Williams and colleagues constructed the GBC instrument from a $600 kit. The kind of do-It-yourself ethic that informed this workshop may help make it possible to conduct advanced scientific research in low resourced environments like African universities.

Williams also collaborated with Drs. Darkeyah Reuven, Larry Wang (Physics), Jaideep Chaudhary (Biological Sciences) and others on publication of a manuscript entitled “Supramolecular Assembly of DNA on Graphene Nanoribbons” in the May 29 issue of the Journal of Materials Chemistry B. Work on this manuscript was facilitated by the Center for Functional Nanoscale Materials.

James C. Young, Ed.D., professor and chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, was awarded a Lifetime Scholarship by the National Association of Educators of Young Children. He also co-edited the book Asa – Honoring his life and Work, available through African American Images, Chicago, Ill. He recently wrote two essays, “Gain Knowledge and Losing Credibility” and “Early Socialization and Education.”
A Secret for the Faithful: Cummings Envisions CAU’s Success

When you oversee most of the key global functions for The Coca-Cola Co., every decision counts. The consumer throne upon which the planet’s number-one brand rests is crafted not simply from net revenues — a refreshing $48 billion in 2012, but also from its ability to continuously fine-tune 3,500 products; orchestrate a ubiquitous supply chain; and engage communities from Miami to Myanmar. Beyond retail shelves and its massive supply chain, Coca-Cola is a well-balanced ecosystem in which change in one area affects others. The person responsible for helping to manage these elements must embrace this ideal in a way that transcends corporate culture, bordering on religion.

Alexander B. Cummings Jr. (AU, M.B.A. ’82) faithfully stewards this role. Executive vice president and chief administrative officer of The Coca-Cola Company since 2008 — the year of Clark Atlanta University’s 20th anniversary — he is a master of discipline, strategic thinking and shrewd, calculated risk-taking. He attributes his career success, however, to a more fundamental factor, people.

“When you have the right people and create the right conditions for their growth and success,” he asserts, “organizations are successful.”

Cummings joined The Coca-Cola Company in 1997 as region manager in Nigeria. By 2000, he was president of the company’s North and West Africa Division. In 2001, he became president and chief operating officer of the Africa Group, responsible for all of Coca-Cola’s operations on the continent, some 56 countries and territories in all. Today, he oversees most of the company’s global functions, spanning more than 200 countries, with a portfolio encompassing Strategy, Human Resources, Legal, Information Technology, Technical (which includes Research & Development, Science, Quality, Procurement, Innovation, among others), Sustainability, The Coca-Cola Foundation and Security & Aviation.

“People often ask if I know Coca-Cola’s secret formula,” Cummings laughs. “I tell them my role is to perpetuate our secret for success: relentlessly pursuing excellence from start to finish…and we are never finished. The principle informs every promise we make to our consumers.” Those promises are well kept: Coca-Cola last year sold more than 1.8 billion servings daily.

As Clark Atlanta celebrates its 25th year, Cummings assumes yet another new role, chairmanship of the University’s Board of Trustees. A trustee since 2004, he served as vice chairman during the 2012-13 academic year and characterizes his commitment to CAU as deeply personal.

“Clark Atlanta afforded me two of the most precious, irreplaceable gifts in my life,” Cummings reflects. “CAU provided me with a first-rate business education and the confidence to compete successfully in corporate environments around the world. I also met my lifetime partner, my wife Teresa (CC, B.A. ’78; AU, M.A. ’82) there. We are both proud alumni and parents of two young adult children, Ayo and Boikai.”

Keenly aware of current economic challenges, Cummings says Clark Atlanta’s mission is too precious to yield to external pressures.

“We can build our value by working smart,” he says. “I envision our strengthened position as a premier institution of higher learning, known for developing outstanding leaders of character and accomplishment.”

The new chairman says his vision requires intensive focus on all aspects of institutional advancement. He deems it essential for sustaining and elevating areas of promise, the University’s Department of Mass Media Arts, School of Social Work and the Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development, among others.

“The Spirit of Greatness is more than a legacy,” Cummings points out. “It is a call to action. Our forebears carved a remarkable path. Our job is to push forward strategically, relentlessly pursuing excellence.” CAU’s motto says it all for Cummings — “I’ll Find a Way or Make One.”

“That,” Cummings resolves, “will be the secret to CAU’s success.”
A young man of medium height walks into a room and focuses squarely on his purpose for being there. Oblivious to all other activity, he doesn’t offer the customary handshake. Instead he reaches out with a hug. His embrace is not offensive, rather it conveys his humility and his readiness to learn whatever you might be willing to teach. Except these days, Kevin Brown is much more than a student, he is a highly sought-after teacher of sorts, one every prospective college student and his or her parent should know.

To say that Brown was an “at-risk” youth is understatement. The Vallejo, Calif., native, a self-confessed “troublemaker,” grew up in one of the worst neighborhoods in Northern California and spent 17 years in the foster care system. Although extremely bright, he grew accustomed to dodging labels like “hopeless” and “impossible” at a young age. Thanks in part to an insightful succession of mentors — one of whom told him to always know what time it was, one who blew his mind with “a pound of feathers” and one who took him in against her family’s advice — his trajectory changed dramatically from the “road to nowhere” to the road less traveled. He credits one of his role models, Philmore Graham, with saving not just his life but, much more important, his future. If you want to know how he turned out, read his breakaway, no-nonsense best seller, 10 Ways Anyone Can Graduate From College Debt Free.

In a time when students and their families nationwide are crushed under the weight of college debt, Brown turned his personal odyssey into a road map for what he initially thought a futile effort. The entrepreneur ventured to Clark Atlanta in 2002 with minimal financial support from family and friends and had no knowledge of how college degrees were financed. After a week on campus, he assured then-dorm director Raphael Moffett, Ed.D., “If I have to take out a loan, I’m dropping out.”

He never did. The fashion design/supply chain management double major is the personification of Clark Atlanta’s motto, “Find a Way or Make One.” Brown graduated with 178 semester hours, spent a semester in London, traveled home for vacations, played on the men’s basketball team and reaped the most from a life experience he once thought unattainable.

“Most people expected me to be kicked out of college within my first week,” he recalls. “I graduated debt-free five years later, in 2007, with a $140,000 college education.” While Brown followed his strict, sacrificial strategy, he also attributes his success to “Clark Atlanta, the faculty and staff, and ’mother figures’ like Professor Dorothy Batey, who changed me from an 18-year-old kid…to a well-traveled man of the world.”

But enjoying a debt-free ride through college, as remarkable an accomplishment as that is, wasn’t Brown’s ultimate goal. “As a result of having zero college debt, I now have an unusual freedom that most of my peers who attended college do not.” They may earn good salaries, Brown notes, “but a considerable amount of their money is spent repaying college loans. While they are stressing out about their debt, I have moved to New York — one of the most expensive cities in the world — without having to take a job I didn’t want and have since traveled to England, Iceland, Jamaica, Mexico, Spain, Rome and Egypt.” Brown also founded the KAY1 clothing line.

Let Kevin Y. Brown tell it, there absolutely is such a thing as a free ride. His has been an incredible one.
Dr. Thomas W. Cole, Jr., is one of those lucky people who has gotten a rush every day everywhere he has worked. But even he, who is not given to gushing, admits that his experience at Clark Atlanta University was both special and unique.

“The environment and atmosphere was so electric. I couldn’t wait to go to work every day,” he says. “Every year there was something new, different and exciting.”

That’s in large part because Cole, a former Chemistry Department chairman and vice president of Academic Affairs at Atlanta University and president of Clark College, was Clark Atlanta University’s first president after the two historic institutions consolidated in 1988.

Most other people would find such a task daunting, but Cole was laser focused on trying to create a new university that would not only take its rightful place among the leading HBCUs, but all universities.

He says the staff and others he worked with on the transition shared the same vision and goals, which was critical to their success. In addition, strong leadership from the alumni association helped win support from alums for an institution they technically hadn’t graduated from.

One of those alums was his wife, Brenda Cole, who earned a master’s degree in library science from Atlanta University when her husband was an assistant professor there. She later worked as director of the political science department’s social science reading room.

After seven years at West Virginia State University where Dr. Cole served as president, she completed the circle from student to faculty member to become CAU’s first first lady. Mrs. Cole also earned a law degree from Emory University and in 1998 was appointed by Gov. Zell Miller to sit on the State Court of Fulton County.

“One of the things I really enjoyed as first lady was the support of scholarship in the arts. I formed a group called the CAU Guild that’s still operational today,” she says.

She hopes that the University will be financially stable in 25 years and continue to be the nurturing and caring environment it was when she was a student.

Dr. Cole was very instrumental in building support for CAU’s widely recognized research programs, but says he would like to have seen more cutting-edge research being done during his tenure. “I want to see Clark Atlanta become recognized as a major research university that has an historically black heritage but [whose reputation is] not limited to HBCUs,” he says. “So not only would students get the best education, but they’d also be engaged in some very first-rate scientific and social research.”

He has the same vision for the University’s business school, mass communications program and School of Social Work. Citing the latter’s W.E.B. Du Bois legacy, Cole proudly says that no other schools are doing that kind of work on equality for black families “or can’t quite like CAU.”

By Joyce Jones

The Cole Home, Atlanta, Ga.
Pearlie Mae Craft Dove’s matriculation at Clark College was literally a reward. The Atlanta native’s high school principal told Dove and her classmates that if they stayed on the honor roll, he would see if the University’s administrators would offer them scholarships. A recommendation from her French teacher also helped ensure her acceptance.

Knowing that there were other students who deserved to experience college life, but didn’t have the resources, made Dove all the more appreciative of being accepted to Clark, where she majored in education and home economics. She earned her bachelor’s degree in 1941, and a master’s degree in elementary education from Atlanta University in 1943.

Dove sang in the school choir and served as editor of The Mentor. During her senior year, she was class vice president and president of the Sigma chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

In those days, pledging was marked by fun pranks like counting bricks and riding the subway impersonating school children wearing their clothes inside out. Dove still laughs at the memory of the impression she and her future sorors must have made on riders of Atlanta's public transportation system. They also engaged in a fierce competition with the sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha to earn the highest grades.

“I think we had more students who graduated cum laude at commencement in 1941,” says Dove, who celebrated her Sigma chapter diamond anniversary this year.

In 1949, Dove was hired to teach at Clark, where she stayed until her retirement in 1986. She started off training teachers and for 20 years was chair of the education and physical education department, which was combined at the time, and later the education department.

“I wanted to give back what I’d been given, which is why I stayed until retirement,” says Dove, who worked on the Consolidation Planning Committee. “We learned that we weren’t just teaching academics but teaching for life. I think that’s how we got the motto Culture for Service; it’s not just words but has real meaning.”

In every speech she has delivered at and on behalf of CAU, Dove continues to impart that message. “We also need to celebrate more the people who made the institution, like James Weldon Johnson and Reatha Clark. People need to know who they are, learn from them and celebrate the contributions they made,” says Dove.

She also strongly urges graduates to financially contribute however much they can and also share and promote all of the good and innovative things happening at CAU.

“I think if anyone’s going to tell our story, where we came from and our great contributions, it has to be alumni,” says Dove. “We have to tell our own story.”

Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.
"We are family," sums up Rev. Paul Easley's 22 years as chaplain at Clark College and CAU. By his estimation, since his arrival in Atlanta, his family has grown by about 2,000, to include students, faculty and staff and even parents.

The Charleston, West Virginia, native spent 23 years in the military before coming to Clark at the urging of Gailinn E. Gatewood-Jasho, now director of Alumni Relations. He was the chaplain at Fort Leavenworth when he met Gatewood-Jasho and her mother, an evangelist minister.

"The school's chaplain got sick and left and they said they were praying I'd retire from the military and go there. I said they were crazy, but it's where I wound up," recalls Easley.

He didn't limit his pastoral duties to the chapel. Easley also was a constant presence at athletic and band practices, where he got to know the students and became a trusted confidant.

"I have now probably about 2,000 adopted sons and daughters. They always called me Pops," Easley says. "I was sad when they graduated, but the strange thing was they kept in contact with me."

Easley also became an unofficial recruiter for the University. Although the school had an official choir, he organized a gospel choir that attracted students to his services at Spelman, Morehouse and Morris Brown, some of whom joined the group.

The choir helped "pack the chapel" and also traveled to different cities during spring break to spread the word about CAU. They funded their excursions by washing cars and saving pennies and also received assistance from church congregations they visited.

"We went to Florida a lot because one of the members was from West Palm Beach. We'd sing at churches along the way and then come back," he says. "The kids would do evangelistic outreach work and encourage high school students to finish school and go to college. We did that every year until my retirement."

Although he's no longer on staff, Easley is still an integral member of the CAU family. He's an active member of the Booster Club and helped form the Inspirational Voices of Faith Alumni Society, which raises scholarship money.

Easley's biggest hope for the future of CAU is to see its endowment grow so that the University can continue to attract and retain the best students and faculty and expand its program offerings.

"I would like to see more financial support and capacity building among faculty," he says. "Many could work at other places and be better compensated, but they stay because they love the school and students."
CAU Had Him at Hello

Freshman year of college is a tad too early in life to find true love forever. But that's exactly what happened to Cory Echols (CAU, B.S. ‘96, M.S. ‘98) when he fell head over heels for Clark Atlanta University during his very first week on campus.

The initial attraction for Echols was that in addition to a solid science program, the University offered him a full-ride scholarship funded by a Department of Energy program to earn both a bachelor's and master's degree.

"During orientation week, we got to learn all about CAU and were exposed to how we'd be living and working and learning at this next stage in life," the New Orleans native recalls. "That's when I really fell in love with the institution and Atlanta, and that first week set the tone for the next several years of my life."

As a member of the honors program, Echols was part of a small group of students who took accelerated courses and participated in annual retreats during which they formed deep bonds. He also was a member and eventually president of the Louisiana Club, which he says helped keep him tied to his roots.

Summers were spent at some of the nation’s most prestigious research labs, including Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee and the Los Alamos National Laboratory in Texas. He is currently an engineer for a company called L-3 Communications and lives with his family in a suburb of Dallas.

Echols still has high praise for Dr. Thomas Cole, who was CAU’s president during his student days, for developing relationships with government agencies that funded scholarships in the sciences and helped the University develop its now-renowned research programs.

He would like to see a similar push in the coming years to expand current offerings and also boost CAU’s endowment and student enrollment, which he says must be promoted by alumni as well as University leadership.

As current vice president of the national alumni association and treasurer of his local chapter, for which he also served as president for two terms, Echols is committed to encouraging other graduates “to do our part to ensure we’re supporting the University with time and money.”

“We have a lot of alums working in various organizations and industries and we need to help take the University to the next level,” says Echols, whose local chapter has twice been named Chapter of the Year. “I want to be an active participant and an incentive for others to do the same. I was successful doing that in the Dallas area and now I’m trying to reach out to alums from around the nation.”
“Atlanta University’s motto, ‘I’ll Find a Way or Make One,’ is something I have really lived by,” explains Annalise Fonza (CAU, B.S. ’90). “It has meant making new pathways for myself when I needed to.” Her alma mater has also helped her develop something that is very important to her as a scholar, authenticity.

As a schoolgirl, Fonza was determined to attend an HBCU, if only to escape her nearly all-white, Catholic school upbringing in Illinois. The final choice came down to Clark Atlanta and Hampton and, for the future urban planner, city living won out over pastoral charm.

While majoring in political science at CAU, Fonza pledged Delta Sigma Theta, and won the first Miss CAU Pageant in 1989. Both events contributed greatly to her development, giving her a sense of self and responsibility that led her to be more conscious and aware of her decisions in life.

“Those roles and identities helped me realize that I was growing up,” she said. Growing up, for Fonza, also meant staying intellectually curious and changing to stay true to her evolving self. It led her to earning master’s degrees in public administration, divinity and regional and urban planning, as well as a doctorate in regional planning.

Today, Fonza is an author and political consultant who writes and speaks about the sustainable development of black urban communities, women’s rights, and discrimination, including religious bigotry.

She has worked for politicians and municipal governments in Massachusetts, Illinois and Georgia. She also spent six years as an ordained United Methodist minister, a position she held until returning her clergy ordination papers in 2003 to take on new intellectual pursuits. A sought-after academic in urban planning circles, Fonza has taught at several universities, including CAU. Most recently, she co-established a for-profit policy advocacy firm in Atlanta.

Fonza believes the successful CAU of the future will continue to broaden the range of academics it pursues. As a former faculty member, she says she appreciates that CAU is aggressive in hiring top-notch academics known for their critical thinking. But, she says the University must continue raising the bar high in an age when it competes against all other private and public universities, not just HBCUs.

“It is key that CAU continues to appeal to the W.E.B. Du Boises of the world,” she says. “Change agents who are willing to live and think critically at the margins.”
Gay-linn Gatewood-Jasho (CC, B.A. ’81, CAU M.A. ’94) became director of Alumni Relations at CAU on February 14, 2008. How serendipitous, a colleague noted, that she would start on a day that represents love at an institution that she loved so much.

If the Kansas City, Missouri, native had listened to her father, she might have done her undergraduate studies in her home state. But Gatewood-Jasho, who was one of just six black students in a high school graduating class of more than 500, wasn’t having that.

“I wanted the experience of attending an HBCU where I could be enriched by its culture and opportunities that existed nowhere else,” she says. “Clark gave me what I’d been looking for and much more.”

Gatewood-Jasho thrived at Clark College, where she was a yearbook editor, director of the Women’s Resource Center, sang in the gospel choir and participated in other activities.

But what struck her most about life at Clark was the diversity of people she encountered, from the speakers who visited the campus to enlighten and inspire students to her contemporaries throughout the Atlanta University Center.

She likens it to a finishing school experience that helped prepare her for the world and to embrace the next step in life.

After earning a degree in mass communications, Gatewood-Jasho moved to Nairobi, Kenya, for two years to work as a communications specialist with the All Africa Conference on Churches. She also met her now-late husband in Kenya.

After returning to Kansas City for a year, they moved to Atlanta. At her mother’s suggestion, she checked out employment opportunities at her alma mater.

She started out as an office manager in the office she would one day lead, progressively moving up the ladder. After a period in Student Affairs, Gatewood-Jasho returned to where she began, becoming director of Alumni Relations.

Looking back while moving forward is a philosophy that she frequently applies to her work. One of her favorite things has been hearing the stories of graduates of Clark College, Atlanta University and CAU.

“To move forward, we have to learn from the past. There are many older alums who remember it and younger ones who are upholding it. Both contribute to CAU’s ongoing work and growth,” she says.

For Gatewood-Jasho, the University’s future is nothing but bright.

“We continue to adapt to meet the world’s challenges by developing bright minds and compassionate hearts,” she says. “With each graduating class, we claim our place as a major part of history in the U.S. and the world. No matter what dream or accomplishment we seek, we can achieve it.”
It was a chance encounter that enabled Lyle Gittens to attend Clark College, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics in 1942. The New York native had been out of high school for five years, and given the tough economic times most Americans were experiencing during the Depression, college was an even more elusive dream for African Americans.

As luck would have it, Clark’s basketball coach was looking for recruits and a student Gittens met during the Christmas holidays suggested he try out. “I had never heard of the school, but wrote to the coach who responded by inviting me to come down and try out,” he recalls. “I made the team and stayed there until the Army drafted me.”

“It was the best time of my life. We won the school’s first basketball championship and I met my future wife there,” says Gittens, who was able to complete his degree through correspondence courses offered to soldiers.

Eleanor Gittens, originally from Bradenton, Florida, transferred from Bethune Cookman College to Clark, where she double-majored in English and business administration. The couple married during a three-day leave in 1942. The former college professor’s favorite memories include being part of a literary salon, led by the head of the English department, but says meeting her husband was the height of her experience at Clark.

Still grateful for the unexpected opportunity that allowed Lyle to ultimately work his way up to the top of the civil service ranks at the New York State Department of Labor, the couple has not just been active alums, but has also been extraordinarily generous. Their most recent gift was $70,000. To repay their kindness, the University named a room for them in the Ware Building.

“We give unrestricted gifts so the school can use them for salaries, scholarships – whatever it feels it needs,” he says. “We try to encourage other alums to give even it’s just $10. It adds up and it’s very important for the school to get funds.”

The decades since their graduation haven’t slowed the couple down. They attend college fairs “all over the place,” handing out brochures and talking to prospective students about CAU’s various offerings. They also host a picnic for New Yorkers headed to the University so they can meet each other.

“We’re cheerleaders for the school,” Gitten laughs. “You can see why: we met there!”
If you’re curious about how serious CAU’s graduate students are, consider the first amusing thing physicist Sheryl Good (M.S. ’92) remembers about her time here as a master’s student.

“I was having trouble with the lab in my fiber optics class, so I came in over the weekend to work on it,” says Good. “While I’m trying to get the lab work done, I hear all this commotion. And then, a marching band passes by the window. I was so caught up in my work that I never realized it was homecoming!”

The Columbia, South Carolina, native’s studiousness, and her professors’ constant support, paid off. While she was researching her master’s thesis, the physics faculty steered Good toward a coveted fellowship with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory’s Institute for Science and Education in Tennessee.

Oak Ridge has a legacy of research based on its initial mission — plutonium production for the Manhattan Project. The opportunity was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Good to work with some of the best experts on her thesis topic, radiation protection. It also turned into a career with the lab and with the U.S. Department of Energy.

Good returned to her adopted hometown of Atlanta in 1998 to pursue a career in environmental justice. Today, she works at the Environmental Protection Agency’s Atlanta office, conducting research and training to help communities and public policy experts address a wide range of issues.

Good’s work is mostly related to urban planning. She promotes environmental justice initiatives aimed at protecting poorer communities that do not have the political clout to protect themselves from harmful industrial manufacturing and dumping issues.

When thinking about her alma mater, she would like the CAU of the future to take even more proactive steps with its surrounding neighborhood. Because of segregation and a legacy of unfair urban policies, many urban HBCUs are in economically depressed and underserved areas. Good, who is considering pursuing Ph.D. research on economic development opportunities for HBCU neighborhoods, says CAU can reshape its future by taking matters into its own hands.

CAU, she notes, can not only be a great school, but the cornerstone to a thriving neighborhood by leveraging public/private partnerships and community investment initiatives.

“I work with a lot of neglected urban and rural communities,” she says, “and it seems like an institution like CAU can address some of the challenges faced in its own community.”
When Brandi Granderson (CAU, B.A. ’01) began the process of deciding which college to attend, she considered schools close to home and one in particular that would allow her to pursue a long-standing interest in dance. But after a fateful conversation with a friend and CAU student, who encouraged her to consider the idea of attending a more challenging institution that had an excellent academic reputation, she began to reconsider her options.

“I understood that if I attended CAU I would be able to sit side by side with valedictorians and other number ones and high achievers,” she says.

Clark Atlanta extended Granderson a scholarship for academic excellence and she began her studies in pre-med and biology. She was involved in a number of school activities, including being nominated first attendant to Miss CAU, and serving as Miss Freshman and Miss Junior, for which she is extremely proud.

Over time, her interest turned toward business as she learned more about graduates of the business program who were recognized for excellence in their fields.

“I realized that I had gone to school with some of those people and I felt proud. I also felt like I can do it, too,” she says. Granderson became a member of the Business Honor Society, Beta Gamma Sigma, and represented the school as an ambassador to national conferences and competitions focusing on urban retail marketing.

“Everyone was encouraging. If you had a good idea and it made sense, they were there to support it,” she says of the teaching staff, fellow students and administration.

After graduation Granderson stayed in Atlanta, working as an assistant buyer for Rich’s Department Store. Today she is a financial services specialist and loan officer at Regents Bank in her hometown of Jackson, Mississippi. Granderson also owns and operates Graffiti Glam Revolution, and Every Girl’s Option, the brand’s contemporary ready-to-wear line.

“Fifteen years later, I remain a proud graduate of the University,” she says. “When someone asks me where I went to school, I stand tall and tell them that I am a graduate of Clark Atlanta University.”

Granderson would like to see her alma mater become known as a business mecca, on par with institutions like Harvard Business School and other top universities.

“You hear Morehouse, you think of medicine. When you hear Spelman, you think liberal arts. I would like CAU to be seen as a top training center for businesses and non-profits. I would like the University to hold a significant place in the historical record of historically black colleges,” she says.
Clark Was His Destiny

From the time he was a child, Rev. Dr. Thomas P. Grissom knew that he was destined to attend Clark College, where he studied religious education and social science, earning a bachelor’s degree in 1948. His father, Thomas Sr., was a graduate of the institution and, to this day, Grissom remembers the sights and smells of the old campus. “My dad went to Clark and it was a great persuader for me. I remember how beautiful things were and the scent of the magnolia trees,” he says of his visits to the campus as a child, “and I decided I was going to do what he did.”

Grissom pledged Omega Psi Phi during his time at Clark and while the Q brand he received 70 years ago may have faded, the joy he’s experienced as a member of the fraternity have not. He also fondly remembers developing relationships with professors and working for Clark’s president during his undergraduate years, “driving his Packard, doing yard work and whatever was needed.”

Over the decades, Grissom has been an engaged alum, promoting the benefits of a Clark and CAU education from coast to coast in his roles as a minister, member of the national and regional alumni associations and his involvement with other organizations like the Girl Scouts. “I had a chance to meet with all sorts of people, including Andrew Young and Shirley Chisholm, and push Clark. I made no bones about it — I was a Clark graduate, and proud of it,” he says.

Grissom also visits the CAU campus and that of Gammon Theological Seminary and Atlanta’s Interdenominational Theological Center, where he also earned degrees, a few times a year. “They are my home base,” he says.

Grisson’s vision for Clark Atlanta University is both pure and simple.

Like other alums, he wants the institution to claim its rightful place as a top-tier university, but also hopes it will continue to be a nurturing place where students can find themselves and even a first love that may not last but prepares a young man for the lifelong partnership that he’s shared with his wife Gwen.

“I’m certain that I’d like to see it as a number-one school, the kind of school where a kid who needs to work can do some actual work but also pursue all the academics and enjoy those treasures that four years on a college campus can provide,” he says, “It’s just a tremendous and exciting time.”
Dr. Winfred Harris had two goals when the time came to apply to college.

“If I wanted to get away from home, and I wanted to attend a co-ed college,” he says.

Clark College enabled him to achieve one of his two goals and was something of a family tradition. Harris’s brother and several cousins had attended the institution and his parents encouraged him to follow in their footsteps. Little did he know it would become a lifetime commitment. The Atlanta native didn’t get far from home, but he also went on to enjoy an illustrious career at his alma mater.

“I guess I didn’t get that far in life after all,” he laughs now.

His success, however, belies such modesty. Harris graduated from Clark University in 1955 with a degree in biology and chemistry and went on to earn a master’s degree in Zoology in 1957 from Atlanta University, and a Ph.D. in genetics and biochemistry in 1965 from West Virginia University. After receiving the Ph.D., he was awarded a U.S. Public Health Service post-doctoral research fellowship in biochemistry at the University of Pennsylvania. He says he developed an interest in science and zoology in particular because “living things superseded my interest in the physical.”

His career at Clark Atlanta University, which began as an assistant biology professor in 1957, spanned 50 years, during which his accomplishments as a scholar, educator, scientist and leader became well known and celebrated in the education community.

During his tenure he earned numerous science awards, departmental honors and funding dollars for research. After the consolidation of Clark University and Atlanta University in 1988, he was appointed vice president for Administration and served as provost and vice president of Academic Affairs. He ended his tenure as the Howard Hughes Professor of Biological Sciences.

“In 1969, I was awarded an RO1 research grant from the National Institutes of Health. Clark College was the only undergraduate HBCU to win such a distinction. This prestigious award was an honor for the college and me,” he fondly recalls.

Now retired, the professor emeritus continues to work on various projects, including Dr. Harris Skin Care, a line of men’s skin care products. He has so far developed an after-shave and is working on a direct marketing plan to build up his clientele. As luck would have it three retailers in the Atlanta area have recently agreed to shelve his product.

“I would like to see CAU become more competitive, pursuing top students, a more diverse student body and research dollars,” Harris says. “Our Cancer Center is a first-class organization that wins grants. There are other CAU departments and disciplines that have similar capabilities.”
"Sometimes you win against your rival a couple of times, sometimes he beats you. The point is to have fun doing it and to keep at it."

This sage advice comes from long-time Panther football coach Jesse McClardy (CC, B.A. '57; AU, M.A. '59).

As an undergraduate, he was the gridiron gladiator from Rome, Georgia. After graduate school he became an assistant coach at Clark College and won the head job in 1969.

In his 19 years leading the team, McClardy experienced honor, pride and fun, despite having to “compete as best we could with limited resources.”

The winning seasons never came easy, although support from the administration helped McClardy put together a few division championship teams in the 1970s and 1980s.

He also brought on several players who would go on to join the NFL, including former Green Bay Packer Walt Landers (B.A. '78) and the late, former Atlanta Falcon Greg McCrary (B.A. '75). Atlanta’s current chief of police, George Turner, also was a McClardy recruit.

Opponents couldn’t help but notice when McClardy’s talent roster was at its peak. During one particularly dominating performance, the Morehouse Maroon Tigers actually called time out, got on their bus, and departed with eight minutes left in the game.

Still, there was no shiny new stadium in McClardy’s day. CAU’s new football facilities are a marvel for the coach who had to transport his teams by bus from the locker room to their home field.

Immediately after retiring, McClardy got to see his son Steven (B.A. ’93) carry on the Panther tradition. A talented offensive lineman in high school, he actually turned down scholarship offers at larger universities for the team his father once led. McClardy received many awards and recognitions during his coaching career, but one of his most prized possessions is the football Steve intercepted in his final game as a Panther.

As to how to change things for the future, McClardy admits to wishful thinking about what the University could do if it had 15 full-ride football scholarships, which would make the Panthers more competitive with universities that have stronger recruiting programs. But above all, he believes CAU needs to stay the course, finding its way or making one, one down at a time.
Fred Mitchell

Not Just a Statistic

During his first two years of college, Fred Mitchell felt more like a number. The Seattle native started out at Washington State University, where he’d won an athletic scholarship and a spot on the football team. But as one of just a few African Americans in a sea of “others,” he felt like something was missing.

Mitchell decided to transfer to Clark where he was one of many, but felt a sense of community that enabled him to engage with people from culturally similar, but still very diverse, backgrounds.

“The nurturing environment also was for me academically,” says Mitchell, who earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and marketing in 1985. “I could go to talk with professors and they knew me not just as a number, but knew my name and recognized my face.”

That’s putting it mildly. For reasons he no longer recalls, Mitchell missed two sessions of a statistics class, which so alarmed his professor that she not only tried to locate him on campus, but also called his parents, to find out why he hadn’t been in class.

At Clark, Mitchell says he felt like he was part of a family, and formed relationships with fellow students, including his Omega Psi Phi brothers, that still exist.

“I often share that [statistics class] story in my work,” says Mitchell, who is vice president of development for UNCF. “Because of my experience at Clark, I understand what an HBCU experience can mean to a young person. So when I’m talking to people about why they should support HBCUs, I speak to them not just from the perspective of someone whose job it is to [cultivate] support, but as someone who lived it.”

He also shares his experiences with perspective students he meets at college fairs and other events, never missing an opportunity to suggest that they at least consider whether CAU might be a good fit for them.

As a founding member and president of the University’s New Jersey alumni chapter, which was chartered in 2011, Mitchell would like to see more alums from Clark, Atlanta University and CAU involved in encouraging students to consider the institution.

“I would like to see the school grow in student population and academically,” he says. “I’d also like the University to [more aggressively] promote the things it’s doing that are having an impact on society across the globe, like prostate cancer research, and become known for that over the next 25 years.”

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The United Negro College Fund, New York City, N.Y.
Appreciating Possibilities

How times have changed since a girl named Maurice matriculated at Clark College in the fifties. Coeds, as they were called back then, had to follow strict rules, including early curfews and a ban on pants in the classroom. Blue jeans were allowed only when doing laundry and other dormitory chores on the weekends.

But for Maurice Fitts Page, Clark represented a brave new world full of possibilities. For the first time in her life, she was separated from her twin brother, Morris, who attended Xavier College. But having her best friend from home, Jacqueline Fancher Edwards, by her side, helped soften the transition for the Alabama native.

Page, who majored in social science, earning a bachelor’s degree in 1956, immersed herself in extra-curricular activities and sorority life. She served as dean of pledges for Alpha Kappa Alpha and secretary for the honor society Alpha Kappa Mu. She also was appointed a dormitory “assistant directress,” a role known today as resident advisor.

“There were two of us to work with the dorm mother and it was the first time they’d done anything like that,” Page recalls. “We had our own little private suite in the dorm.”

After graduation, Page headed west to attend the University of Chicago School of Social Work. She also married husband Harold Page, whom she’d met at Clark. She spent the bulk of her career at South Suburban College, where she was a professor of social work and sociology, and for a period chaired the social work program.

Page also has been an active member of the national alumni association, serving as president from 1985-1993. During her tenure, which included the consolidation of Clark College and Atlanta University, she had the opportunity to meet many dignitaries. They included Colin Powell, Vernon Jordon, Betty Shabazz and Nelson Mandela, the latter of whom she describes as “fascinating, breathtaking and overwhelming.”

As national alumni association president, Page also met an equally impressive array of alums from across the country who served as mentors and promoted a spirit of social activism and giving back.

“I would really love to see more young people appreciate the commitment that the institutional leaders make to ensure they’re well educated,” Page says of the future. “I wish there was a greater appreciation for the historical sacrifices that have been made for all of us.” In her day, there was no such thing as student loans and Pell grants. Students often had to work and were grateful to get a scholarship from their institution or the local PTA or church group.

“We need to help young people, particularly young blacks, recognize the importance of giving back,” Page says. “We don’t live in a world by ourselves or succeed alone. Many people have made it possible for us to achieve what we have.”
Bobbie Kennedy Sanford (CC ’63), a native of Greensville, South Carolina, was always an outgoing student in high school. She frequently traveled the state to attend honor society meetings, but when the time came to pick a college, she was wary about traveling too far from home.

Her decision to attend Clark was aided by her favorite French teacher, an alumna of the college. Sanford followed in her footsteps in other ways, when she chose “the language of love” and education as her major. The idea of spending four years in Atlanta also was appealing.

“I had been there before and thought what I’d seen of it was a marvelous city and I was so impressed with the success that blacks enjoyed at the time,” Sanford recalls.

She didn’t see much of the city once she arrived because the rules were very strict in those days, but her freshman year was such a whirlwind of exciting and new experiences that it didn’t matter. In fact, the self-described “small-town girl” didn’t feel homesick at all – until it was time to return for her sophomore year.

Laughing now, Sanford still has no idea what brought that about, but there was no turning back.

“My mother said you’re not coming back home and I’m glad she made that decision,” she says.

Sanford returned to Clark and continued to blossom, and even traveled farther afield, spending two summers at Université Laval in Montreal, Canada, at a time when there weren’t a lot of exchange students.

Her most cherished memory without a doubt, however, is meeting Porter Sanford III, to whom she was happily married for 42 years.

“Culture for Service” was an important part of life at Clark and one that Sanford and her now-late husband carried on after graduation. Through their real estate business, efforts to help blacks win elective office and civic engagement, they helped make DeKalb County become the diverse community it is today.

As a new member of CAU’s Board of Trustees, Sanford would like to see the University become more diverse so that students from around the country and even the world can experience all that it has to offer. She also wants to ensure that alums are aware of all of the innovation and growth taking place at CAU and encourage them to help the institution continue to thrive and prosper.

“In reading how HBCUs are being challenged financially and in other ways I realize now more than ever that it’s important for us to carry that message,” she says. “We have an excellent prostate cancer program that will expand and help CAU become a major research university. We can instill in all students, not just African Americans, the value of attending CAU.” ■
There was never a single doubt in Parnessa Seele’s mind about where she would attend college. Her mother had earned a master’s degree from Atlanta University and raved so much about her experience in the Atlanta University Center, that when the time came to make her applications, Seele only applied to Clark College.

“I was always a determined person. I knew what I wanted and I wanted to go to Clark College,” she says. “I remember going to the post office to pick up my acceptance letter. I had only one choice, and that choice chose me.”

Being from tiny, all black Lincolnview, South Carolina, Seele had few expectations and little idea about what college life would be like.

“I was most fascinated by meeting kids from all over — Boston, New York, the South — we were all there together. Being from a very small town, I was amazed by the diversity of African-American kids at that time,” recalls Seele, who earned a bachelor’s degree in biology in 1976 and a master’s in immunology from AU in 1979. Seele reveled in the camaraderie and remembers sitting on the block outside of Pfieffer Hall with her fellow students and dorm mother Miss Holloman, singing school songs, laughing and dreaming about what they’d all be when they grew up.

She grew up to become the founder and CEO of the Balm In Gilead, Inc., a nonprofit organization whose mission is to intersect health and faith to prevent disease and to improve the health status outcomes of individuals in the U.S. and Africa who suffer disproportionally from certain diseases and health conditions.

Seele credits her success in part to caring professors whom she says helped prepare her for life. “They were very clear that if they had a hand in your life, you were going to be somebody,” she says. “They raised us to be somebody.”

Because young adults today are so impatient and “want everything fast,” Seele would like CAU to be at the cutting-edge of new technology, but she also would like students to experience the holistic education she received.

“I would like to see it relevant to the new millennium, teaching courses that are relevant to the future, but at the same time, instilling morals and values in new generations,” she says. “Even though 30-plus years have passed since I was at Clark, I want teachers to be just as dedicated and committed to the success of each student who comes into their classrooms.”
The Making of a Leader

Maurice Simpson Jr. went on two college tours of HBCUs along the East Coast while in high school with the Junior ROTC and a group of other students. When they arrived at the Atlanta University Center, only one school stuck out for him and that was Clark Atlanta.

“The other schools were a little bland, but when I stepped onto CAU’s campus, it was vibrant and full of excitement with students moving around and interacting with each other,” he says. “I just fell in love with the campus and the atmosphere.”

Simpson, who earned a bachelor’s degree in political science in 2011, immediately immersed himself in his new environment, becoming active in student activities and winning election as vice president of his freshman class.

“That first year was definitely one of my fondest. I really wanted to be involved in a way I couldn’t in high school, with just eight hours a day. You can’t do everything and my focus and passion then was the Junior ROTC,” the Prince George’s County, Maryland, native says. “But I pledged to do more in college.”

That year, he worked with students at Morehouse and Spelman to build Atlanta University Center unity through which they could develop relationships that would last throughout their academic careers and beyond.

Simpson also served as senior class president. In every leadership role he held, he used his leverage to advocate on behalf of his fellow students, helping them connect with staff, faculty and resources.

“I could escort someone into the general counsel’s or another office because they knew me, explain the situation and ask for help,” he says. And when his senior class wanted to move their graduation ceremony from the Georgia Dome back to the CAU stadium, he was able to successfully explain to the Executive Cabinet how important it was for them to capture their last moments on campus.

Simpson uses the leadership skills he honed on campus in his work as an aide to the Prince George’s County Council. More important, he’s currently running for a spot on the Maryland Democratic State Central Committee, and has been endorsed by state Sen. Joanne Benson.

“I envision CAU building a stronger endowment for its long-term sustainability and infrastructure. I also want to see a university that continues to find its niche in different academic areas,” Simpson says. “We’re known for our business school and mass media department. With the Cancer Center as a foundation, I’d like to see the University become a leader in producing STEM professionals.”
Jasu Sims

Building Connections to Share a CAU Vision

Blogger, performance artist, Greater New York alumni chapter president and communications and PR professional Jasu Sade Sims is a natural-born connector.

Look at her Tumblr site (jmarksthespots) and her relentless online promotion of chapter events, and you’ll be left wondering when the young Brooklynite finds time to sleep. But you will not be surprised that she is effective, or that she has worked with important musicians, causes and brands – from Venus Williams to Natalie Cole to VH1 and Carol’s Daughter.

But the brand that may be most important to Sims is her beloved CAU. Attending an Atlanta University Center institution was one of Sims’s earliest ambitions, starting at age five, when she accompanied her father to the campus during summers as he did contract design work. Programs like The Cosby Show and A Different World also made the HBCU experience seem glamorous.

Sims entered Clark Atlanta at 17 and had memorable experiences from day one. “Everyone was extraordinarily friendly,” she says of freshman orientation. “It didn’t take long to feel like you’re welcomed and belong.”

Sims made her mark participating in campus events, especially dorm step shows, which for her was the “epitome of school spirit.” Chapel services also gave her a strong “sense of community and safety and worship.”

These days, Sims is helping talented students get that same CAU experience through her local alumni chapter, with college fairs and plans for a new alumni giving video campaign featuring CAU Mass Media Arts grad and Tom Joyner Morning Show contributor Jacque Reid.

Sims dreams not only of a better CAU, but a stronger AUC, where faculty, students and alumni stand together in appreciation and support of what each school offers.

“I would love Clark Atlanta to become well-recognized and celebrated for its strengths,” Sims explains. “Students from other AUC schools take all the CAU classes that they can, and tell everyone, ‘Oh, I graduated from Spelman or Morehouse.’ And they go forth and conquer, based on the idea that those schools have great reputations. But, as a Clark Atlanta graduate, I know that much of the culture and education come from us. I think the sense of acceptance, tolerance and unity within the AUC comes from us as well, and that will be what continues to make Clark Atlanta great in the future.”
After transferring from Langston University, communications major C. Lamont Smith (B.A. ’78) was “in awe” on his first day as a Clark College student, amazed by the melting pot of AUC students mingling on Chestnut Street.

“I felt like I had come to the Mecca,” he says.

The studious young man got all he bargained for, and then some: “an outstanding education from concerned, compassionate professors who pushed me to be the best and prepared me for my next step in life.”

But it took witnessing a tragedy to determine exactly what that step would be.

After graduation, Smith struck up a friendship with John Drew, an Atlanta Hawks player, that became an uncomfortable, courtside seat to a cautionary tale. Lacking committed, professional guidance, Drew eventually received the NBA’s first lifetime ban for drug use.

“I noticed that void in professional athletes’ lives,” says Smith, who by then had decided he wanted to help them by becoming a sports agent.

After earning a law degree from Howard University, he founded All Pro Sports & Entertainment and became one of the country’s most prominent black sports agents. Smith’s Denver-based agency represents football legends like Barry Sanders, Jerome Bettis and Eddie George, and current stars like Pierre Thomas of the New Orleans Saints.

Smith, who received an award from CAU recognizing his entrepreneurial achievements, wishes more people knew about CAU and the strength of its mass media arts program.

“It really deserves greater national recognition,” he says, adding that the program greatly benefits anyone with business aspirations.

“If you can’t communicate,” Smith explains, “you probably aren’t going to get very far in any business.”

Smith travels to Atlanta regularly for meetings and, this year, he rearranged his schedule to add homecoming to his itinerary.

Smith wanted to return, he says, because, “My time at Clark College was a very exciting period in my life.”

He hopes that current and future students share his view of CAU as “a place of tremendous optimism and opportunity.”

Smith would like to see the University strengthen its athletics program in the future, as he has seen first-hand in the sports agency business how schools with up-and-coming programs tend to become more visible and more prominent academically as well.

But his biggest dream for the University, given his positive experience at CAU, would be building a broader network of support. “We need to be in a position to give promising students with potential the opportunity to shine,” Smith says.
The idea that the Clark Atlanta experience can foster a lifetime’s worth of cherished connections is no surprise to Brenda Tolliver (CC, B.S. ’72; AU, M.A. ’73). The Chattanooga, Tennessee, native and former CAU trustee served three terms as CAU’s national alumni association president. Tolliver has always known being a CAU alumna means having a supportive network of smart, committed professionals who can make pretty much anything happen, whether that’s helping you find a new career, or raising millions of dollars in scholarships.

“My Clark Atlanta connections have been a part of every move I’ve made,” says Tolliver.

Her journey to Clark College started because of a childhood friend, Alma Vinyard, Ph.D., who is now a professor in CAU’s English department.

“She was an alumna I wanted to emulate, so I knew I was going to go there, too. And once I arrived, I knew I was never moving back,” Tolliver says.

Shortly after starting a career as a school counselor, an alumna introduced Tolliver to yet another Clark-ite, real estate agent Porter Sanford, who hired Tolliver as a bookkeeper. Soon, she had her realtor’s license, ultimately earning a place in RE/MAX’s international hall of fame along the way.

While she has benefitted plenty from her Clark connections, Tolliver has given back even more. Her work with the CAU Guild has helped raise almost $2 million in scholarships through the annual Jazz Under the Stars event.

Shortly before her last term as alumni president ended, Tolliver helped launch the Spirit of Greatness Gala, a premier event that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships since 2008. It is the thing Tolliver is most proud of from her years of alumni service, but she’s confident there will be more high points to come for the University. Clark Atlanta, she says, will continue to grow in stature and reputation.

Many of CAU’s schools, she notes, do the type of leading-edge research that appeals to talented international students. That, and a renewed emphasis to promote itself, will help propel the University into the future.

“I can envision us becoming more like CAU was in the days just after the consolidation,” she says. “Back then it seemed like it just busted open. I don’t think anyone was prepared for the growth we experienced. Everyone wanted to come to Clark Atlanta, and I think we can reclaim that type of presence.”

Brenda Tolliver

By David Lindsay

Fostering a Spirit of Greatness
The musical *H.M.S. Pinafore*, produced by professor J. DeKoven Killingsworth, one of the most legendary music department heads in CAU’s history, was possibly the highlight of Alvin Turner’s four years at Clark College.

Turner’s time at Clark came courtesy of a draft deferment. After graduating in 1952, the French major settled into a battalion clerk’s position in Fort Orange, California.

While he hoped for a career in international diplomacy, such jobs were few and far between for blacks. When his military term ended, he earned teaching credentials at Cal State and learned that he was sorely needed as a role model in Los Angeles’s primary education system.

“One of the teachers I observed told me, ‘If we don’t have young men like you in elementary school, many of the boys we have here won’t make it to secondary school,’” he says.

Turner worked to build a stronger community for minority students, providing guidance for special education programs where blacks and Hispanics were overrepresented. Later in his career, he helped to steer L.A. schools’ agenda for gifted education.

The longtime bachelor also devoted much of his personal time to building a solid alumni network. Perhaps more than any other CAU alumni in the area, Turner created, developed and kept connections going between CAU grads who had made their way to the City of Angels.

Turner became a substitute teacher after retiring at the age of 55. And then—at age 75—he found true love, getting married for the first time to the late Judi Kaplan, a speech therapist for the school system. The late marriage is just another example of his belief that it is never too late to continue growing and undertaking new experiences.

And, 61 years after his matriculation, that type of thinking fuels Turner’s continued high ambitions for CAU.

“CAU can, and should, have more visibility for the excellent education it offers,” says Turner. “A generation from now, I would like Clark Atlanta to be a beacon that attracts students who need to get in touch with their abilities and their capacity to be all they can be in life.”
Entertainment lawyer Antavius Weems (B.S. ’95, M.S.W. ’98) attended Atlanta’s Carver High, where teachers installed an early sense of Panther pride by pointing out that the school was located on Clark College’s original campus.

But there was also a much stronger motivation at play for Weems: His mother, who always dreamed that her kids would attend the university she passed every day on her bus commute to work from the now-demolished Carver Homes projects.

Weems made that dream come true, transferring to Clark Atlanta from Morris Brown. After he transferred, the 1992 Rodney King riots in Atlanta showed Weems the mettle of CAU’s leadership.

“We wanted to march downtown but the mayor issued an order to hold us on campus,” says Weems. “We marched toward a barricade instead. I remember seeing police shoot tear gas canisters at the line of demarcation. I was 20 feet away from [CAU’s then-president] Dr. Cole. He said, ‘Why would they do this to our youth?’ He picked up a canister, and threw it back.”

Student reaction to Dr. Cole’s action showed how the CAU community stuck together. “We consoled him,” Weems says. “It was our time to protect him.”

After earning his bachelor’s degree, but less-than-stellar scores for law school admission, Weems’s ultimate dream of becoming an attorney seemed out of reach.

“CAU’s graduate school made me much more marketable,” says Weems, citing facts to back that up.

“Before earning my master’s, I applied to 37 law schools and got into none of them,” he recalls. “Once I got the master’s, I applied to 12 law schools, got into 11 and was wait-listed on the twelfth.”

As someone who grew up in one of Atlanta’s projects, this homegrown success story wants CAU to be an integral part of the local community in the future.

“CAU used to go into the housing project next door. It’s no longer there, but that doesn’t mean the obligation disappears,” Weems says. “As an African-American male raised in an Atlanta housing project without a father, I understand how Clark Atlanta can uplift and build young men from challenging circumstances. We’re at maybe an 8:1 male-to-female ratio, and we have to do better. The CAU of the future has to strengthen young men’s positive values,” so they don’t get their education on the street.
Coming from a major metropolis like Chicago, Devin White expected Atlanta to be slow, quite frankly. Instead, during his four years at Clark Atlanta University, he found himself on the fast track to entrepreneurship.

There were three things that attracted White to CAU: its rich history, a great tennis team and an even greater business school. His professors helped him develop the drive and the skills necessary to one day start a business. For the past ten years, he has owned a facilities management company that does employee screenings and background checks.

“They introduced us to entrepreneurs who’d struck out on their own and gave me a clear understanding of the path I needed to take to become an entrepreneur,” says White, who graduated in 1995 with a degree in business administration.

Serving as an orientation guide and participating in other campus activities enabled White to hone his leadership skills, he added, but more important, taught him the value of giving back.

He is currently serving his second term as national president of the CAU alumni association and before that was an active alum and president of his local chapter. First elected in 2009, he is proud to be the national association’s first male and youngest president.

“Culture for Service is one of our mottos and I knew I would find a way to serve my institution,” he says.

During his tenure, he has revitalized and established new chapters, but is proudest of the $375,000 raised in the past three years. White says that he constantly stresses how important it is for each graduate to “pay back and give forward,” otherwise the institution won’t survive.

“We have a duty and a calling to give back, because if we don’t, no one else will,” he explains.

White has two goals for the future of CAU. First, with the Cancer Center as an anchor, he would like the world to view the University as the premier institution for research and development.

“I also would like to see enrollment grow to 8,000 to 10,000 students,” White says.

And, if he gets his way, he will do his part to contribute to that growth. White is married to Joy Davis White, a CAU alum whom he met at a party after he had graduated from the institution.

When asked whether their son, Devin Jr., now six, will become a fellow alum, White is resolute.

“He is absolutely going to CAU,” he laughs.
Under different circumstances, Natasha Woody could have ended up in a starring role on the reality television series Bad Girls. The Atlanta native, raised for a period by a grandmother because her single mom was young and unprepared for the responsibilities of parenthood, arrived at CAU, thinking she was “the toughest thing ever.”

Woody freely admits that her teen years were difficult. Her rebellious behavior earned her a semester in an alternative public school for troubled students. Today she’s carving out an exemplary career at Atlanta’s Forest Hill Academy, a school for students with disciplinary problems.

Her experience at CAU was transformative. The English Department’s professors, she says, were “amazing,” taking an interest in her personal development and preparing her for life after graduation. After earning a bachelor’s degree in English in 2007, she began her teaching career and earned a master’s degree from Georgia State.

“I’m very proud to have that CAU foundation. It made me stand out above my cohorts when I went for my master’s degree. My work and presentations were of a different quality and because of CAU’s high expectations, I didn’t know how to do anything less,” she says.

In 2010, Woody entered CAU’s doctoral program in Educational Leadership.

“I chose Clark Atlanta again because it’s home. The program is extremely rigorous and everything the public schools expect an educational leadership program to be,” Woody says. “There are no excuses to not get the job done or come to class unwilling to participate.”

Indeed, the program has exceeded her own expectations and Woody credits it with her recent promotion from English teacher to implementation specialist. In this new role, her duties include leading a learning community of teachers, providing professional training and handling disciplinary issues.

She applied for the position at the suggestion of her principal, who knew she was in the doctoral program. There were other strong candidates who were good fits for the position, but Woody thinks the CAU program helped cinch the deal for her.

While pursuing her doctorate, she encountered some major bumps. Last August, her financial aid ran out, forcing her to try to find a way to pay for tuition on a teacher’s salary. That same month her husband lost his job.

“I went from ‘Oh, my goodness, I have to pay for tuition,’ to ‘Oh my gosh, I have to pay for life,’” she says. But having learned at CAU how to find a way or make one, she applied for a scholarship and also took a couple of courses at a state university and transferred the credits.

She is teaching that same philosophy to her Forest Academy students.

“I am very transparent and let them know they can succeed after being there. The kids are amazed that I was once one of them. I let them know that I fought and beat up folks, ditched school and did everything they did,” she says. “I don’t want them to think this is the end of the road for them. They can graduate, go to college and even get an advanced degree.”
Lionel Cross began mixing potions at a young age, and there but for the grace of his mother turning up at the right moment might have gone he. At age nine, a curious Cross, hoping to create the next best cleaning product, was about to mix Pine Sol and bleach before she intervened.

Luckily, however, his curiosity about all things science was not stymied by the near-disaster. His interest in science and “love of mixing things together,” Cross says, led him to ultimately pursue a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from CAU.

“I began studying to see what I could mix that could be useful rather than something that could kill myself,” he jokes now. The 25-year-old Atlanta native earned a B.A. in chemistry from Savannah State University. He chose CAU because of its proximity to home and the University’s history.

Cross is currently working on a project to build stronger biodegradable materials that can be used in everyday life, to make them stronger and able to hold up under heat and other conditions.

In addition to his fulltime studies and research projects, he’s also a teaching assistant. The latter, he says, has been “very enlightening” because it has opened up the possibility of entering academia, which would allow him to work on innovative projects while cultivating others pursuing a career in the sciences.

Cross is already doing his part to help build the pipeline of minorities in the STEM fields. He is currently cabinet president of the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChe), which works with undergraduate and graduate students and engages elementary, middle and high school students in science. Members also speak at career days and judge science fairs.

Under his leadership, CAU hosted about 50 local students on campus last spring to expose them to a scientific research environment. The program included experiments that highlighted them science in action and how it’s applied in everyday life. The children saw how a paper clip and batteries can be used to make a light bulb, how liquid nitrogen can freeze different things and other demonstrations.

“They were full of excitement and questions and wanted to see more,” says Cross, who hopes to expand the program this academic year. “Seeing students who want to enter the STEM fields and be part of the next big innovative idea is very rewarding.”

He believes it’s extremely important to reach students at a young age, before other activities capture their attention and interest.

“If we don’t catch kids early enough to show them how interesting the sciences are, it’s going to be hard to get them later on,” he warns.

NOBCChe also offers tutoring and laboratory support to CAU students. In his second year as president, Cross wants to spread the word that there’s an organization on campus to help them succeed in their programs.

“My biggest push is to reach more undergrads so they can get the help and advice they need early on to make their transition through the four years more easily,” he said.
Milagros Griggs, a senior in CAU’s School of Social Work, says she didn't choose her major, “it chose me.” Social workers face daunting challenges in overburdened systems and are often grossly undercompensated.

“But I kept going back because I really want to be a positive influence for inner-city and at-risk youth,” she explains. “My mother always said that if you don’t like something, you have to be part of the change. Social work is where I can begin to do that.”

Griggs, 22, transferred to CAU from Morgan State University in her junior year.

“My grandmother’s aunt went to Clark College and I’m very happy I made the switch,” she says. “The social work department is very close-knit and we have a very personal relationship with our professors.”

Growing up, her mother and grandmother opened their homes to dozens of foster children whom Griggs grew to care for as true members of their family.

“My mom is so open and one who didn’t do it for the money. And I didn’t look at them as foster children,” she says of the teenage girls they took in. “I was always the oldest and able to serve as a positive role model and say, the past is the past. You can’t change what’s happened but can do better and reshape your future.”

This past summer, Griggs worked at Youth Village in Tennessee, an organization whose mission is to help children and families dealing with disciplinary and mental health issues.

“At first it was really challenging, because I was at an all-male facility. I had to gain their respect,” she says.

Griggs accomplished that goal by building a rapport with the boys through sports and just sitting down to rap with them and offer positive reinforcement.

This semester, she will be interning at the Children’s Bureau, which will be followed by another internship at Georgia’s Department of Family and Children’s Services, where she will get experience on the policy side. Griggs says her professors and advisors have helped her network and make life-long connections in her field. CAU is one of her top choices for graduate school.

She believes that other schools not only don’t offer the same level of opportunity, but also don’t have a similar tradition of producing scholars and leaders in the field. Graduates of the program, Griggs adds, are working at the highest levels of their industry, and the professors also are widely recognized.

She would one day like to open and operate an agency for transitional living, providing much-needed support to young adults between 18 and 22, who’ve aged or opted out of the foster care system.

“I feel like that’s the forgotten age. There are too many people who leave the system who aren’t educated about transitional living and have no assistance to help them transition to adulthood,” she says.
The college application process can be fraught with angst, but Marquez Davis, a senior marketing/international business management major, found the admissions officers at CAU to be so supportive and caring that when the time came to make his decision, it was a no-brainer.

“I wanted to attend a university that would have my back and look out for me just as I would for it,” he says. “There’s no place in the world like CAU and I mean that in every respect.”

Davis decided to study business because he wants to be his own boss. But, he says, once he began his coursework and delved deeper into his major, he found the servant within.

“I realized I would be serving and assisting other people in building their dreams,” he says.

Davis is currently in the process of building M. Davis Consulting, a firm that would provide marketing, public relations and event management services. His coursework and internships have helped him get a head start on his career. He has worked at Dow Lohnes, a sports and entertainment consulting firm, where he had an “amazing experience” and reported directly to a vice president of the organization.

“It was very rewarding and opened up other doors for me,” he says.

Davis also has worked for Kinetic Marketing Group, which “gave me direct experience in the field I’m studying that many people my age don’t get.”

In addition, CAU alums are providing him with invaluable advice and support, “sharing insight on how to avoid mistakes they’ve made and make genuine and lasting connections.”

His desire to pay it forward led him to serve as a Leadership Academy mentor at the Martin Luther King Elementary School, where he has participated in discussions and activities related to various issues, from academics to ethics.

For the past four years, he also has been a member of the campus NAACP chapter, and is currently serving his second term as its president. Under his leadership, the chapter spearheaded a major voting awareness initiative for the 2012 presidential election.

“We led from the front, getting all of the campus-wide organizations to plan seminars and events. We also partnered with outside organizations to encourage and help students register to vote,” says the former Mr. NAACP.

On Election Day, the University hosted a watch party that was attended by thousands of students and broadcast on CNN.

“As president I want to help students become more aware of civil rights history,” he says. “We’re here to fill in those gaps.”

The chapter also is active in the community, providing support on local issues like school closings.

It has approximately 115 members, but Davis wants to see it grow.

“Bodies are how we get our movements going,” he adds. “The NAACP is a living body and needs more living souls.”

Marquez Davis: Taking Care of Business
2013-2014 Men’s and Women’s Home Basketball Schedule

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**Denotes SIAC games
All CAU HOME games are played at Epps Gymnasium
Regular Season Ticket Price for games @ CAU: $10, except Morehouse $15
For more information about CAU basketball please visit our website at www.clarkatlantasports.com

Basketball Preview

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL: The reigning SIAC champions return seven players from last year’s championship squad including three-time Preseason All-Conference senior point guard Conisha Hicks. CAU will rely on a very talented back court to set the pace for the team behind Hicks, returning starter Denissea Law and junior Iyana Spatcher, who saw significant minutes last season. With the return of starting center Erika Sumpter, who led CAU on the glass, coupled with senior forward Jomanda Smalls whose play off the bench last season gave Clark Atlanta another dominant force inside, the Lady Panthers will be tough to guard in the paint. In her 11th season as head coach, Vanessa Moore is seeking her second title and third trip to the NCAA regional tournament. The quest for a repeat tips off on the road November 9, against Coastal Georgia College.

MEN’S BASKETBALL: After serving as CAU’s assistant basketball coach for three years, interim head coach Tony Lamarr takes the wheel of the men’s basketball program this season in an effort to steer it back on course. He will rely on a solid core of returners led by starting guard Jarrel Joye, the team’s leading scorer last season, and a host of others, including sophomore James Arnold, and forwards Dwayne Bingham, Kevin James and Glyndelle Poole. The Panthers season debut will begin on the road at Georgia College and State University Nov. 11, before their home opener Nov. 15, against Shorter University.

In the Spotlight

Clark Atlanta University women’s cross country and track and field student-athlete, Nekesha Whitaker was named one of the top 30 honorees for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award and was the only HBCU representative.

“Words cannot express how truly honored I am to even be considered for such a prestigious honor, and I am very thankful for my school, the SIAC and the NCAA for my selection,” said Whitaker.

Get Social with the Panthers and Stay Connected With the Latest in Athletics News and Updates
Twitter/Facebook: @ CAU PANTHERS | Website: www.clarkatlantasports.com
Thank you, Madame Chair, for a Sterling Example of Leadership!

No one who knows Juanita Powell Baranco, J.D., is surprised that she is one of the most respected women in the entrepreneurial realm, even less so that the industry in which she has made her most recent mark is the automotive industry. She is one of the most driven leaders of our time.

Her work as a practicing attorney ultimately led to her role as assistant attorney general for the State of Georgia. Her role as an education advocate led to her seat on the Georgia State Board of Education and, thereafter, the Georgia Board of Regents. In 1995, she became the first African-American woman to chair that august body.

Mrs. Baranco has for the past decade chaired the Clark Atlanta University Board of Trustees. Her service to the University began in 1997 as a tribute to her mother, the late Mrs. Evelyn Evans Powell, a member of the Clark University Class of 1958. In the final analysis, her exemplary leadership transcends a daughter’s devotion, setting a high standard for collaboration, strategic decision-making, institutional effectiveness and the pursuit of organizational excellence.

Clark Atlanta University is ever grateful for Mrs. Baranco’s sterling example of leadership. She has received numerous honors and awards throughout her path-making career. Their prestige could hardly be bested by our simple thanks. Instead, we offer to her this observation: your mother would surely be proud. Thank you, Madame Chair!
Carl Ware’s Visionary Commitment

Many are responsible for the grand design by which the successful consolidation of Atlanta University and Clark College was implemented. Many helped engineer the vision to ensure it would withstand inevitable winds of change. Yet, a select cadre of leaders are responsible for steering the University through uncharted waters. Twenty-five years ago, some may have considered this an expedition through seas of change; others an adventure into oceans of opportunity. Carl Ware (CC, ’65) understood the importance of navigating both, and as the first chairman of Clark Atlanta University’s Board of Trustees, he has captained the enterprise with acumen and honor over the past quarter century. Ware unfailingly credits the institution for setting the course of his own journey — which includes roles as president of the Atlanta City Council, executive vice president of Coca-Cola’s Africa Group and a key partner in creating economic strategies for post-Apartheid South Africa. Along with his wife Mary Clark Ware (CC, ’71), he has richly invested in the course of the University’s mission. Every student who sets foot inside the Carl and Mary Ware Academic Center literally walks in their footsteps. Ware continues to serve CAU today, as a trustee, lecturer and sage counsel as we continue to chart our course. It is only fitting, therefore, that the man who 25 years ago embraced the fullness of all that CAU can be graces the cover of this magazine, in which alumni representing myriad aspects of the CAU experience articulate all that it is and the fullness of what it portends for the future.

on the cover

Five legendary CAU firsts pause for what would become an historic photo. From left to right: CAU’s first First Lady, Brenda Cole, J.D.; CAU’s first president, Thomas W. Cole, Ph.D.; the first president of the CAU Alumni Association, Maurice Fitts Page; Mrs. Mary Ware, wife of CAU’s first board chair, Carl Ware; and CAU’s first board of trustees chairman, Carl H. Ware.

Then-Clark College Board Chair Carl H. Ware (left) joins Atlanta University Board Chair Thomas O.Cordy (right), as the newly consolidated Clark Atlanta University’s first president, Thomas W. Cole, Ph.D., discusses the new institution’s vision.

Atlanta University Board of Trustees Chairman Thomas O. Cordy (left) shakes hands with then-Clark College Board of Trustees Chairman Carl H. Ware on July 1, 1988, the official date of Clark Atlanta University’s consolidation. Both chairmen met at the edge of their respective institutions’ footprints, where Clark Atlanta University’s first president, Thomas W. Cole, Ph.D., awaited them with scissors for the historic ribbon-cutting.