



Connections

Volume 3, Issue 1

Fall 2007



Dear Alumni Friends and Supporters,

It is my great pleasure to extend greetings to you as we begin a new spirit of collaborative relations with our alumni.

As the new Vice President of Institutional Advancement and University Relations, I am both excited and energized by the dedication and interest of the

alumni whom I have had the opportunity to meet. I am also greatly encouraged that so many of you have already pledged your time, involvement and continued support of CAU. This level of commitment is destined to make a difference in helping us to meet the goals we have set and the vision we have for the University.

This demonstration of interest and support has also spurred my enthusiasm and optimism about the great work we can do together during this new period of re-engaging our alumni. More importantly, I look forward to leading the University's heightened priority on strengthening alumni relations as our collaboration and mutual cooperation promise to infuse vigor and vitality into every facet of Clark Atlanta University.

As an example of our commitment to cooperation and to building bridges with alumni, we are pleased to announce the Albert H. Watts Alumni House in Atlanta is once again open to alumni for their use and convenience. We look forward to hosting and attending more activities there in the coming year.

There are indeed great and exciting times ahead for us in the current academic year and beyond. From our placement on *The Princeton Review's* list of "Best Southeastern Colleges" for 2008, to the building and renovations taking place on campus, to our increased focus on alumni engagement, we are committed to giving you a reason to rally around CAU and give or continue to give your support.

To that end, I am excited to have become a new life member of the CAU Alumni Association.

Once again, I look forward to your joining us as we work together to make CAU a stronger and more vibrant higher education institution. Together, we can do it. Welcome home! Go, Panthers!

Sincerely,

Aristide J. Collins, Jr.
Vice President for Institutional Advancement and University Relations



Message from the CAUAA President

Dear Alumni,

I bring you greetings on behalf of the Clark Atlanta University Alumni Association.

We were delighted that so many alumni chose to come back home to their alma mater on October 5th and 6th. This year's Homecoming theme was simply "Coming Home." Our activities included a very successful Open House at the Watts Alumni House and Tailgate Village. The CAU Athletics Booster

Association again hosted the Hall of Fame Breakfast with new inductees.

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Message from the CAUAA President

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The Fall Conference was held in the “Windy City” of Chicago. Under the guidance and leadership of our President Emerita, Mrs. Maurice Fitts Page, the Chicagoland Chapter has tirelessly worked to make this one of our best conferences. We adjusted our schedule to meet the demanding needs of our career alums and convened on Friday, November 9th.

This year’s theme was “CAU Alumni: Passing the Torch and Embracing the Future.” Conference highlights included the Maxey Marshall Corporate Breakfast, Alumni Luncheon, and a tour of Chicago featuring African-American points of interest. Dr. Carlton Brown, our new Executive Vice President and Provost, and Mr. Aristide J. Collins, Jr., our new Vice President for Institutional Advancement & University Relations, addressed conference attendees.

On August 19th the Alumni Association hosted a Welcome Reception for Dr. Brown and Mr. Collins. This well-attended event gave alums an opportunity to hear first-hand their respective goals and visions for CAU. They were introduced by Mrs. Juanita Baranco, chair of the CAU Board of Trustees. President and Mrs. Walter D. Broadnax were in attendance as well as members of the President’s cabinet, CAU faculty and staff. One could certainly attest to the energy and enthusiasm present among those at the reception.

Best wishes,

Brenda J. Tolliver (CC ‘72, AU ‘73)
President, CAUAA

The Clark Atlanta University Annual Fund

The Clark Atlanta University Annual Fund was established to encourage, promote and recognize the ongoing loyalty of Clark Atlanta University alumni, friends, parents, corporate and organizational supporters. The CAU Annual Fund is the cornerstone of the University’s mission to help CAU remain affordable to students from all backgrounds. With its shared goals of encouraging alumni participation and increasing annual unrestricted giving, the CAU Annual Fund draws upon alumni to provide Clark Atlanta University with a firm foundation of financial support.

The CAU Annual Fund is a catalyst for leveraging individual generosity into collective energy resulting in an increase in alumni and community engagement and participation. It represents a dynamic interaction of people working together to achieve great things in the name Clark Atlanta University.

Gifts made to the CAU Annual Fund are both restricted and unrestricted. Unrestricted gifts enable the University to use the money where it is most needed. Restricted gifts are directed to a specific area designated by the donor. Your annual gifts continue to improve the University and provide a lasting impact on the lives of its students. As a premier institution of higher learning, financial assistance for students stands at the heart of CAU’s heritage.

The goal for the CAU Annual Fund, this year, is \$1 million which will significantly impact the future direction of Clark Atlanta University.

CAU’s future is bright, and we need your continued support to keep the momentum going. Your generous gift today will enhance the University’s ability to educate tomorrow’s leaders in the sciences, the arts, industry, and the caring professions.

We are grateful for your support of the CAU Annual Fund. Your gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated.


Sincerely,

Aristide J. Collins, Jr.
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
and University Relations



Left to right: Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Aristide J. Collins, Jr.; President Walter D. Broadnax; Board of Trustees Chair Juanita Baranco; Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Carlton E. Brown at the CAUAA Welcome Reception.

Introducing the New CAU
Ringtones and Wallpapers
for Your Cell Phone



William Iyler III
Past President, Pre-Alumni Council


Janell Jackson
President, Undergraduate SGA

Ibad Ziyad
Mr. Honor Program 2006-07

Isula Adams-Greedy
Miss CAU 2007-08

Follow the Leaders and Download Today!

Does "Reign, Clark Atlanta" tug at your heart? Do "Hail, Roaring Panthers" and "We Are the Mighty Marching Panthers" make the good memories flow? Follow our student leaders and download these musical selections as well as the alma maters of Atlanta University and Clark College to play when your cell phone rings. Also, below are wallpaper choices of the CAU logo and campus buildings. Clark Atlanta University is one of the first HBCUs with ringtones and wallpapers. Proceeds from the sales will benefit the CAU general scholarship fund. So, students and alumni, contact your carrier: Verizon, Sprint, AT&T and other carriers. Check under the College Ringtones and Wallpapers category and make your purchase. Download to your cell phone and other accessories capable of receiving mobile content. Let your Panther Pride ring through and give back to your university at the same time.



CLARK ATLANTA
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Ms. Tolliver, a board trustee who will be featured in a future issue of *CAU Magazine*, was recently recognized as a 2006 Silver Phoenix Member of the DeKalb Association of Realtors' Million Dollar Club. This achievement represents Alumna Tolliver's 20-year membership in the Million Dollar Club. She is the first African American in the 41-year history of the DeKalb Association of Realtors to achieve this status.

Shakura Ingram (CAU '95) was featured in the cover story of the *Fulton County Daily Report* (August 27, 2007). The cover story "On the Rise: 15 to Watch," features 15 lawyers under 40 who are making outstanding contributions to the legal field. Ms. Ingram was selected as one of 15 lawyers to watch by the staff of *Daily Report*. She is currently a lawyer with Thomas, Kennedy, Sampson & Patterson, Atlanta's oldest minority-owned firm. Prior to accepting this position in June, Ms. Ingram was a prosecutor with the Fulton County District Attorney's Major Case Unit. The former Miss CAU (1994-1995) cited CAU's motto "I'll Find a Way or Make One," among the best advice she has ever received.

Dr. Sarah Moten (AU '79) is the Education Division Chief for the U.S. Agency for International Development's Africa Bureau, where she is charged with implementing President George Bush's Africa Education Initiative. Dr. Moten manages a \$600-million budget and a 10-member staff. An in-depth article on Dr. Moten is forthcoming in an issue of *CAU Magazine*.

Isaac Snype (CC '76) was appointed as a Trustee to the CAU Board of Trustees at the May 2007 Board meeting. Trustee Snype was elected as the Alumni Representative to the Board by the CAU Alumni Association in 2004. As an elected trustee, he represented the alumni family for four years and will continue as an appointed trustee for an indefinite term. Congratulations!

Alumna Meca Walker (CAU '93) was elected in May 2007 as the new CAUAA Representative to the Clark Atlanta University Board of Trustees and will serve a two-year term that runs until 2009. She will attend her first Board of Trustees meeting in October when the full Board meets again. Walker was also recently appointed to the prestigious position of Associate Judge in the 309th Judicial District Court of Harris County in Houston, Texas. The Honorable Frank Rynd appointed Walker to the bench to replace The Honorable Michael Hay, who served as an Associate Judge for 24 years. She is the youngest family law judge and the first African-American family law judge since 1994. She will close her private law practice to prepare for her new appointment, which began September 1, 2007. Her public swearing-in ceremony was held on September 14.

Personally and Professionally Alumni

Gladystine Green (CU '30), a member of Saint Paul Methodist Church in Gainesville, Georgia for 86 years, was honored for outstanding church membership. She also received accolades for being the oldest member of her congregation and was featured in the cover story in the Religion and Spirituality section of the *Gainesville Times* on February 24, 2007. Green enrolled in Clark University in 1927 to begin her high school matriculation. She triumphed through turbulent times and became a civil rights advocate, business woman, and government employee in the Trenton, New Jersey Attorney General's Office and the War Department. Look for a full story about Green in an upcoming issue of *CAU Magazine*.

Congressman Hank Johnson (CC '76) served as moderator on April 1, 2007, for CAU's Atlanta Alumni Reception, "A Conversation with the President." The event was hosted by CAU's Board Chair, **Mrs. Juanita Baranco**, at Mercedes-Benz of Buckhead. Former U.N. Ambassador **Andrew Young** and CAUAA President/Trustee **Brenda Tolliver (CC '72, AU '73)**, were among the participants.

The Reverend Yolanda “Yogi” Thompson (CC ‘85) was honored as the Women’s Day speaker on Sunday, April 29, 2007, at Hoosier Memorial United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

LaKesha Gage (CAU ‘94), who resides in Chicago, Illinois, is an executive and independent self-care consultant with Warm Spirit. As an entrepreneur, Gage promotes a woman’s vitality, wellness, self-care, and energy through her Warm Spirit products.

Charles Howell (CAU ‘98) received a Master of Divinity degree from Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, on May 12, 2007. Congratulations!

Ittriss J. Jenkins (CAU ‘02) earned a Juris Doctor degree on May 11, 2007, from Texas Southern University’s Thurgood Marshall School of Law. He was previously an investigator in the Atlanta City Detention Center, where he was responsible for the operation of the 24-hour Pre-Trial Jail Services Unit.

James Locklin (CC ‘80) joined the board of the Alabama Broadcasters Association on November 2, 2006. He graduated from Clark College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications in 1980.

Ida D. McGhee (MLS, AU ‘79) was featured as the cover story in the November 2006 issue of *American Libraries*. She retired from the Hartford, Connecticut Public Library.

Arnold W. Foster (CC ‘82) was honored by the Newark Public School System for 25 years of dedicated service as an educator. Alumnus Foster received a Master of Arts degree in the area of Special Education, specializing in Mental Retardation, from Clark College in 1982.

Valerie “Lindsay” Canino (CAU ‘90) completed her graduate studies at the Erikson Institute in Chicago, Illinois. She received her Master of Science degree and Child Development Specialization in Administration from Clark Atlanta University in 1990.

Ruby Chapman (AU ‘79) is now a Life Member/Silver Star of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Dr. Berenecea Johnson Eanes (CAU ‘00) is now vice president of Student Development at John Jay College of Criminal Justice at The City University of New York.

Willie Montgomery (CC ‘64) was recently the first African American inducted into the Rome/Floyd County Sports Hall of Fame in the area of amateur golf. Montgomery was previously inducted into the CAU Athletic Hall of Fame as the second CAU golfer inducted into the Hall in the history of the University.

Edward E. Williams (AU ‘88) earned a doctorate degree in education in December 2006 from CAU. His dissertation was titled, “Teachers’ Perceptions of Principal Leadership in Relation

to Student Achievement.” Williams is the grandson of Zilla Mays-Smoak, who was the assistant registrar of Clark College in 1940. He received his Bachelor’s degree in 1986 from Morehouse College.

Anita Hanshaw Hyatt (CC ‘78) was featured in the May/June 2007 issue of *Golf for Women*, a golf digest publication. A diverse group of 12 women golfers were selected to test all new clubs being marketed and provide feedback on product performance. In the article, Hyatt was assessed as “a long-ball hitter and good putter who’s more comfortable with her woods than her irons.”

Dr. William T. Grimes, Jr. (CC ‘64), was honored at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine (WFUSM) Student National Medical Association’s Banquet of Excellence in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He was the first African-American male graduate of WFU School of Medicine. Grimes is a retired internal medicine practitioner and a retired major of the United States Army Medical Corps. He is married to Anne Mears of Minnesota, and they enjoy ballroom dancing, traveling, gardening and photography.

CAU’s Farida Kalala was featured in the stage play, *I Have Before Me a Remarkable Document Given to Me by a Young Lady from Rwanda*. The play, written by Sonja Linden and directed by Alan Kilpatrick, was a touching and humorous account of a young Rwandan genocide survivor and a struggling British poet who helped the young survivor tell her story. Alumnus Randy Maggiore was also featured. The production was held on the Alley Stage at the Theatre in the Square in Marietta, Georgia.

Tenisha Abernathy, a graduate of Clark Atlanta University, is now the Executive Producer for CNN’s *Weekend Primetime*.

Allison Horne (CAU ‘97) is an attorney with the Fulton County Office of the Public Defender.

Siad Jasho, husband of **Gay-linn E. Gatewood Jasho (CC ‘81, CAU ‘94)**, passed away in July 2007. Alumna Gatewood Jasho has been a member of the Clark Atlanta University staff since 1986. She is currently employed in the Department for Students with Disabilities and with the Community Service Program.

Kenya M. Johnson Kuykendoll (CAU ‘95) is an assistant district attorney with the Office of the Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard, Jr.

Jarod M. Scott (CAU’98, ‘03) was named to *Who’s Who Among American Teachers* for two consecutive years.

Mamie Shields Norman (CC ‘72) recently earned a doctorate in education.

Minister Cecelia B. Johnson (CC ‘74) has published a book, *God Sent You Good Children: How to Keep Them That Way*. Johnson is a minister at Williams Memorial CME Church in Augusta, Georgia, and is also a licensed clinical social worker.

Kevin G. Hughley (CC '81) is the executive producer of a community program on Comcast Cable 25. The program is a biweekly program that focuses on retail, business and home development and community events.

Sabrina M. Stephens (CC '85) is the CEO/publisher of *iSurrenderNews, Inc.*, a Christian publication that shares testimonies in hopes of drawing others to Christ. Prior to launching her own publication, Alumna Stephens interned at CrossRoads News, a DeKalb County newspaper, and extends special thanks to its publishers Jennifer and Curtis Parker.

Fred Calvin Coleman (CAU '92, '98) is currently employed as a licensed clinical social worker and recently became a licensed real estate agent. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Religion and Business Administration and a Master's degree in Social Work, both from CAU.

Dante' McKay (CAU '97) became a candidate for the Juris Doctor degree at the Southern University Law Center on May 12, 2007.

Mary Frances Early (CC '57), the University of Georgia's (UGA) first African-American alumna, was the speaker for UGA's graduate commencement. Early was a music teacher, supervisor and coordinator in the Atlanta public school system for 37 years before becoming the chairperson of the music department at Clark Atlanta University. She is now retired and celebrated her Golden Reunion with her 1957 classmates in May.

Thomas E. Roque, Jr. (CAU '04) joined Capital One Bank in the area of Community Development for the Northern and Southwest Regions. Roque is responsible for bond loans. He previously worked as a financial consultant for Wells Fargo.

Hazel Robinson Bowles (CC '57) retired in 1998 after a 38-year career in education. Since her retirement, Bowles established the Hazel Elizabeth Robinson Bowles Foundation (HERBF), which provides school uniforms and supplies to children in need. Through her Foundation, Bowles has raised more than \$14,000 and assisted more than 50 children. In May, she celebrated her Golden Reunion with her 1957 classmates.

Alumnus Jonathon Prince ran across the country from California to CAU in Atlanta and then from Atlanta to New York to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Prince and the Run 4 Relief program have raised more than \$100,000 in contributions and in-kind donations since the CAU track team joined him for his final laps to the CAU campus last spring.

Linwood Slayton, the husband of **Libbee Tipton Slayton (CC '81)**, passed away in March 2007. Linwood had collected 1,500 albums and acquired a 3,000-volume library. He also wrote an online weekly magazine and a column. Libbee has been a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., since 1978.

Eunice E. Washington (CC '97) of Red Bank, New Jersey, received the Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary at the school's 194th Commencement Exercises. The Master of Divinity at Princeton is a three-year graduate degree that is the basic professional degree for ministry.

Melvin Richardson (CC '78) established Rich Capital, LLC, an investment and consulting firm in the spring of 2007. Richardson and his wife Sandi are the proud parents of four children. Their son, David, is a senior at Clark Atlanta University. Visit Rich Capital at www.richcapital@bellsouth.us.

Chandra Thomas (CAU '95) has faithfully returned to CAU since graduating to speak to Mass Communication students. She is currently an assistant editor and staff writer with *Atlanta Magazine* and has been instrumental in getting at least five internships with *Atlanta Magazine* for CAU students during her three-year tenure. Thomas has written magazine articles on fellow alums such as Brian Barber (*Idlewild*) and Eva Pigford (*America's Top Model*). As a National Association of Black Journalists fellowship recipient, she has also covered stories on Hurricane Katrina. Prior to working at *Atlanta Magazine*, Thomas served as an associate producer for Fox 5's *Good Day Atlanta* morning show. She is the cofounder of a local African-American discussion group called TalkBLACK Atlanta and is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Lamont Robinson (CAU '04) recently opened an Allstate Insurance Agency in Chicago, Illinois, as an exclusive agent. His new agency, Robinson and Associates, offers customers a complete line of Allstate insurance products and services.

Delores Y. McKinley (CC '76) was featured in the July 2007 issue of *Black Enterprise* magazine. The article is on the topic of investment strategies and highlights Sisters Investing Seriously (SIS), an investment club that she started with several of her Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sisters. Pick up a copy of the magazine and go to the Moneywise column on page 37 to read this interesting article. McKinley currently lives in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and is an auditor for the Broward County Schools.

Katie Knowlin (CAU '74) of Baltimore, Maryland, is the minority/female business affairs manager for the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development. Knowlin is responsible for devising creative ways to nurture some of the fastest-growing private business segments in the country. Knowlin was formerly director of the Office of Minority Business Enterprise for the Maryland Department of Transportation, where she supervised a 30-member staff responsible for overseeing state and federal regulations for certification of minority business enterprise programs. She graduated from Clark College with a degree in Psychology and Social Welfare.

ALUMNI AUTHORS' CORNER



Dr. Cynthia Bond Hopson (CC '85)

A Spiritual Perspective on Getting Organized and Maintaining Balance in Your Life

Bad Hair Days, Rainy Days and Mondays: Wisdom and Encouragement to Lift a Woman's Spirit is the third book written by alumna Dr. Cynthia Bond Hopson. Dr. Hopson offers in her tiny, but power-packed book of meditations, advice and spiritual perspectives on the importance of friendship, self-care, laughter and more. Some experts view her book as humor-therapy for free. *Bad Hair Days* is the first meditation-style book written by this award-winning professor and inspirational speaker. Hopson is available for interviews and book signings and may be reached at (731) 267-6872 or (731) 664-9272. The \$10 book is available in most bookstores.

Hopson currently serves as assistant general secretary of the Black College Fund and Ethnic Concerns for the United Methodist Church's Board of Higher Education and Ministry in Nashville, Tennessee. She is a former associate professor of journalism at The University of Memphis.

School of Social Work Alumni Contribute to New Book

Seven social work alumni present theory, research and analyses of a range of social and psychological issues of African Americans in a new book. Nine of 32 chapters of the book *Human Behavior in the Social Environment from an African-American Perspective* (2007) second edition, were coauthored by alumni who received the Master of Social Work degree from either the Atlanta University School of Social Work (AUSSW) or Clark Atlanta University School of Social Work (CAUSSW) or Whitney M. Young, Jr., School of Social Work (WMYJSSW). Many of the authors have received doctorate degrees, engaged in advanced professional social work practice and research, and have prestigious university academic positions. The authors' foundation for generating scholarly work has been AUSSW, CAUSSW or WMYJSSW.

The alumni coauthors are:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| June Gary Hopps (AU '62) | Naomi T. Ward (CC '56; AU '58) |
| Aliezoria Redd (CAU '97) | Ruby M. Gourdine (AU '75) |
| Creigs C. Beverly (AU '65) | Larry Williams (CAU '05) |
| Mamie Darlington (AU '60) | |

Dr. Dorcas D. Bowles, Vice President for Academic Affairs at CAU, is also a contributing coauthor of a chapter to *Human Behavior*.

Patrice Morgan (CAU '03)

SHOWOFF: A Glimpse of Bermuda's Fashion and Culture

Alumna Patrice Morgan (CAU '03) is the owner and publisher of the fashion and lifestyle magazine, *SHOWOFF*. Armed with a business plan and her savings account, she launched the magazine on the island of Bermuda after serving a stint as a substitute teacher. Her magazine targets up-and-coming professionals from age 18 to 30-something, but it has also caught the eye of established professionals. Beauty, health, and relationship issues are regular features of her magazine. As a proud Bermudian, Morgan wants each publication to showcase the rich culture and style trends of the island.

She initially studied Accounting at CAU, but decided to take a semester off to study in Paris. "This was an opportunity for me to gather my career thoughts, become fluent in French, and ultimately experience the birth place of fashion. In Paris, I took a course in Fashion Design and knew instantly that it was a career that I wanted to pursue. This budding entrepreneur returned to CAU where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fashion Design and Merchandising and interned at the world-renowned America's Mart in Atlanta, Georgia. Visit the magazine Web site at www.showoffmagazine.net or you can reach Morgan by calling (441) 296-7503. The mailing address is: SHOWOFF Magazine, P.O. BOX HM 3177, Hamilton HMNX.

Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness (CC '78)

Encouragement and Hope for Everyday Living

Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness offers in her book, *Lessons in Truth: Selected Sermons Volume I*, biblical teachings relevant to the everyday lives of Christians of all ages. She blends Bible verses with popular culture jargon to speak to youth, while chapters such as "It's All Right to Be Single" resonate with more mature Christians seeking to understand the vocations of marriage and single life in today's world. Her book can be purchased from her Web site at www.egailandersonholness.com or by calling (202) 387-1154.

Holness is a college administrator and serves as the Minister for Young Adults at Metropolitan A.M.E. Church in Washington, D.C. She is the proud mother of Ali Gail Holness, a sophomore at Spelman College and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She received a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Clark College and Juris Doctor degree from Howard University School of Law.



Melvin Richardson (CC '78)

Embracing All of Parenthood... Our Wives and Mothers Can't Do It All

Alumnus Melvin Richardson, an Accounting graduate and the first recipient of the Clark College Panther Award, has published his first book titled, *Embracing All of Parenthood: Our Wives and Mothers Can't Do It All*. The book was released in May 2007 and can be purchased through www.richcapital.us and clicking on Info & Contact Us and *Embracing All of Parenthood*. For more information, Richardson can be contacted at richcapital@bellsouth.net.

Cecil Cross II (CAU '04)

Learning to Manage the First Semester of College

Cecil Cross II has written his first novel titled, *First Semester*, which is set around the main character, J.D., and his ups and downs during his first semester at an historically black college in Atlanta. After losing a close childhood friend to violence and narrowly escaping his notoriously rough neighborhood, J.D. is determined to use college as a springboard for a better life. However, once he arrives at the dorm, J.D. quickly learns that getting out of Oakland and into college was only half the battle. Follow J.D. as he is faced with extreme tests of willpower to complete his first semester amid several personal challenges and life-changing experiences as he learns one very important lesson.

President's Updates CAU National Alumni Association

May 2007 Election Results

During the 2007 Annual May Weekend and Fall Conference, election results were announced for new CAUAA officers. Offices that were up for election for 2007-2009 were: Vice President, Vice President for Undergraduate, Recording Secretary, Parliamentarian, Chaplain and Alumni Representative to the Board of Trustees.

Congratulations to the following new CAUAA national officers:

- Mr. Clifford S. Meeks (CC '69), Vice President
- Ms. Shaunte' Norris (CAU '96), Vice President for Undergraduate
- Ms. Jamila Jones, Recording Secretary
- Mrs. Olivia B. Meeks (CC '69), Parliamentarian
- The Reverend Zenovia Stafford (CC' 49), Chaplain
- Ms. Meca L. Walker, (CAU '93), Alumni Representative to the Board of Trustees

CAUAA Dues

Alumni dues for the upcoming fiscal year were due July 1. However, it is not too late to pay your national dues. A basic membership is only \$25. Visit www.cauaa.org to get more information about membership levels and to pay dues online. You can also complete the membership application enclosed with this newsletter and mail it to the CAUAA campus address on the application form.

Welcome 2007 Graduates Into the Alumni Family

A heartfelt welcome is extended to the Class of 2007 graduates who are now members of the National Alumni Association. CAUAA welcomed 820 graduates into the alumni family. For the second time in the school's history, the University included alumni dues in students' graduation fees. A CAUAA Membership Handbook was given to all graduates along with their membership card. Many thanks are extended to Dr. Isabella T. Jenkins, chairperson of Traditions and Culture Committee, for championing this effort and making it a reality.

New CAUAA Affiliate

The CAU Alumni Band Association is the newest affiliate of the National Alumni Association. The chapter was approved with 52 charter members. Cecil Houston II (CAU '00) is the founding chapter president.

SAVE THE DATE:

Clark Atlanta University Alumni Association, Inc.
Presents the

First Annual Spirit of Greatness Gala

A Black Tie Signature Fund Raising Event

April 5, 2008

Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia

The Evening will feature Dinner, Dancing, Spectacular
Entertainment and the First Annual Pathways
to Excellence Awards Ceremony

A formal invitation will follow.

Congratulations, CAUAA Life Members!

During the past fiscal year, a challenge was issued for CAUAA to have 50 Life Members by May Weekend, where they will receive special recognition. Should you like to be included among this distinguished group of alumni, you may send your check for \$1000 made payable to CAUAA, Inc., to 223 James P. Brawley Drive, S.W., Campus Box 1913, Atlanta, GA 30314.

Fund-Raising Projects

CAU Drumline Marching Band Uniforms - CAU is raising money to purchase new band uniforms for our renowned marching band. Our goal is \$100,000, which will provide scholarships and 125 new uniforms. We have donor levels of \$250, \$500 and \$1000, but all contributions, large or small, are accepted. The cost of one uniform is approximately \$500. Thanks to those who have made pledges and donations. This is a worthy cause we all can support! Please make your contributions today. It's not too late! Donations can be made online at www.cauaa.org or mailed to CAUAA, Inc., at 223 James P. Brawley Drive, S.W., P.O. Box 1913, Atlanta, GA 30314. More info can be found on the CAUAA Web site.

Deferred Giving Program - CAUAA has established a deferred giving through life insurance program for Clark Atlanta University. This too is an easy way to extend your legacy to your alma mater. We are inviting alumni who are in the life insurance industry to participate. The Deferred Giving Program Committee is chaired by James Mays (CC '69), and Joseph Strawbridge III (CC '65) is cochair. If you are interested in additional information concerning this program, please e-mail Strawbridge at jstrawbridge@atnex.net or call 1 (800) 879-3609.

Many Ways to Give - Alumni, you can make gifts to Clark Atlanta University in multiple ways—an annual gift, an endowed gift, a capital gift, planned gift even a matching gift! Your gift to Clark Atlanta University provides enormous opportunities and benefits to students and the academic community. Your contribution helps to enhance faculty development and strengthens the overall programmatic efforts towards making a difference in the experience of the CAU student. For more information, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement and University Relations at (404) 880-8935.

CAUAA Chapter News

Lucy Parks Hamilton (CU '32), who rarely misses a chapter meeting, celebrated her 97th birthday November 28, 2006.

Taj Tashombe (CAU '02) is successfully devoting his time to recruiting recent grads for the Los Angeles Chapter. He has created a MySpace site, which has proven to be an excellent recruitment vehicle for the chapter.

We were ecstatic at the first meeting of the New Year to welcome **Mahogany Ratcliffe** (CAU '02), **Tiffany Smith** (CAU '03), **Christopher Williams** (CAU '05) and **Dena Waldon** (CAU '98). Waldon has driven approximately 240 miles round-trip from San Diego to participate in alumni activities. We also extended a warm welcome to **James Scriven** (AU '67), who joined us at the first meeting of the New Year. **Gabrielle Reynolds** (CAU '04) attended our February meeting.

Several of our newly recruited members and Tashombe were overwhelmed with the number of potential students interested in CAU at the Black College Expo held on January 13, 2007, at the Los Angeles Convention Center. In fact, they did not have enough recruitment materials to meet the demand. **Kristin LeDuff** (CAU '03) recruited students at the annual Black College Fair held at Long Beach City College on February 28, 2007. The chapter has three college fairs scheduled for the next two months.

Mahogany Ratcliffe's starring role in the NAACP's best play of 2006, *The Girls of Summer*, helped to raise funds for the local chapter by attracting fellow alumni to the theatre. It is noteworthy that support of the event was successful in generating funds for the local chapter.

Kimoji Brown (CAU '95) is editor of an online magazine, *The Weekend Gamer*, www.theweekendgamer.com, and his lovely wife **Kasey Philips Brown** (CAU '94 and '96) is featured as an interviewer of some rather outstanding celebrities.

Carolyn McIntosh (CC '64) was also recently recognized by the California Legislative Assembly as Citizen of the Year 2006 for her volunteer/community service.

People in the News

Allison Samuels (CAU '88) shared a 2007 National Association of Black Journalists Award for *Newsweek's* March 17, 2007 cover package "Black Like Who?" which she coauthored with John Leland, Ellis Cose and Vern Smith. Their stories explored the generation gap which exists between many African Americans of the civil rights era and their offspring, who relate more closely with today's hip-hop culture than with their elders' struggles. She joined *Newsweek* in March 1994 as a researcher, and was promoted to reporter in January 1996. Before joining the magazine, Samuels had worked as a researcher at Quincy Jones Entertainment since 1992 and as a reporter at *The Los Angeles Times* since 1989. Samuels graduated from Clark Atlanta University in 1988 with a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications. Samuels, who is not affiliated with the Los Angeles alumni chapter, currently resides in Los Angeles. She recently published a book titled *Off the Record*.

The Music of Her Heart

Nichell Taylor Bryant (CAU '91)

"I had put music out of my life for nearly a decade to establish a more 'stable' life, so I became a journalist for a long time then a publicist. But music was always very much in my heart, calling me."

That musical calling eventually led Nichell Taylor Bryant to the stage of the world-renowned Carnegie Hall in New York in June 2007, where she performed a 90-minute classical soprano recital debut. In 1987, she proudly chose Clark Atlanta University for her college studies and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in Mass Media Arts/Journalism. Her career in media began in 1989 in Atlanta, where she was a freelance writer covering various news and feature stories for the city's historic community newspapers, including *The Atlanta Voice*, *The Atlanta Daily World*, *The Atlanta Inquirer* and the *Atlanta University Center Digest*. In 1990, Bryant joined the editorial staff of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (AJC), where she worked as a reporter for seven years. Today, she is the founder of SoulSource Communications, LLC (www.business.pr.com/soulsourcecommunications), a New York-based public relations and editorial firm.

In 1997, she decided to take a leap of faith and began studying privately with a few renowned New York vocal coaches. *"I had put music out of my life for nearly a decade to establish a more 'stable' life, so I became a journalist for a long time then a publicist. But music was always very much in my heart, calling me. One day I decided to answer the call, for better or for worse. . . My Carnegie Hall classical soprano recital debut was amazing and exceeded my dreams and expectations."* Performing on stage at New York's prestigious Carnegie Hall certainly qualifies as "working out pretty well."

PANTHERS AND JOHNSON ARE NATION'S BEST



In February, the Clark Atlanta University (CAU) Panthers football team and defensive lineman Curtis Johnson were recognized as 2006 Division II Statistical Champions by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

The Panthers were the best defensive team in college football (Division II) in total defense this past season. In 10 games, the

Panthers yielded only 2,234 in total yards or 223.4 yards per game. The CAU defense gave up only 15 touchdowns and finished first in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) in pass defense with teams averaging a mere 120 yards per game. The Panther defense also finished second in the SIAC in scoring by holding opponents to an average of 15.6 points per game.

Instrumental in the team's statistical championship were the efforts of junior defensive lineman Curtis Johnson. Over the course of the season, Johnson forced nine fumbles, the most in college football (Division II). For his effort, he was named the NCAA Division II Statistical Champ for Forced Fumbles.

"A player of Curtis' talent and work-ethic comes along all too rarely in Division II college football," said Head Coach Ted Bahhur. "I am not surprised that he led the nation in forced fumbles. We've known all along that his on-field ability combined with his leadership qualities would make us a better football team. While the rest of the nation is just being introduced to Curtis as an NCAA Statistical Champion, I fully expect that after his graduation from CAU, he'll become a household name as a member of the National Football League."

At 6'3, 240 lbs, Johnson was a linchpin for the Panther defense. In addition to leading the nation in forced fumbles, he led the Panthers in tackles for loss with 18 and was first on the team in fumble returns with three, two of which were returned for touchdowns. The Lauderhill, Florida native was the Panthers' second leading tackler with 70, and he was second on the team in quarterback sacks with five.

"You can go back in CAU history as far as the famed 'Black Battalion of Death' of the 1920s to see that strong defense has always been one of the hallmarks of Panther football," said Bahhur. "As a coaching staff, we pride ourselves on that tradition and the players also know the importance of defense to our overall success. Defensive Coordinator Kelvin Powell did a tremendous job implementing our defensive schemes this past season and the results are pretty conclusive. Panther fans and CAU Alumni across the country can rejoice in our status as NCAA Statistical Champions."

In Memoriam

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (CAU '97) Danielle Ellard | (CC '57) Mary Rachel Garth Curtis |
| (AU '31) Candace Nicholas | (CC '51) Alfred J. Turk II, M.D. |
| (CC '81) Kathy Harbour | (CC '47) Andrew King |
| (CC '74) Kathryn Forsyth-Tarver | (CC '29) Eloise J. Solomon |
| (CC '76) Avis Blanton | (AU '51) Dr. Arlynn Lake Cheers |
| (CC '42) William O. Powell | (CC '45) Ora Bohanan |
| (CC '78) Deniseo Wesley | (AU '57) Dewey Knight |
| (CC '78) Torris Crawford | (AU '57) Judge Ozella Tucker Willis |
| (CC '48) Dr. Vivian D. Kendricks | (CC '50) Julius Conway |
| (CC '50) Dr. E. C. Norman | Siad Jasho (Husband of |
| (CC '51) William Breeding | Gay-linn Jasho CC '81, CAU'94) |
| (CC '32, AU '42) Gussie Hyatte | |
| (CC '76) Barbara Jackson | |
| "Precious Pup" McNease | |



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Connections

Connections is a publication of Clark Atlanta University and the Alumni Relations Office. For the 2007-2008 academic year, this newsletter will be printed quarterly.

To submit by e-mail:

Send information to connections@cau.edu or alumni@cau.edu.

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Connections Wants to Know...

What's new with you? Perhaps you have changed jobs or careers; received an award or advanced degree; or had an addition to the family. Maybe you read an interesting story about a classmate or colleague. Alumni *Connections* wants to hear from you! Please send us personal and professional news to be included in a future issue, as space permits. Photos of good quality (JPEG/TIFF at least 300 dpi resolution) are welcome and will be considered for inclusion with your news. Hard-copy photos become the property of Clark Atlanta University unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. **Complete this form and snail-mail, fax, or e-mail it to:**

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