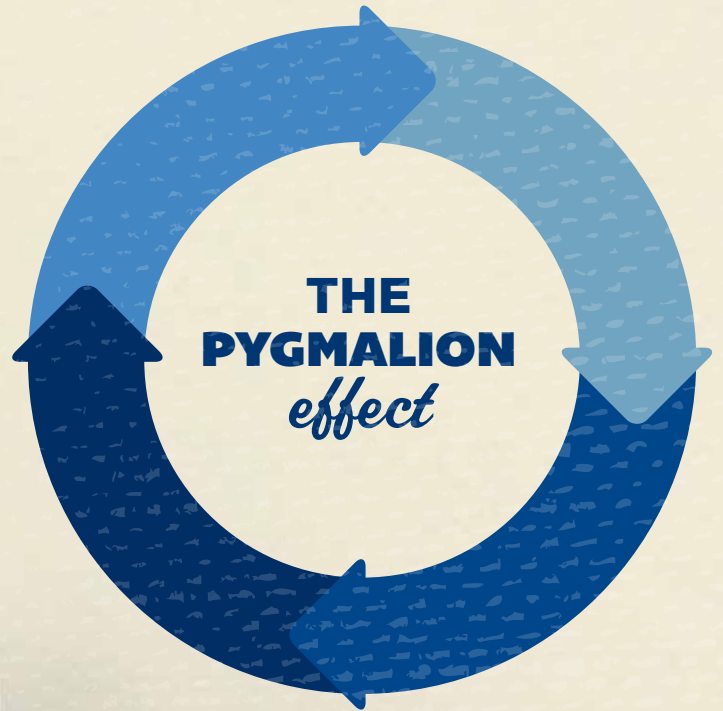


CLARION

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

SPRING 2017



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VONNIE MICHALI ('07, M.S. '09) SAID RAISING EXPECTATIONS OF THE INTELLECTUALLY DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAM SHE



CREATED IS THE KEY TO ACADEMIC AND LIFE SUCCESS.

CLARION

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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Save the Date

for the



GAME

this summer

7:05 p.m.

July 15

vs.

CARDINALS

For details, watch <http://www.clarion.edu/alumni-and-friends/alumni-association/events>.



COURAGEOUS. *confident.* CLARION.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Clarion Family,

As you may have heard, Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education is embarking on a Strategic System Review, a top-to-bottom look at the operations of the 14 State System universities and the Office of the Chancellor. The review is being conducted because the chancellor believes that the State System and its universities, including Clarion, are facing unprecedented challenges, inadequate state funding and persistent declines in enrollment. These challenges have become common throughout the country.

Since news of the review began to spread, I've been asked the same question: "Is Clarion University going to close?" I answer with confidence: "No. Clarion University will not close. We will change!" In fact we have changed many times over our 150-year history from a private Methodist seminary in 1867 to a public normal school in 1887 to state teachers college, state college and to a university, today.

Public universities don't close - they change, and we're ahead of the curve. Over the years, we have intentionally reorganized ourselves to be a more professionally focused university, and we are seeing results. Clarion's nursing program is at capacity, doubling its cohort from 73 students last year to 157 this year. Enrollment in both the early childhood education and the master of education programs has increased nearly 24 percent since 2015, and enrollment in new programs in nutrition and fitness, criminal justice, data analytics and sport management is also soaring.

This review is intended to help the universities and the State System identify new opportunities that will allow us to better serve students through high-quality educational experiences at an exceptional value. At Clarion, we see it as an opportunity for all of us to reflect, learn and continue to improve.

Please know that as this review of the universities and of the State System itself becomes public, we will continue to update you. We will also continue to talk about the many ways we are working to be our very best in service to our students, alumni and community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen M. Whitney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen M. Whitney
President, Clarion University

Go Eagles!

spotlight on:

COMMUNICATION

WHY IT'S HOT

A degree in communication offers a range of career opportunities in an exciting and rapidly expanding field. Communication professionals make it happen online, on television and radio, in print and in face-to-face settings. Graduates are prepared to enter a rewarding career in public relations, advertising, corporate communication, journalism or broadcast/digital media.

WHAT IT'S GOT

The Department of Communication offers a B.S. in communication and an online M.S. in mass media arts and journalism, in addition to the online graduate certificate in public relations and a communication concentration in the online B.S. in liberal studies. Students develop broad-based communication and writing skills, along with intensive professional career preparation.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Communication Alumni Board has launched CUE Becker — Communication Upgrade Effort — a fundraising campaign to provide state-of-the-art equipment and facility updates for communication students in Becker Hall. Additionally, it will enable current students to stream, broadcast and televise athletic events. To donate to CUE Becker, visit <https://alumniandfriends.cuf-inc.org/communication-upgrade-effort>

NEIL WEAVER
appointed to
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

Gov. Tom Wolf has named Neil R. Weaver ('00), York, to Clarion University Council of Trustees. Weaver is executive deputy secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, where he oversees the management, programs and operations for the state agency. Trustees' duties include: the establishment of academic programs and schools for consideration by the State System Board of Governors; review and approval of annual operating and capital budgets, fees, purchases and contracts; participation in university and system-wide strategic planning; review and approval of policies



and procedures governing the use of university facilities and property; annual inspection of university facilities; and the annual evaluation of the president. Gov. Wolf also reappointed James L. Kifer ('83), Rimersburg, and Dr. Syed Ali-Zaidi, Shippenville.

CLARION *chosen to offer*
BUSINESS LAUNCH
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Clarion University, along with its Entrepreneurial Leadership Center and Small Business Development Center, announce the Business Launch Internship Program. Clarion is one of three State System of Higher Education universities to be selected.

This highly competitive internship will help students gain experience in business development, market research, marketing plans, fundraising and financing. The program seeks young

entrepreneurs who are interested in gaining real-world experiences and expanding their entrepreneurial horizons. Interns will have the chance to bring innovation and economic inspiration to the region over the course of three, six or nine months. Incubator space and internship coordination will be provided by the ELC and SBDC at the Gregory Barnes Center.



WORLDWIDE CELEBRATION *of* WOMEN

Clarion University joined the International Women's Day celebration March 8 with a lunch reception and film. The reception offered samples of international foods, including Cuban

black bean soup, Kimchi fried rice and Mulligatawny egg drop soup. Guests networked, shared stories and had the opportunity to learn about women who have influenced a variety of fields,

such as arts and politics. Later that evening, "The Second Mother" was shown in the University Theater in Suites on Main North.



A group of 48 students, faculty and alumni traveled to Washington, D.C., to take part in the Jan. 21 Women's March on Washington. Dr. Kathleen McIntyre (left), director of Clarion's women and gender studies program, marches with students Kristina Kiritchenko, Lara Mahaffy, Samantha Neeman and Maya Arellano. The group hosted a panel discussion in March to discuss why they participated in the event.





CU helps families displaced by fire

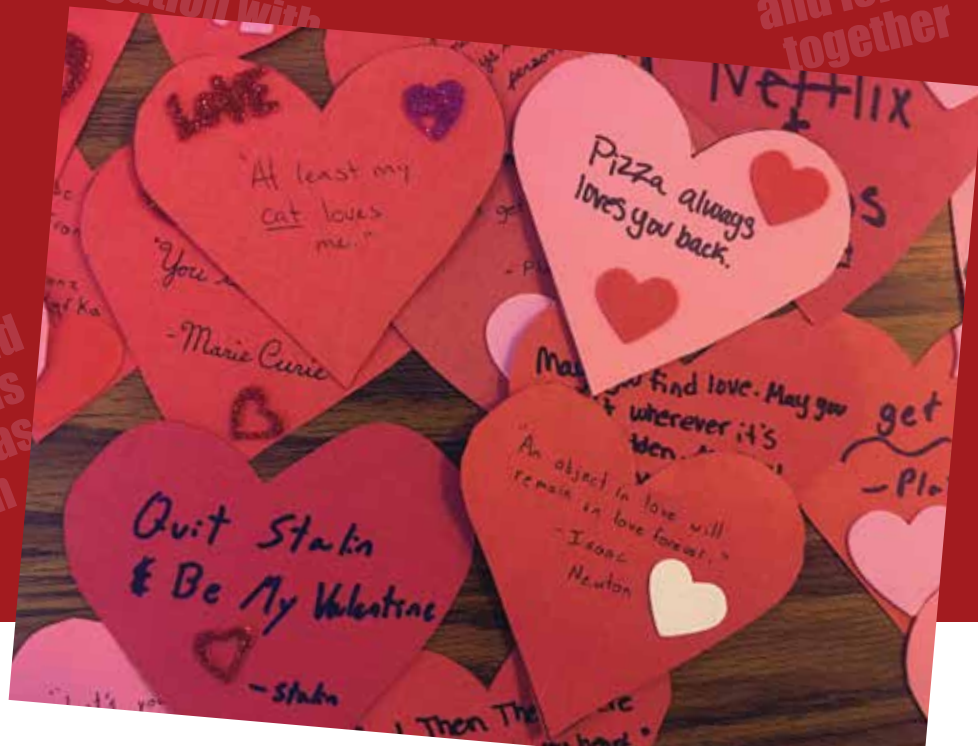
Anthony Servette stands amid donations to aid 12 families whose belongings were destroyed in an apartment complex fire in late March in Clarion Township. The Philanthropy and Fundraising Committee, part of Clarion's Advisory Board for Leadership and Engagement, coordinated the week-long drive for clothing and household items. Committee members include: Jill Lohner, Sarah Ragan, Kylee Culver, Lonnie Johnson, Brendon Henshawe, Chuck Atterbury, Sammie Schlak, Breanna McGaughy, Renay Long and Caitlyn McNerny.

A SPOONFUL OF VINEGAR HELPS VALENTINE'S DAY GO DOWN

History and English clubs helped spread Valentine's Day spirit by selling Vinegar Valentines.

The cards, which originated in the 1840s, contain cynical, sarcastic poems under caricatures. Clarion students put their own spin on these old-time favorite cards. They cut out red paper hearts and wrote a variety of messages on them, many with historical or literary references. Others catered to those without a human Valentine and mentioned love for things such as cats, tacos and Netflix. "It's a response to the sentimentality of the season," said Lara Mahaffy, History Club member. "This is just a fun, snappy retort."

Meh. You'll do OK 4 your age On this Valentine's Day let's be pathetic and lonely together I'd rather spend this annual obligation with I'm not sick of you yet



Thanks for always pretending to listen

I'm so glad you're as weird as I am

Celebrate Clarion University's
150th anniversary with a
CRUISE TO THE BAHAMAS!



SET SAIL FOR THE SESQUICENTENNIAL!

**ALUMNI, EMPLOYEES, RETIREES,
DONORS AND FRIENDS**

**are invited to a four-day, three-night Bahamas cruise
on Royal Caribbean's Majesty of the Seas.**

The cruise, scheduled for Jan. 12-15, 2018, will depart from Port Canaveral, Orlando, and will make stops at ports in Nassau and Cococay (Royal Caribbean's private island), Bahamas, before returning to Orlando. Clarion's group can enjoy Clarion-only activities such as a cocktail party, karaoke or trivia challenges.

Cost per person for a double-occupancy, interior room is \$282.79, which includes the stateroom, food,

some non-alcoholic beverages, entertainment, port charges, taxes, fees and all gratuities. Exterior rooms cost an additional \$57 per person. Airfare and transfers to the pier are the traveler's responsibility and can be reserved through Williams Travel. A deposit of \$100 per person is necessary to reserve your stateroom.

Travelers will need either a driver's license and original birth certificate or a passport. A limited number of

rooms are available. For reservations, contact travel agent Stew Armstrong, Williams Travel Agency, Oil City, Pa., at 814-677-1237 or stewart.williamstravel@gmail.com. For information about the cruise prior to contacting the travel agent, contact Ann Jamison, executive staff assistant to the president, at 814-393-2220 or ajamison@clarion.edu.

RENAMED COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BETTER REFLECTS PROGRAMS



“
We’re a new
Clarion that’s
emerging,
and it’s very
exciting.”

— PRESIDENT WHITNEY

Venango College will become the College of Health and Human Services, effective July 1, to better reflect the growing demand for the professional programs it offers and to better align the academic programs that exist on all of the university’s campuses. It will be housed at Clarion University – Venango.

“THE NAME CHANGE ... has been under consideration for months, and is an important step moving forward,” said Dr. Todd Pfannestiel, interim provost. “It strengthens our credentials within that broad field and further permits us to market more directly to prospective

students interested in coming to Clarion to study in those professional disciplines.”

The College of Health and Human Services will house the departments of: communication sciences and disorders; human services, rehabilitation and

health and sport sciences; nursing; and justice, law, technology and liberal arts. Classes are offered at Clarion and Venango campuses, as well as at the Pittsburgh site and online.

“We’ve introduced a great number of academic programs in health and human services, and we’ve greatly expanded our nursing program,” said President Karen Whitney.

“In the past three years, Clarion has added bachelor’s degrees in nutrition and fitness and in sports management, as well as a new master’s in mental health counseling. Enrollment in those programs is soaring,” Pfannestiel said. “In addition, we are exploring new credentials in respiratory care and athletic training. Simultaneously, our comprehensive credential ladder in nursing continues to grow in enrollment at all levels: ASN, RN-to-BSN, four-year BSN, MSN and DNP.”



OTHER CLARION PROGRAMS SHOWING SIGNIFICANT GROWTH ARE LIBRARY SCIENCE; MASS MEDIA ARTS, JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION; BIOLOGY; BUSINESS; MANAGEMENT; AND EARLY CHILDHOOD/SPECIAL EDUCATION.



WOLF PROPOSES INCREASED FUNDING FOR STATE SYSTEM SCHOOLS

Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed 2017-18 commonwealth budget recommends a third straight year of increased funding for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. The governor's proposal would provide the State System about \$453.1 million next year to help fund the operations of the 14 state-owned universities, an increase of almost \$9 million from the current year's funding level.

In addition to the base appropriation recommended by the governor, the State System also would receive an estimated \$17.1 million next year from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund to help pay for deferred maintenance of campus facilities. The fund is supported through a portion of the state's realty transfer tax.

"This new investment would help our universities continue to provide high-quality, high-value and affordable educational opportunities to our students — helping to secure a brighter future not just for them, but for all Pennsylvanians," said State System Chancellor Frank T. Brogan.

A final version of the budget is due on the governor's desk by June 30.

“In the past three years, Clarion has added bachelor’s degrees in nutrition and fitness and in sports management, as well as a new master’s in mental health counseling. Enrollment in those programs is soaring.”

— DR. TODD PFANNESTIEL

“In the past year, enrollment in the four-year BSN program has more than doubled, increasing from 73 to 157 students,” Whitney said. “Likewise, the RN-to-BSN completion program and the Master of Nursing show significant growth.”

The BSN program is at capacity, but Whitney encourages those interested in the program to explore other options, including the ASN and pre-nursing programs, which provide alternate avenues to enter the BSN program at a later date.

Other Clarion programs showing significant growth are library science; mass media arts, journalism and communication; biology; business; management; and early childhood/special education. Currently, 80 percent of Clarion's students are in professional programs, and that number is expected to grow to 95 percent in the next five years.

“We are sharpening our focus to what is needed and wanted in the working world,” Whitney said.

“Students are coming to Clarion University for the degree and leaving prepared for a professional career,” Pfannestiel said “We will continue to see greater emphasis on the fact that the vast majority of Clarion students enroll in professional degree programs in education, business and the health sciences, including nursing. As students make these decisions, we plan to focus our academic energies on those fields that prepare students for professions, here in Pennsylvania and beyond.”

“That’s the new Clarion,” Whitney said. “We’re a new Clarion that’s emerging, and it’s very exciting.”

The name change also coincides with the launch of Clarion's national search to hire a founding dean of that college.



MID-WINTER IN *sunny* FLORIDA

The 2017 Florida Alumni Tour was Feb. 27 through March 3, with events in The Villages, Orlando, Fort Myers, St. Petersburg and LECOM Park in Bradenton. The first four events featured a social hour and meet and greet with President Karen Whitney, followed by a presentation by Dr. Kevan Yenerall, Clarion professor of political science. The final event of the week was a Pittsburgh Pirates spring training game against the Baltimore Orioles, with more than 90 alumni and friends in attendance.







Equine opportunity

“

MY LOVE FOR HORSES STARTED WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG,” SAID SUTHERLYN HOLLABAUGH, A FRESHMAN. “I LOVE THE SENSE OF SECURITY MY HORSES GIVE ME: THEY NEVER JUDGE ME, THEY USUALLY NEVER LET ME DOWN IN THE SHOW RING, AND THEY’RE THE BEST LISTENERS. THEY’VE ALSO BROUGHT SOME AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES INTO MY LIFE.”



Clockwise from top left:
Natalee McCarthy, Cassidy Smith,
Katelyn Maille, Sabrina Perilli,
Sutherland Hollabaugh

THE TRADITION OF RIDING ON horseback dates back as far as 4200 BC. Horses were recognized for their usefulness in hunting, transportation, farming, warfare and, eventually, sport, more than as the riding companions of today. Native Americans shared with early settlers the importance of horses and horseback riding, as well as their respect and affection for the animals, instilling a love for these strong, beautiful animals.

Fast forward to present day, and we see that love and respect continue to grow. Today's horse owners keep the animals for a variety of reasons: their own pleasure, economic reasons, to compete, or simply love of the animal.

Equestrian Club began in fall 2009 at Venango Campus after two students who went on a recreational trail ride decided to bring their passion for horses to their school. A year later, a student at Clarion's main campus expressed interest in competing.

"It was a simple matter of combining the two campuses and utilizing club memberships to fund activities," said Dalyann Fuller, advisor of Equestrian Team and Equestrian Club. "From this humble beginning, the team was formed."



Equestrian Club

Students who are only somewhat familiar with horses, or those who have never been around horses, can join Equestrian Club and will learn basic rules for standing and walking around the animals, as well as appropriate ways to pet or touch them. Members then become familiar with brushing, cleaning, patting down, bridling and saddling the horses, and from there can move on to riding in the paddock or on the trail.

Those who become proficient in riding can become members of the team.

Equestrian Club meets at the Nicewonger Ranch, which provides facilities and three horses for Clarion students' use. Students can take lessons

with Western or English coaches and can attend shows.

Hollabaugh was already a seasoned rider when she joined the club and team.

"Coming into my freshman year at Clarion University, I had already had three years under my belt with the Grove City Area Equestrian Team. My coach, Tammy Braham, had been pushing me to go to Clarion since the day I started as a (high school) sophomore," Hollabaugh said. Hollabaugh decided that attending Clarion would best serve her academic and equestrian goals and would allow her to remain under Braham's instruction.

Equestrian Team

The Equestrian Team has 13 members. Seven students compete in Western, three in English, and three combined.

WESTERN RIDERS compete at many shows throughout the year where they are judged on the rider's seat, position, posture, position and action of hands and legs, as well as ability to effectively cue the horse to the required moves in a way that is as invisible as possible.

Western competitions have origins in the early West and frontier rodeo shows, and elaborate clothing, including chaps, western shirts and hats, is worn. Competitors earn points for how well they interact with their horse in the ring and how well they portray a confident Western rider.

ENGLISH RIDERS, which make up the majority of riders throughout the U.S., hone their skills in the tradition of European riding and hunting practices that tend to be more precise and measured.



WESTERN

An English rider's uniform consists of boots, riding pants, blazer and English helmet. It does not deviate from tradition.

THE COST of participating in this sport can be considerable for the students, but Hollabaugh said many factors outweigh the cost.

"The bond that I have built with my teammates, coaches and advisor is at the top of the list. I have had the privilege of working with many great individuals on a few different teams, but none of them are as great as the Clarion Equestrian Team. In just a semester-and-a-half of knowing them, I feel like I grew up with them," Hollabaugh said. "I also think that just the overall thrill of showing has to be at the top of the list. Having the opportunity to be an open rider as a freshman is not only an honor, but a thrill. I get to compete in both the reining and the horsemanship and get to experience a huge rush every time I step into the arena."

ENGLISH



Competition

At Clarion University and at more than 370 other colleges and universities across the U.S. and Canada, International Horse Show Association-affiliated equestrian teams and clubs are thriving.

Clarion's competition zone includes 15 schools: Allegheny College, Bethany College (West Virginia), California University of Pennsylvania, Clarion, Edinboro University, Grove City College, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Mercyhurst University, Penn State Behrend, St. Vincent College, Seton Hill University, Slippery Rock University, University of Pittsburgh, Washington and Jefferson College, and West Virginia University.

Each college or university team hosts at least one show per year. Shows range from \$4,000 to \$8,000 in cost, which includes renting horses and a facility,

medical coverage, judges and other logistics. Entry fees help to cover the costs, as does program advertising and university support.

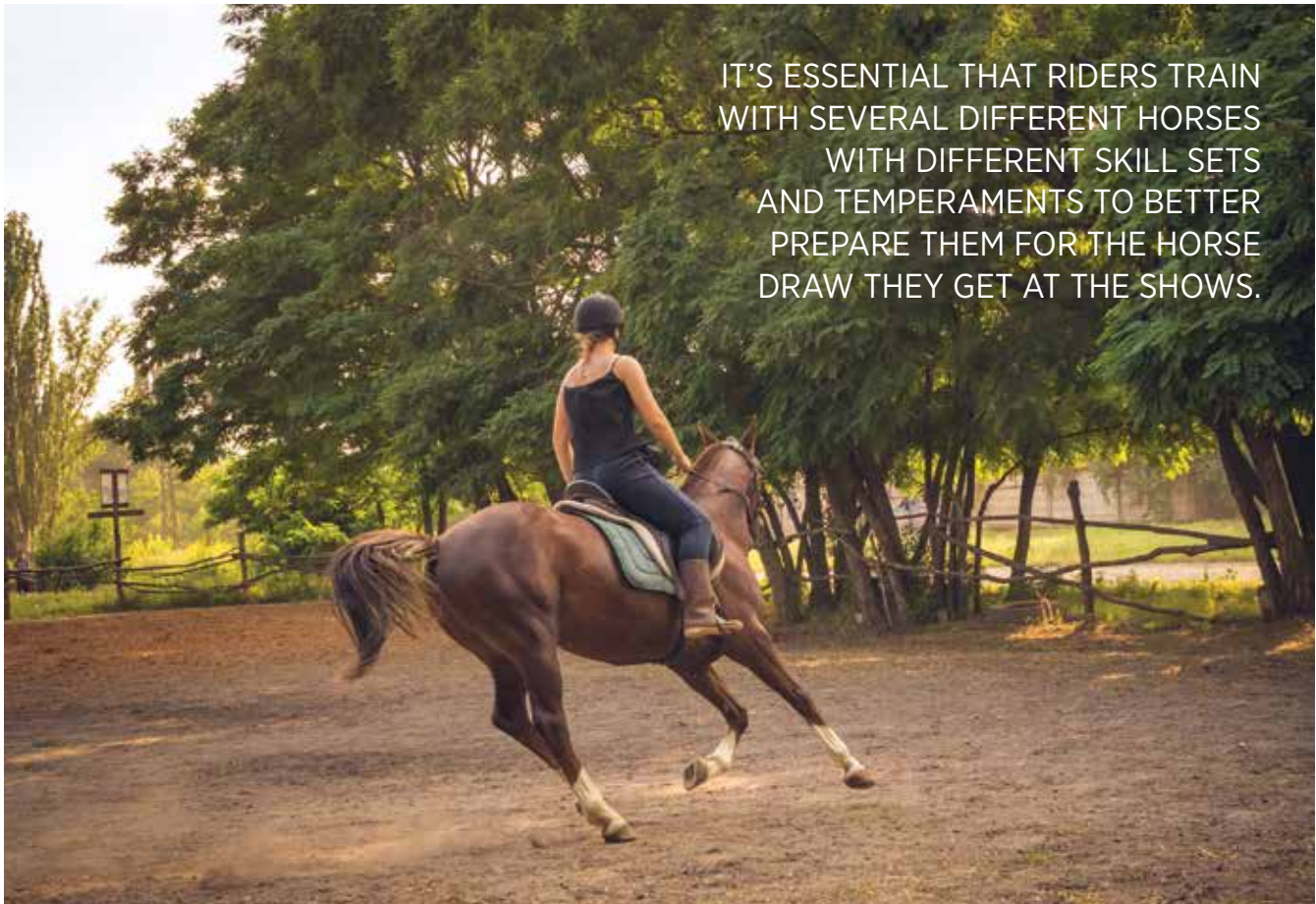
IHSA has eight levels of competition, from beginner (walk/trot) to fence jumping. The goal of the IHSA is to provide collegiate riders of all skill levels the ability to participate and compete.

Riders must put in for hunt seat (a forward seat based on the tradition of fox hunting), be competent in walk/trot, and be approved by the coach before they can compete at the more difficult levels. The coach determines the levels at which riders compete. Up to 16 horses and riders can be in the ring competing at one time, so the ability of riders to control their horses is of the utmost importance.

Although many students own horses, they can only compete at IHSA events on horses provided by the school hosting the show. Horses are trained at the different levels in which they may compete. Older and slower horses are trained for beginner levels, and faster, more aggressive horses are trained for expert levels.

It's essential that riders train with several different horses with different skill sets and temperaments to better prepare them for the horse draw they get at the shows.

Prior to competition, horses are schooled at their level of competition for the day and allowed to run through the paces so riders can observe them and determine the horses they'd like to get in the draw. Riders note a horse's height, coloring and use of legs.



IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT RIDERS TRAIN WITH SEVERAL DIFFERENT HORSES WITH DIFFERENT SKILL SETS AND TEMPERAMENTS TO BETTER PREPARE THEM FOR THE HORSE DRAW THEY GET AT THE SHOWS.



Teamwork

Clarion Equestrian Team members are not just talented when it comes to riding – they’re also academically successful. Competitive riders and club members maintained an overall academic average of 3.2 in 2016. Four student-athletes were named to the IHSA Honor All Academic First Team with GPAs of 3.8 or higher, and four were named to the Second Team with GPAs of 3.5 or higher.

Still, the team finds time to give back to the community. Since 2011, riders have participated in 15 events throughout the area to promote the team and support various organizations, including Venango Area Riding for the Handicapped Association.



English coach Lauren Prsuta and senior Katelyn Maille



Coach Braham and alumni rider Brittany Feroce '14

THIS YEAR, THE TEAM IS FOCUSING ON DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS.



This year, the team is focusing on Down syndrome awareness. When Clarion hosts the Western show this fall, they plan to highlight the brother of a rider. The brother, despite having Down syndrome, has shown at the AQHA Congress, garnering kudos as reserve champion, top five and top 10. He has also participated in 4H, earning state top five, and is a district and county champion. He has also received multiple EWD high points and reserve high points.



Western coach Tammy Braham

Moving Up

As the team has grown and matured, the accolades have grown with them.

Over the 2015-2016 season, the team earned two High Point Team ribbons and four High Point Team Reserves. The most recent High Point Team wins came when the Western Equestrian team won Feb. 11 and 12 at West Virginia University.

“Every time that we win high point team or even reserve is such a rush, and I know it can only get better from here,” Hollabaugh said.

Individual honors have included: three High Point Riders, three High Point Rider Reserves, 15 riders qualifying for regionals, one winning the Zone 2 Region 5 Regional champion, two Regional runners-up, four third places, one fifth place and one sixth place. An individual won High Point Rider Reserve and High Point Rider at a February competition.

Two Western riders reached the Semifinals with one winning a sixth place ribbon, and an English rider received a sixth place ribbon at the 2016 Zone Championships last April.

This sixth place ribbon placed her in the top 48 riders nationally in her class.

“This is a remarkably talented group of young people. I am honored to be the team’s advisor, not only

“Every time that we win high point team or even reserve is such a rush, and I know it can only get better from here.”

SUTHERLYN HOLLABAUGH

because they are winning ribbons, but because they are hard-working, honest, reliable and self-motivated,” Fuller said. “These are definitely some of the most intelligent and genuinely thoughtful individuals that I have had the pleasure of knowing.”

In addition to advising Equestrian Team and Equestrian Club, Fuller is coordinator of intramurals, recreation and club sport at Venango Campus. ■



Taylor McClay



Sutherlyn Hollabaugh

TEAM ACCOLADES

2015-2016 season

- 2** High Point Team ribbons
- 4** High Point Team Reserves

Feb. 2017

- 1** High Point Western Equestrian team


INDIVIDUAL HONORS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 High Point Riders | 1 Fifth place |
| 3 High Point Rider Reserves | 1 Sixth place |
| 15 Regional qualifiers | 1 High Point Rider Reserve and High Point Rider |
| 1 Zone 2 Region 5 champion | 2 Western riders Semifinalists |
| 2 Regional runners-up | 1 Sixth place English rider |
| 4 Third places | |

McClay and Hollabaugh recently received top awards at a regional competition.

The Pygmalion Effect





In the 1960s, German-born and Harvard-educated social psychologist Robert Rosenthal published a paper describing how the expectations of a researcher conducting an experiment influenced the subjects being studied. The paper piqued the interest of Lenore Jacobson, an elementary principal in San Francisco, who contacted Rosenthal and eventually offered her school as a place to test the theory in an educational setting.

Students were given IQ tests, but the results were hidden from teachers. Instead, the teachers were told that a randomly selected 20 percent of the students were “intellectual bloomers.” **As the study progressed, it became clear to Rosenthal and Jacobson that, indeed, those students from whom teachers expected more did perform better.**

The theory, termed the Rosenthal effect or Pygmalion effect, and the results of the study, were published in Rosenthal and Jacobson’s 1968 book, “Pygmalion in the Classroom.”

Since that study, researchers have attempted to prove or disprove the concept.

Michali has heard parents express that they never imagined their son or daughter would be at the level they are, so quickly.

“They’re doing some amazing things. They have some skills that I don’t have,” she said. “When you find their passion, they’re

amazing. They are productive, valued members of our society.”

She finds joy and satisfaction in seeing them reach goals.

“One of our students wanted to work with young children in a

kindergarten or first grade setting. She has gone on to work full time as a teacher’s aide,” Michali said. “Another very gifted art student developed puppets that Jim Henson would be proud of.

DIRT BIKES

“In Forest County, there’s a lot of natural resources, but not a lot of anything else,” said Vonnie Michali (’07, MS ’09). “A lot of the kids are from single-parent homes.”

Looking for work, Michali went to her local school district to look for openings. She was hired as an after-school program director. She coordinated a program aimed at helping to improve the school work of kids who were in trouble. The

county had written a grant for a program in which students could set goals and earn time riding mini bikes as a reward for meeting them.

Wanting to expand the opportunities for the students, she asked herself what they had around them that can teach positive skills. “We looked at teaching them fishing skills, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, survival skills – we used that same concept of setting goals and working on

them through the week,” Michali said. “It was very successful. Kids who were never on the honor roll made the honor roll. It was magical. There are a lot of retired people in Forest County (who served as program mentors); it was wonderful to watch generations coming together.”

“From that came my interest in self-determination.”

“**Kids who were never on the honor roll made the honor roll. It was magical.”**





STARTING OVER

“I always wanted to go to college, but it just didn’t work out for me,” Vonnie Michali said. “I got married and had three beautiful boys. After a divorce in my early 40s, my kids were grown and I decided it was time for me to do something that always burned inside of me.”

She turned to Clarion University – Venango to explore her options. Rehab interested Michali because she’d had experience with Vietnam vets and their struggles with PTSD and substance abuse. Plus, coming from Forest County, where there are a lot of substance abuse issues, she was thinking about how to get the knowledge and skills to apply in that county.

She began an educational journey at age 43 that she thought would end two years later.

“One thing led to another, and I decided to go for a bachelor’s degree, then on to a master’s,” Michali said. “I thought I was done.”

Her Clarion professors thought differently. They told her, “You need to go on.”

One of those professors was Dr. Greg Clary.

“Greg put me in his truck, drove me to Kent State, walked me in the door and introduced me to the people I needed to know,” Michali said.

“... so immediately, before I even started my classes in August, I was already developing programs.”

“We talked, and they knew I had experience in developing programs,” Michali said.

In 2014, Michali completed her Ph.D. in special education with a research focus on self-determination.

She became a teacher’s aide in art and works extra hours at a grocery store. Another student liked an office setting. She got a job working in Homeland Security, entering data, making a good wage with full benefits. These are students who probably wouldn’t be working or would be in some kind of workshop setting. It’s about quality of life. How do we help them to open up doors and bust down barriers?”



One artistically inclined student is the illustrator of this book, written by two Kent State faculty members.



Jack Hemmelgarn, 23, is a sophomore who wants to be an industrial mechanic. Among the skills he has learned are math, communication and teamwork. When he's not in class, he likes to play video games, nap, get food, and go to karaoke on Friday evenings.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

In 2008, the Department of Higher Education Educational Opportunity Act said students with intellectual developmental disabilities who would like to go to college to more successfully transition into adult life, ought to be able to do that. They made money available to 27 colleges across the country. Kent State was one of them.

“(Kent State) asked if I thought I could develop a one-year college program,” Michali said. “They offered me a graduate assistant position, so immediately, before I even started my classes in August, I was already developing programs.”



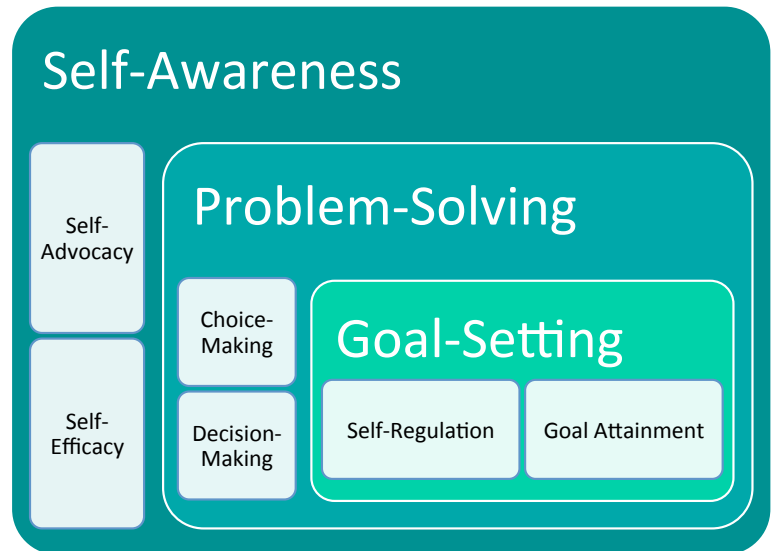
Of those 18, 15 students are working in part- to full-time competitive employment, which blows the national average out of the water.”

The data from the one-year program helped Kent State, with Michali at the helm, roll it into a four-year program, for which they received a five-year grant of \$2 million.

“When we got the grant, we accepted 20 students into the pilot program and followed them all four years so we could get really good research data to know what they need as freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors,” she said. “One student dropped out and another became ill, but 18 of the initial 20 graduated in May 2015.”

“Of those 18, 15 students are working in part- to full-time competitive employment, which blows the national average out of the water,” Michali said. “The national average, one year after high school, is that just 14 percent of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities are working in some capacity.”

THE 9 SKILLS OF SELF-DETERMINATION



1/17/2017
©Yvonne Michali, Ph.D., 2015

Yvonne Michali, Ph.D.

THE PROGRAM

“The misconception is that because it’s an intellectual disability, these students can’t (succeed),” Michali said. “When I was recruiting my original 20-student pilot group, I went to the school district looking for students who completed high school but wanted to go on to post-secondary education. I had a math teacher ridicule the program, saying it was a waste of time and energy, that these students couldn’t do this type of thing at all.”

They key, she said, is raising expectations. In the second year of the program, Michali invited that teacher to observe a financial literacy class.

“Afterward, come back and we’ll talk,” Michali told her. “She came back and was crying. She said, ‘I just



Michael Humphey, 26, is a senior. His passion is working in local news. He has completed internships at two nearby TV news stations where he learned production and editing. He enjoys producing his own stories, which the stations have used.



saw students doing math that I never thought they could do. I'm retiring in three years. Tell me how to be a better teacher."

Michali said students with IDD often spend much of their time in resource rooms in high school and haven't participated in academic-type courses. She was shocked to see the pilot group's overall lack of computer skills. They could do social media, but they couldn't use a computer as an academic tool to write or to do research.

"After I saw that, I went back to the schools to find out how students

with intellectual disabilities are being included. They weren't," Michali said. "We identified these areas that students needed but didn't have. We have a self-determination class, where they learn nine skills and how they're important. We have a disability awareness class. Many haven't been told they have a disability or don't have an awareness of the areas that are difficult for them because of the disability. We don't focus on disability in a negative way. The program is strength based; however, one must recognize their needs to more fully

capitalize on their strengths. Students must also learn the laws (e.g. American Disability Act, and Rehab 504) that protect their rights as persons with disabilities, the laws that provide accommodations, and how to use them to the fullest advantage."

The students live in dorms alongside other Kent State students. In addition to CCS classes designed to improve independent living, social, academic and career skills, students also take many inclusive Kent State classes that

provide knowledge and skills in the students' choice of career field. The first KSU course that all students take is an orientation class called First Year Experience, which helps them acclimate to the campus and all that the university has to offer. For CCS students, attending FYE is their first experience in a college course. It helps them to understand how college is different from high school, Michali said. It is time for the students to begin to think for themselves and to learn how to direct their own life paths.

"They take a CCS career exploration course to identify their strengths, preferences, interests and needs (SPINs) and to explore what kind of career they might want to do that will match their

BY JUNIOR YEAR THEY'VE IDENTIFIED A CAREER, AND BY SENIOR YEAR THEY'RE DOING INTERNSHIPS.

SPINs," she said. "For instance, one student wanted to be a jet pilot. We weren't going to tell him he couldn't, but we had him research the skills needed to become a jet pilot. He was able to come to the realization on his own, and began to focus on how close to the jet he could get." This helped him to explore and prepare for employment working in airports in some capacity.

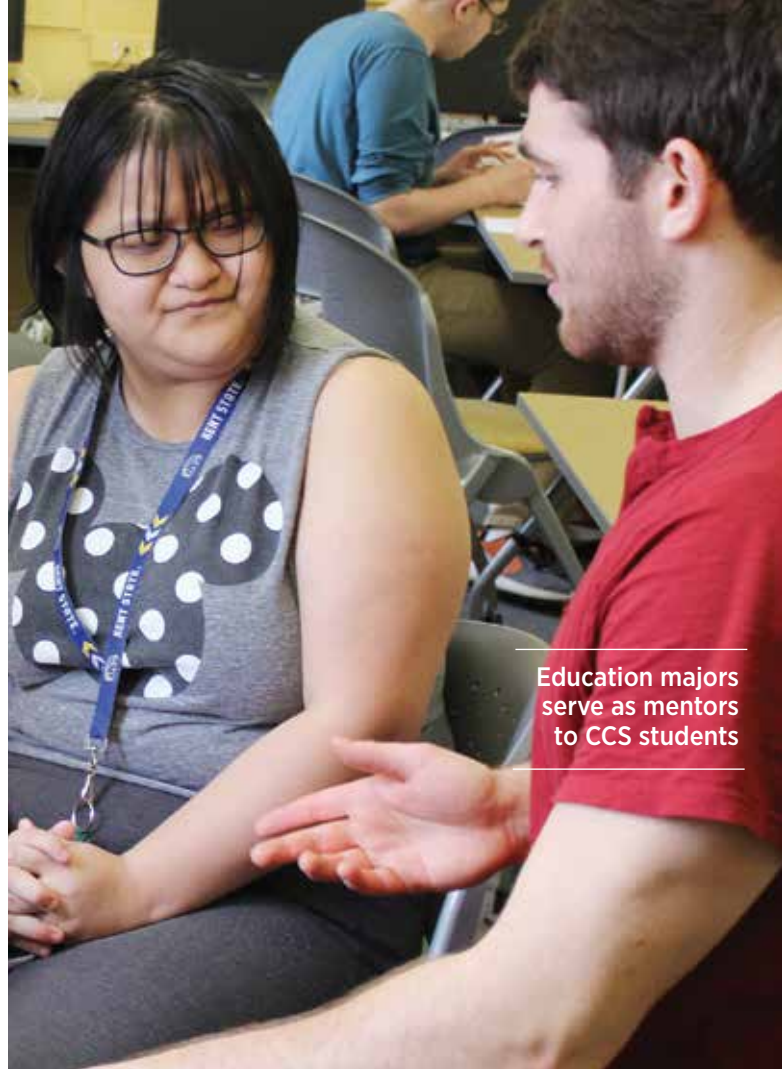
There is never more than one CCS student in a Kent State class.

"Because they often stick together, we observe students not interacting with classmates. We want them to learn how to communicate and work or appropriately interact with classmates. That will generalize to having the skills to more successfully work with future coworkers, or an employer," Michali said.

Included in the program are several work experiences, beginning in the sophomore year.

"We have them stay on or near campus so we can evaluate their work skills," she said. "By junior year they've identified a career, and by senior year they're doing internships."

Kent State's program is recognized as the number one program in the country, because of "the pieces we developed that others are having difficulty in accomplishing. Michali gives Kent State high praise for providing a rich learning environment and opportunities to persons of all abilities who want to learn and prepare for life as adults.



Education majors serve as mentors to CCS students

"Many haven't been told they have a disability, but they need to recognize their strengths and what they aren't so good at."

Tyler Rossi, 19, is a sophomore who loves studying nutrition. He wants to put his education to work by preparing food in a restaurant. He enjoys cooking at home and says his specialties are chicken and homemade bread. He also likes to watch videos on his iPhone or iPad.



Cecilia Stucker, 22, is a sophomore. She is a member of the Hall Council for her dorm and appreciates the independence that dorm life allows. Her career aspiration is to work in accounting. She likes meeting new people and attending plays and musicals on campus.



CRITERIA

The program's mission is "to create meaningful experiences for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities by maximizing opportunities in order to equip them to become self-determined and autonomous adults."

The CCS program reaches students with IDD, traumatic brain injury or autism who couldn't get into college in traditional ways. Students must want to be there. "We listen and follow the student's voice," Michali said.

"We don't like IQ numbers, but that's something we must check to determine that there are, indeed, cognitive difficulties which would prevent access to college through traditional means. To

IF THEY'RE STRESSED OUT OVER AN UPCOMING TEST, MICHALI AND OTHER FACULTY MEMBERS LOVE TO HEAR THAT, BECAUSE IT MEANS THEY'RE TAKING OWNERSHIP.

be considered having an intellectual disability, students must have significant limitations in both cognitive functioning and in adaptive behavior, usually indicated by an IQ of 70-75 or below," Michali said. "Students in the CCS program range from 40-75 IQ, but it isn't all about the IQ number. What we are finding is that it is more about the effort that a student puts forth. I'm thinking of one student in particular who was at the lower IQ level but far outdid a student at a higher level because of her effort. I like to meet them face to face - show me what you've got."

REWARDS

"This is some of the most challenging work, but the most rewarding," Michali said. "We're opening doors that were closed, expanding opportunities for people with so much to offer, whom, historically, society has not valued."

Within a few weeks of the day they start, we begin to see changes. It's so amazing to hear them talk like adults. If they're stressed out over an upcoming test, Michali and other faculty members love to hear that, because it means they're taking ownership.

One student said, "What I love about being here is they gave me a clean slate. I can do what I want to do." Another said, "I'm not bullied. I can do the things I never thought about doing." They walk taller, with their heads up, with confidence.

"They're increasing their own awareness of what they can do," Michali said. "Students leave here prepared to be good employees. We still have many barriers to overcome, often related to stereotypes and low expectations. I have heard these postsecondary programs for students with IDD called the latest civil rights movement. It's been incredible to have an opportunity to contribute and to be part of laying down the footprints for others to follow." ■

app of the week

Students are required to have a phone, preferably a smartphone.

"A lot of what we do is help them test out different technological apps," Michali said. "Almost all of our students cannot tell time. They can say the time, but they can't say what it means in relation to the day. That time management piece is difficult. Anything abstract is very difficult for our students. A smartphone or iPad is crucial. Every week we give them an 'app of the week' to test out. If you like it, keep it. If not, get rid of it, and we'll try something else next week until they have a tool box - tools they can take with them.'





CLARION UNIVERSITY DESIGNATES ALL-GENDER RESTROOMS

Clarion University has designated all-gender restrooms in 12 buildings on the Clarion campus and in one building on the Venango campus. The facilities department identified buildings that had one-stall restroom facilities and converted those to all-gender restrooms.

The cost was minimal for those conversions; only locks and signs needed to be added, according to Amy Salsgiver, interim director of social equity.

“We started looking at all-gender facilities before there was a call for it to happen,” Salsgiver said. “We saw a need on our campus, and we decided to address it prior to any guidance or mandate by federal or state law.”

“Clarion University continues to be a leader in offering a campus climate that is a place where all students and employees can be successful,” said President Karen Whitney. “This effort is one more example of Courageous, Confident, Caring Clarion.”

Other all-gender facilities will be added as buildings are scheduled to be renovated.

Salsgiver noted that the all-gender restrooms are not specific to transgender people. She said they are an option for anyone wanting privacy or for a parent with a child. ■

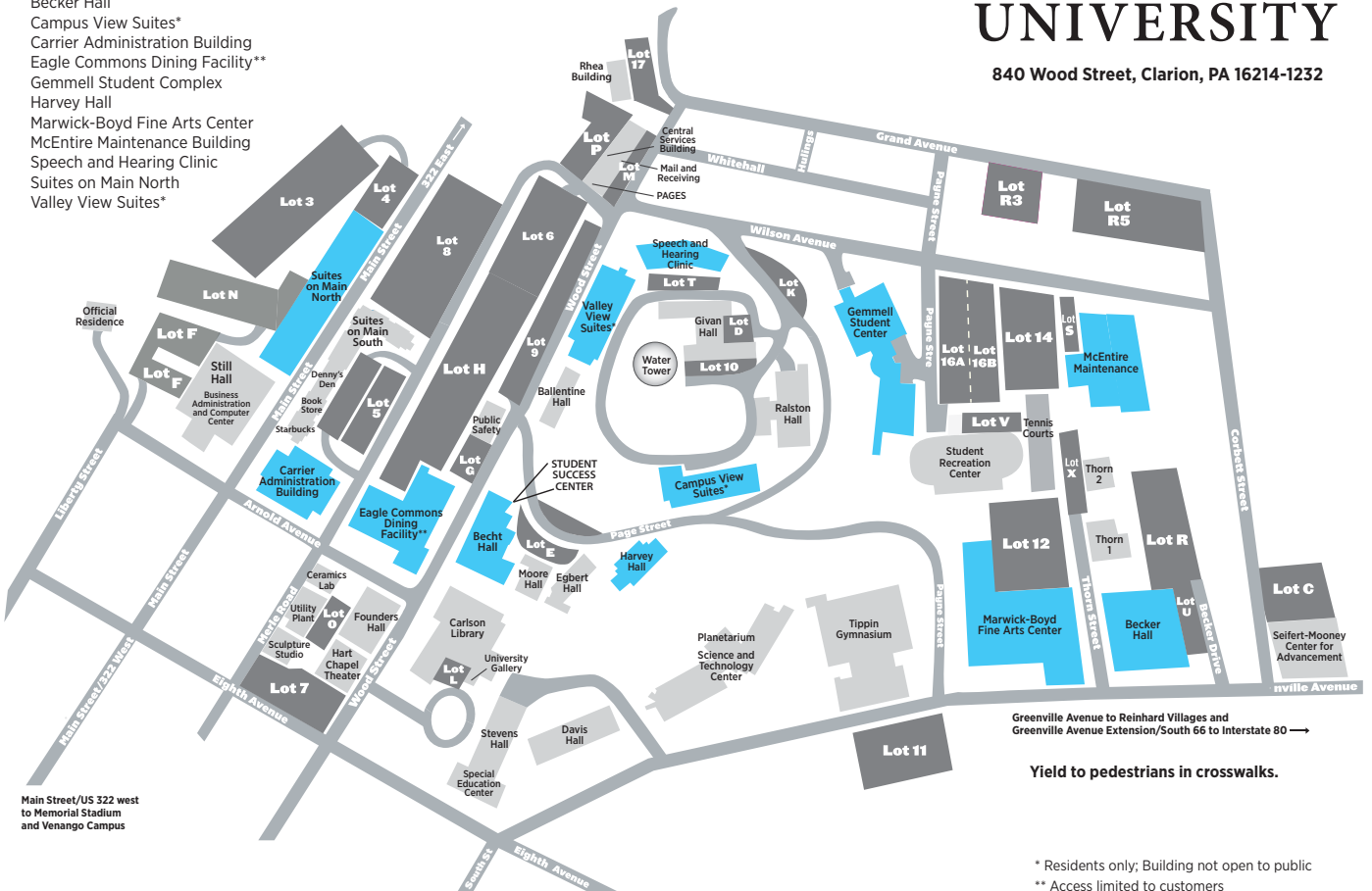


Buildings with single use/all gender restrooms

- Becht Hall
- Becker Hall
- Campus View Suites*
- Carrier Administration Building
- Eagle Commons Dining Facility**
- Gemmell Student Complex
- Harvey Hall
- Marwick-Boyd Fine Arts Center
- McEntire Maintenance Building
- Speech and Hearing Clinic
- Suites on Main North
- Valley View Suites*

CLARION UNIVERSITY

840 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214-1232





BE BRAVE
REACH
LIVE FLY
BE YOU
OVER COME GROW
HAVE FUN





A DEGREE OF PERSISTENCE

At 17 years old, Terry Bussard graduated from Oil City High School. The year was 1962.

At the insistence of his mother, he applied to Clarion University to pursue a bachelor of science in history degree. Bussard admits he was not a strong student, but he was admitted to Clarion University's Venango Campus in Oil City. "Although I should have been studying, I majored in playing 500 and ping pong," he said.

Terry's educational path was not to be a direct one.

He sat out for a semester and worked at the Oil City glass plant before being drafted to the Army, serving six years in the reserves.

In the Army, Bussard was a petroleum lab specialist, responsible for testing aviation fuels, motor oils, etc. While completing his service to his country, he returned to Oil City and was readmitted to college. The year was 1967, and Clarion University was celebrating its centennial.

He commuted to the Clarion campus, and, with only about a year to finish his degree, a lab position at Oil Well Supply opened.

"The offer was made with a great wage attached, and I could not turn it down," Bussard said. "I spent 26 years at Oil Well Supply and worked my way up the ladder into management."



Beginning classes at Venango campus in Oil City.

1962

Readmitted and commuting to Clarion campus.

1967



Bussard was with the company during its descent from 1,100 employees to 38 as the industry left the area. He was one of the last foremen left. When the plant closed, he retired. Restless, he returned to work at a small fabrication shop, retiring again at age 54.

Challenges loomed for Bussard. He was diagnosed with lung cancer

at age 59 and had to have part of his lung removed. Despite the health setback, he embraced life and looked forward to checking off items from his bucket list. He has been an active member of Community Playhouse for 37 years, and he boasts more than 6,300 geocaching finds. He started playing Pokemon Go in July 2016 and had over five million points at level

34 at the end of 2016. He set a goal to walk his first 5K and accomplished the feat at the 2016 Oil City Turkey Trot. He was 71.

There was one particular item on his bucket list, however, that weighed on him: He never finished the degree that his mother, who had passed away, had encouraged him to complete.



Bussard approached the university about completing a degree. After meeting with an academic advisor, he learned how close he was. Three credits were all he needed to complete an associate degree. Summoning his courage, he enrolled in December to complete a five-week winter session class, MATH 112.

“It has taken me 50 years to get a degree, but I did it,” Bussard said. “My advice to others is that education takes all forms, and it is never too late.”

In January, Bussard celebrated his 72nd birthday. Three days later, he and wife Mary Jane, with whom he has three children and six

grandchildren, celebrated 51 years of marriage. He will celebrate his 50-year pursuit of higher education when he accepts his long-awaited degree at May commencement.

With a life that still needs living, Bussard continues to add items to his bucket list, and he continues to check them off. Next up: zip lining and a cruise with his sister. ■

“... education takes all forms, and it is never too late.”

Vest claims fourth national championship in final college competition



Clarion senior Collin Vest closed out his college career in March with his fourth national championship, recording a dominant performance to win the 1-meter dive at the 2017 NCAA DII Swimming & Diving Championships. An eight-time All-American, Vest claimed his third career national championship in the 1-meter dive.

Battling his way through injuries over the course of the entire season, Vest pulled things together in the final NCAA event of his career to go out in style. He paced the field with a final score of 534.55, topping the



VEST CONCLUDES HIS CLARION CAREER AS ONE OF THE MOST DECORATED GOLDEN EAGLES IN RECENT MEMORY.

second-place finish by more than 20 points. Even diving coach Dave Hrovat found himself at a loss for words.

“Wow,” Hrovat said, followed by a long pause. “He was zoned in all day long, and very centered. All I said to him before was that this was the event he came in and won as a freshman, and here was his chance to go out as a champion as a senior. I couldn’t be more proud of what Collin did tonight, and throughout his entire career. He went through a lot this year, and he deserved to go out a champion.”

With the victory, Vest concludes his Clarion career as one of the most decorated Golden Eagles in recent memory. He finishes with four national championships – three in the 1-meter dive and one in the 3-meter dive – and eight total All-American placements. He was a two-time NCAA Men’s Diver of the Year, winning the award in 2015 and 2016. ■



Coach Dave Hrovat congratulates Vest.



2017 SWIMMING AND DIVING EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

2017 WAS A SEASON OF IMPROVEMENT for the Golden Eagles swimming and diving teams, one that saw both men's and women's squads improve on their overall finishes at PSAC Championships in February.

The men's team finished third overall (taking fifth just one year prior), while the women's squad improved from sixth to fifth. For head coach Brehan Kelly, those improvements were the logical conclusion of a season that saw the Golden Eagles push themselves like never before.

"I'm so proud and impressed by the way every single member of this team worked and improved throughout the year," Kelly said. "I am beyond impressed, really. They all exceeded my expectations, and to see them end with a finish like the one we had was so rewarding."

The Golden Eagles sent 29 swimmers to PSAC Championships this year, an improvement on last year's total.

What's more, the Blue and Gold took home quite a bit of personal hardware as well. Ben Spencer took first overall in the men's 200-meter backstroke, setting new PSAC Championship and Clarion program records in the process. Summer Dacheux also snagged a first-overall finish, taking the top spot in the women's 100-yard backstroke.

Additionally, sophomore Sam Kinney was awarded the men's PSAC Scholar Athlete Award, given annually to the athlete with the highest overall GPA of any PSAC conference swimmer, which Kinney secured with an incredible 4.0 GPA.

Add the impressive results at conference championships to a regular season that saw the men's team go 3-1 in conference duals and the women's team knock off Shippensburg, and you're left with a team that is brimming with confidence and passion heading into next year.

“
TO SEE THEM END
WITH A FINISH LIKE
THE ONE WE HAD
WAS SO REWARDING.”

—COACH KELLY

And if the current trends hold, we could be looking at a conference champion swim team this time next year.

"There's just so much excitement and anticipation on our team to go out there and compete," Kelley said. "It's something that you need to have as a team if you want to get better, and they have it."

MEN'S BASKETBALL

STANDING TALL



While the 2017 Golden Eagles men's basketball season will go down as one head coach Marcess Williams will likely want to forget, the growth and maturity shown by his squad in the final stretch helped ensure that this season was anything but a failure.



Cam Grumley

The Blue and Gold, who finished the campaign with a final record of 7-21, made the most of an extremely tough and trying situation that, at one point, saw the team endure a two-month long losing streak. Despite these challenges, Williams and his staff never saw a single ounce of quit enter into his players' minds.

That attitude and mentality is already being used to form the building blocks of next year's team.

"Sometimes you have an awful season where just nothing goes right for you," Williams said. "But I'm proud of the way our guys have handled things. They've never quit and never stopped working."

Disappointing as it may have been, the Eagles still had more than a few bright spots in 2017, and they have good reason to be confident going into next year.

For one, Clarion will welcome back one of its best players from this season, Johnsonburg product Cam Grumley. Grumley led all of Division II in free throw percentage this past season, connecting on 95.5 percent of his tosses from the charity stripe, and was second on the team with a 13.5 points per game average.

This was a team that won three of their first five PSAC games last season before the season took an unfortunate turn.

Clarion is hoping that experience combined with these deep learning curves provided to them by the 2016-2017 campaign will make the Golden Eagles a tougher squad overall next year.

"You're always looking to improve on last season," Williams said. "And we have a lot of room for growth and improvement starting next year."

"I'm proud of the way our guys have handled things."

— COACH WILLIAMS



BJ Andrews



Justin Grant

LUCKY 13

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Head coach Jana Ashley

Women's basketball took the next step in its development this past season, surprising the entire Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference with what might be the program's best season in the last decade. Under third-year head coach Jana Ashley, the arrow is pointing upward for a program that has already made enormous strides.

The 2016-17 edition of the Golden Eagles achieved a number of "first since..." accomplishments. With their 15-14 overall

record, they clinched their first winning record since the 2009-10 season, and their 12-10 record against PSAC opponents was their first winning conference record since the 2007-08 season. A Jan. 21 win against traditional powerhouse IUP was their first since 2011, and a Jan. 14 win over perennial contender Gannon was their first since 1995.

Along the way, the Golden Eagles upset the apple cart in the PSAC West division. Picked to finish eighth out of nine teams

entering the season, they finished tied for the fifth-best record in the division and in the PSAC Tournament for the first time since the 2012-13 postseason.

However, the number that sticks out the most is, undoubtedly, "13." It represents the 13-game improvement the Golden Eagles have made in the win column since Ashley's first season at the helm to today. Clarion went just 2-25 in 2014-15, but belief in the rebuilding process paid dividends a year later when the team improved by seven wins in 2015-16. The trend continued this season as Ashley's charges produced a six-win improvement on the previous season.

"When this staff arrived three years ago, we knew that the rebuilding effort had to come through recruiting," Ashley said. "We needed to find high school seniors and transfers that could make an impact from day one and challenge each other to succeed."

In part, Ashley credited Jen Straw and Delrika Jones-Carey, the only two players still remaining from the time before her tenure, and the only two to make it to the finish line. Ashley said those two players "bought into our team concept from the very beginning, and sold it to every recruit that's come into the program since then."

However, recruiting talent doesn't just mean basketball skill. It also means finding individuals that are best equipped to fit into the team concept. "We needed to find individuals that weren't just good basketball players, but good people," Ashley said. "We've got kids that get it done in the classroom, that don't get in trouble off the court, and basically give us, as coaches, peace of mind."



Tyra Polite

“They’re players that hold each other accountable. That’s what a good culture looks like.”

— COACH ASHLEY

“Most importantly, they’re players that hold each other accountable. That’s what a good culture looks like,” Ashley said.

Jones-Carey and Straw weren’t the only two seniors to shine this season. Tyra Polite followed up her impressive debut in the Blue and Gold with quite the encore in 2016-17, earning Second Team All-PSAC West honors and ranking among the most dangerous players in the league. She ranked sixth in the league with an average of 16.4 points per game and was fourth in three-pointers made per game, averaging 2.4 treys per contest. Polite’s 34 points against Mercyhurst Jan. 6 was, at the time, the best scoring

performance in the PSAC this season, and ended the year in second place by only one point.

The season ended Feb. 27 with a road loss at Mercyhurst in the first round of the PSAC Tournament. One would be hard-pressed to find a competitor satisfied after a loss, but Ashley also admitted that the progress her team made over the course of the season – and, indeed, over the last several years – needed to be kept in perspective.

“I told the players after that game that despite the outcome, they needed to be proud of what they achieved,” Ashley said. “At the beginning of the season, we had the



Jen Straw



Polite and
Delrika
Jones-Carey

expectation that we could be a playoff team and a contender. Considering we were predicted to finish eighth out of nine teams, I don’t think anyone outside of our circle expected or believed that in October, but we knew we were capable.”

Ashley said it was that ability to shut off outside noise and focus that brought her the most satisfaction.

“This team didn’t let outside expectations or detractors define them, and they didn’t allow those things to weigh them down,” Ashley said. “Years ago, they might have, and that would have made it a difficult season. But this team knew it had the ability to rise above that, and they believed that they had the strength to achieve its goals. That’s a very proud moment for a coach.”

**first
since...**

first winning record *since* the 2009-10 season

first winning conference record *since* the 2007-08 season

first win against powerhouse IUP *since* 2011

first win over perennial contender Gannon *since* 1995



Tatiana Cloud

and juniors Kari Steuer and Summer Murray will hold things down for CU in the throws, with both Steuer and Murray having recently qualified for competition at the indoor championships.

Last, but not least, the Golden Eagles will break out a number of new recruits and fresh faces, hungry to make an impact this year.

First-year Amanda Batey has already solidified her spot on the distance medley relay team that took 10th overall at indoors. Add in the strong showings by fellow freshmen Megan Schwerzler and Letizia Collini, and it's clear that the Golden Eagles will have a lot to be excited about both this season and many more down the road.

After two months of training and preparation during the indoor season, the track and field team is ready to take things outside.

The Blue and Gold enter the 2017 outdoor season with optimism, hoping that a strong two months of preparation and training during winter's indoor portion will have them primed and ready to make some noise in the PSAC Conference in the great outdoors.

The Eagles boast both a solid core of returning upperclassmen, as well as a promising group of new faces that head coach Ben Bevevino is hoping will jumpstart

a program looking to improve upon its 11th overall finish at conference championships a year ago.

Tatiana Cloud will be one of those seniors looking to leave her last season at Clarion on the right foot. The Leechburg, Pa., native has been a powerhouse in her four years donning the Blue and Gold, and while she's done everything from high jump to shotput indoors, it's the 400 meter that has proven to be Cloud's bread and butter. Cloud recently took fifth overall at PSAC Indoor Championships in the 400 with a final time of 58.43.

Clarion also boasts experience in the distance events with seniors Danielle Tarr and Maria Snyder returning for their last go-around. Senior Lindsey Emigh



Summer Murray



Jordan Miles and Courtney Young



Courtney Corban

RECORD NUMBER OF ATHLETES SPORT *academic excellence*

A record 183 student-athletes were honored for their work in the classroom at the 26th Annual Bob Carlson Scholar-Athlete Luncheon, a mark that encompasses half of the student-athlete population at the university.

“I am so very proud of the students in this room and the commitment you’ve made to Clarion, both in the sport you love and the academics you’re pursuing,” President Karen Whitney said. “You’re the best of the best, excellent in the field of intercollegiate athletics and excellent in the classroom. As your president, I could not be more proud.”



“You embody what we hope to see in every student when you work so hard to achieve your passions and your dreams,” Whitney said. “Allow me to thank you for your excellent achievement and example.”

To be named a scholar-athlete, student-athletes must achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or higher, have two consecutive semesters of a 3.2 GPA or higher in the previous spring and fall semesters, or be a freshman or new transfer who achieved a 3.2 GPA or higher in the fall 2016 term.

Both the total (183 student-athletes) and percentage (50 percent) top the

previous records of 171 and 49 percent, respectively, set at last year’s luncheon.

Members of the athletic department and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee also awarded several other commendations. Dr. Wendy Snodgrass, interim director of athletics, announced that director of procurement Rein Pold was named the recipient of this year’s Extra Effort award.



“Rein has constantly supported our department at the highest level, helping them in their efforts to stretch their budgets and secure the best prices on things such as equipment,” Snodgrass said. “His direct support and assistance to our coaches and staff must be recognized, as we could not achieve the things we do without his help.”

“I am very honored to be in front of you today, receiving this unbelievable award,” Pold said. “I would like to thank all of the folks in the administration who make this possible. Most of all, I would like to thank the student-athletes, who are here in greater numbers than ever before, and offer all of them congratulations.”

“I am so very proud of the commitment you’ve made to Clarion, both in the sport you love and the academics you’re pursuing.” — President Whitney

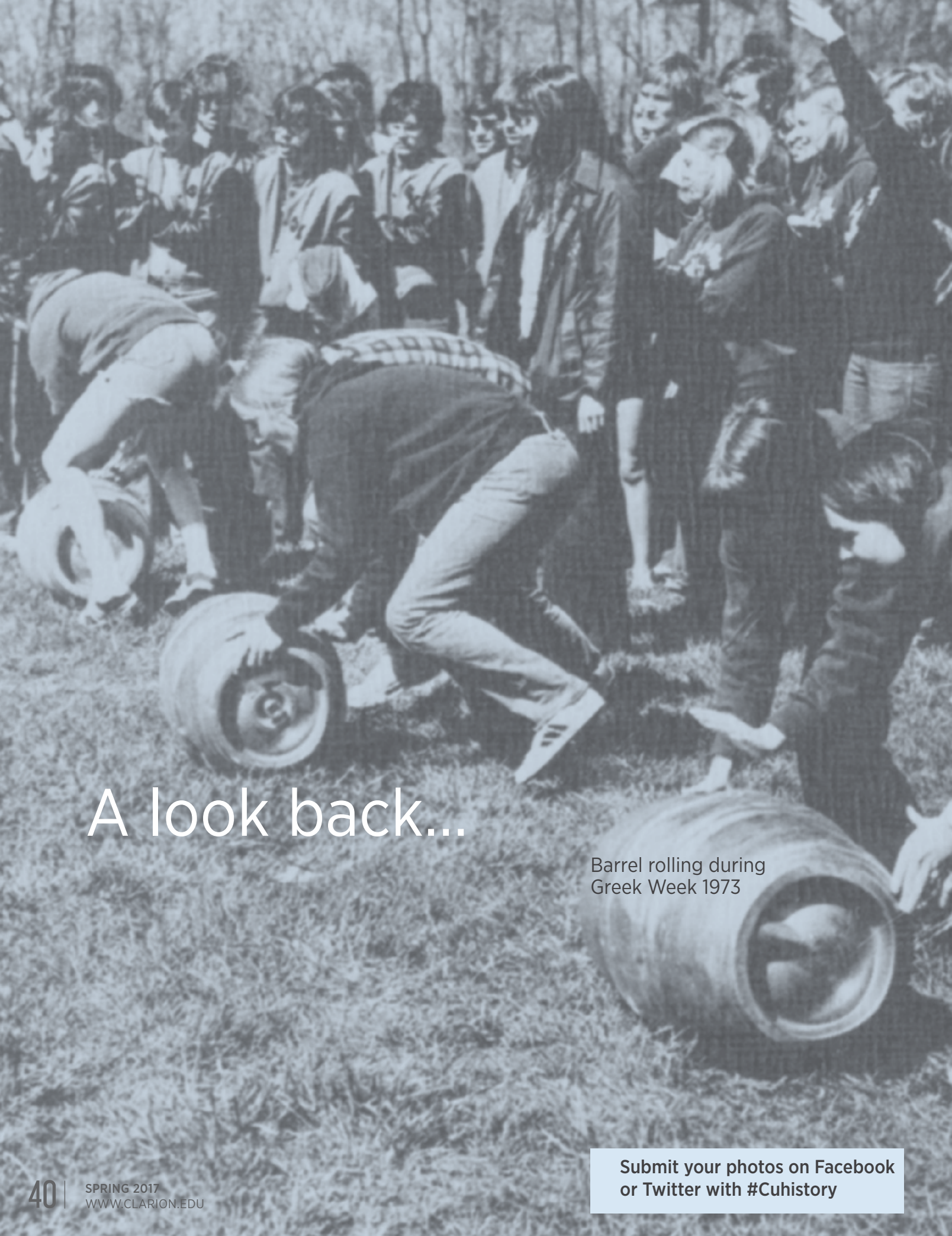


The men’s basketball team was the recipient of the Carlson Cup, given each year to the team that experiences the greatest improvement in cumulative grade-point average. There to accept the award was RJ Laugand and head coach Marcess Williams.

Closing the event was the naming of the Faculty Member of the Year award winner, presented this year by SAAC president Mackenzie Biggs to professor of mathematics Dr. Dana Madison.



“I’ve had a very interesting time in my 24 years here, taking action photos of nearly every sport and hundreds of student-athletes,” Madison said. “I’m pleased to be able to support our student-athletes.”



A look back...

Barrel rolling during
Greek Week 1973

ALUMNI NOTES

SPRING 2017

1969

Willis Phillips recently retired after 45 years in labor relations and human resources management. He was most recently employed with Toyota Tsusho America, Inc., Georgetown, Ky. Willis resides in Lexington, Ky., with his wife Trudy. He has three sons: Brian, Jeremy and Lucas.

1976

Lesley (Schachtman) Shilling retired from teaching after 35 years. She resides in Encinitas, Calif., with her husband, Paul.

1979

Diane (Howard) Gilroy retired after 36 years of service as a speech-language therapist, of which 34 years were at Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit, Smethport. She resides in Shinglehouse. Diane has a son, Brian.

R. Michael Baker is a certified public accountant and owner of Whitestone Estates Manufactured Home Community. He recently retired as vice-president and chief financial officer from NW Rural Electric Co-op, Cambridge Springs. Michael resides in Meadville, with his wife Michele, and daughter, Haiden.

1980

Richard Andrew is retired from Honeywell International, Houston. He resides in New Braunfels, Texas.

1982

Carin (Kuntz) Crouse retired after 34 years of teaching. She was a second grade teacher for Lynchburg City Schools, Lynchburg, Va. She resides in Forest, Va.

1983

Gretchen Tillitt received a Master of Education degree in comparative and international education from Lehigh University. She resides in Bethlehem.

1985

Col. Michael Miller retired last year with 30 years of active duty service. He is currently serving as a program manager for Sotera Defense Solutions. Michael resides in Stafford, Va.

1988

J. Ulrich and **Lisa (Hlad '87) Matthis** reside in Mooresville, N.C. They have a son, J. Ulrich IV. J. Ulrich recently obtained his professional engineer license from the state of North Carolina. He is an electrical engineer for UCSynergetic, Fort Mill, S.C.

Lisa (Jack) Renfrew is a business banker for Clarion County Community Bank, Clarion. She resides in Knox.

1992

Kevin Boyles is a clinical transformation consultant for Highmark Health, Camp Hill. He resides in Bloomsburg with his wife, Mary Ann.

1996

Cory Dingus owns Procore Medical, LLC, an orthopedic surgical device distribution company that distributes on the east coast, primarily focusing on total joint arthroplasty and trauma. Cory resides in Sunset, S.C., with his wife, Leigh, and son, Xavier.

1999

Gregory Clark is a branch manager for AnnieMac Home Mortgage, Wilmington, Del. He resides in Wilmington.

WE WANT TO *know about* YOU!

And so do your Clarion classmates. It's easy to share your latest personal milestones and professional accomplishments in the pages of Clarion University Magazine. Just send us a note!

Visit www.clarion.edu/alumni-update

2002

Jonathan ('03) and **Jyl (Chittock) Shaffer** reside in Bozeman, Mont. Jyl is director of the office of institutional equity for Montana State University, Bozeman.

2004

Jeff Alley is a senior manager of revenue operations for Glassdoor, Mill Valley, Calif. He resides in San Francisco.

2005

Jessica (Carpenter) Hamilton earned her certified public accountant credentials. She is a supervisor for McGill, Power, Bell & Associates, LLP, Meadville. She resides in Guys Mills with her husband, Andy, and children, Bradley and Brooke.

2008

Kristy (Littlefield) Bladell is a human resource coordinator for Northwest Bank, Warren. She resides in Jamestown, N.Y., with her husband, Mark, and daughter, Avery.

2009

Michael ('08) and **Cristina (San Agustin) Dascoli** reside in Monongahela with their daughter, Lyric. Cristina is a music teacher for Frazier School District, Perryopolis.

2010

John Buffone is a news reporter for Blue Ridge Cable, Ephrata. He resides in Millersville.

Ian Erickson is a records clerk for Steptoe and Johnson, PLLC, Morgantown, W.Va. He resides in Westover, W.Va.

Rosemary Cunningham and **Shane ('13) Dawson** reside in Bridgeville. Rosemary is a mental health therapist for Psychiatric Care Systems, PC, McMurray.

Corey and **Mary (Ferrara) Sternthal** reside in Sharpsville, with their son, Beau. Mary is a fiscal manager for Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV, Grove City.

2013

Mark and **Robin (White '14) Conrad** reside in Titusville. Mark is coordinator of career services at Clarion University, Venango Campus. He was selected as 2016 Employee of the year at Clarion University's 22nd annual Social Equity Awards Banquet. Mark also was honored by his peers as being a Melvin Jones Fellow by Lions Club International Foundation.

Christina Loscar is a newscast producer for WRIC-TV, Richmond, Va. She resides in Richmond.

2014

Sean ('16) and **Raquel (Rust) Carroll** reside in Sharon. Raquel is a radiologic technologist for Mercy Health-St. Elizabeth Boardman, Boardman, Ohio.

HONORED *for* INNOVATION



Christina Riehman-Murphy (MSLS '08), reference and instruction librarian at Penn State-Abington, along with colleague Jennifer Hunter, has been named the 2017 recipient of the Association of College and Research Libraries, College Libraries Section, Innovation in College Librarianship Award for their work on Research Parties and TED Talk as Research Inspiration programs.

The award honors ALA members who show innovation in their work with undergraduates, instructors and/or the library community.

CLARION UNIVERSITY BABY EAGLE



Our gift to baby Eagles of Clarion alumni is a dashing new bib! To receive a bib, let us know about the new addition to your nest by emailing to alumni@clarion.edu:

- Parents' names
- Full address
- Graduation year of alumni
- Baby's name and gender
- Date of birth

Once you receive your bib, take a picture of your Eaglet putting the bib to use, and email a high-resolution photo to us for inclusion in Clarion University Magazine.



Cade Albert Hablett, son of Wes and **Jacy (Albert '04) Hablett**, born June 25, 2016



Cole Haney, son of **Matthew ('08)** and Britney (Boulton) **Haney**, born Oct. 20, 2016



Jace Daniel, son of **Daniel ('15)** and **Sara (Mancine '14) Jordan**, born June 27, 2015

MARRIAGES



Tom ('05) Treleven and **Lisa ('05) Adams**, Sept. 26, 2015

Brandon Jones and **Faith ('01) Thompson**, Oct. 14, 2016

Carter Woodson and **Deanna ('02) Walker**, Oct. 15, 2016

John Patak and **Corinna ('10) Sterntal**, Oct. 15, 2016

Jared ('12) Bruce and **Ashley ('12 Hollis) Bruce**, Oct. 22, 2016

Sean ('16) Carroll and **Raquel ('14) Rust**, Nov. 6, 2016

IN MEMORIAM

1940s

Joseph Jewart ('47), Jan. 24, 2017

1950s

Robert Kerr ('50), March 2, 2017
Dorothy Butts ('54), Oct. 22, 2016
Ann Brinkley ('55), Feb. 10, 2017
Patrick Minahan ('56), Nov. 7, 2016
Peter Bono ('56), Nov. 24, 2016
Charles Weir ('56), Jan. 15, 2017

1960s

Nancy Eakin ('60), Oct. 20, 2016
Donald Frank ('62), Feb. 26, 2017
Carol Ogg ('63), Nov. 19, 2016
Rose Lamorella ('63), Dec. 14, 2016
Paul Peters ('66), Oct. 21, 2016
George Cowley ('66), Nov. 24, 2016
David Weiland ('69), Nov. 11, 2016

1970s

Mary Nesbella ('70), Dec. 16, 2016
Ronald DeWoody ('71), Nov. 19, 2016
David Dunlap ('74), Oct. 29, 2016
Denise Pickens ('78), Jan. 19, 2017
Marsha Beichner ('79), Jan. 16, 2017

1980s

Tonya Snyder ('82), Jan. 12, 2017
Norma Kim ('83), Nov. 13, 2016
Michael Greene ('84), Nov. 9, 2016
Linda Twiest ('85), Nov. 4, 2016
Naomi Summerville ('88), Dec. 6, 2016

1990s

Bryan Smith ('90), Oct. 17, 2016
Renee Spencer ('90), Nov. 19, 2016
Margaret Smith ('90), Dec. 4, 2016
Bruce Summerville ('93), Nov. 23, 2016
Margaret McGee ('93), Jan. 9, 2017

2010s

Clifford Marquardt ('14), Dec. 21, 2016
Ashley Hasychak ('14), Jan. 15, 2017

Friends

Hans Bruckner, Oct. 25, 2016
Charles Cyphert, Oct. 27, 2016
David Wright, Nov. 18, 2016
Eldon Somers, Jan. 3, 2017
Claude Martz, Jan. 13, 2017
Emma Selker, Jan. 18, 2017
Peter Nachtwey, Feb. 2, 2017

Katrina Renee Seaburn

OCT. 3, 1994 – MARCH 1, 2017

Katrina Renee Seaburn, 22, of Curwensville died Wednesday, March 1, 2017, the result of an accident.

Born Oct. 3, 1994, in Clearfield, she was the daughter of Thomas Seaburn Jr. and Tammy (DeHaven) Seaburn.

She was a senior accounting major. She was a member of Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, the Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity and the Accounting Club. She was also named to the dean's list.

She attended the Curwensville Alliance Church.

Miss Seaburn was a 2013 honors graduate of Curwensville Area Junior-Senior High School. Not only did she excel in academics, she was also a standout athlete in volleyball, basketball and softball. She was named a Progressland Athlete of the Week in basketball while in high school.

She was also a champion baton twirler, using her talents as a Golden Tide feature twirler for three years at Riverside Stadium. She then became a majorette at Clarion University, where she was captain for three of the four years she was on the field.

She earned numerous twirling awards, which ranged from local competitions to regional, state, international and world titles. She was named as 2011 T.U. International Duet Strut champion as well as a T.U. Regional Majorette that same year.

She was a member of both Dream Catchers Twirling & Dance Academy of Clearfield and Touch of Gold Baton & Flag teams of Curwensville.



Surviving are her mother and her life partner, William Holt of Curwensville; her father of Hyde; her maternal grandmother, Carol Bauman of Curwensville; her paternal grandmother, Connie Seaburn of Hyde; and her maternal great-great uncle, Irvin LeRoy Bauman of Curwensville.



Noreen (Seigworth '65) Pieper (left) and Donna (Martinelli '64) Cipollone reconnect while performing in "Thoroughly Modern Millie" at The Villages Musical Theater in March.

CONTINUING LEGACY



Current Clarion student Mallory Brannon (right) with mom Erin ('86) and grandmother Mary ('48).

Mallory Brannon, an honors program student majoring in middle and secondary math education, is the fourth generation of the same family to attend Clarion University.

Mallory's great-grandmother, Mary Catherine Murphy Schierberl, began the Clarion tradition when she graduated in 1909 from Clarion

State Normal School. Mallory's grandmother, Mary Schierberl O'Toole continued the tradition, graduating in 1948 from what was then Clarion State Teachers College. She passed away in September 2016. Her mom, Erin O'Toole Brannon, followed, graduating in 1986.

Together, Mary Schierberl O'Toole and Erin O'Toole Brannon have created nearly a 70-year span in which an O'Toole has taught at West Forest schools. Mary taught for 28 years, beginning in 1948 at West Forest High School, Tionesta, and Erin is in her 30th year of teaching at West Forest Elementary.

COURAGEOUS *endeavors*

MEGAN YVORRA

“

IT'S GREAT TO
GET OUT OF YOUR
COMFORT ZONE
AND TO SEE WHAT
YOU'RE REALLY
CAPABLE OF.”



Megan Yvorra is a senior in her final semester at Clarion, pursuing majors in international economics and international business with minors in Spanish, marketing, and Latin American and Caribbean studies.

Megan has taken full advantage of the opportunities presented to her while at Clarion. She has studied abroad twice in her undergraduate career, once in Barcelona, Spain, and the other in Dublin, Ireland, where

she completed an internship through the World Trade Center. In total, Megan has visited 14 countries.

“It’s great to get out of your comfort zone and to see what you’re really capable of,” she said. “Meeting people from around the world and experiencing different cultures helps you grow more than you can imagine.”

Megan will begin studying for her law degree this fall at The University of Pittsburgh.

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**#CLARIONPROUD IS A WAY TO SHARE
ALL OF THE GREAT THINGS HAPPENING
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- ✓ Clarion University was selected as one of three PASSHE schools to launch a new internship program focusing on student entrepreneurs.
- ✓ Clarion's direct economic impact on Pennsylvania is \$160.9 million.
- ✓ Clarion's excellence can't be denied; more than a dozen rankings place us among the best universities in the region and state.
- ✓ Clarion earned national recognition for the 289,818 volunteers hours worked by 3,022 students in 2014-15.
- ✓ A team of Clarion business undergrads took first nationally in the 2016 SAM Student Case Competition.
- ✓ Within the PASSHE system, Clarion has the highest endowment per full-time student.
- ✓ This is the eighth year in a row that Clarion has been designated "military friendly."
- ✓ Speech-language pathology master's level graduates have a 100% program completion rate and a 98% employment rate.
- ✓ Business graduates have a 96% employment rate; computer information science graduates have a 100% employment rate.

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