

# CLARION

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE  
WINTER 2015

**KRISTIN DAY  
NCAA WOMAN  
OF THE YEAR**



**VIVA  
ITALIA!**

**GETTING  
EXCITED  
*about*  
WOMEN'S  
SOCCER**

**MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE  
IN UGANDA**

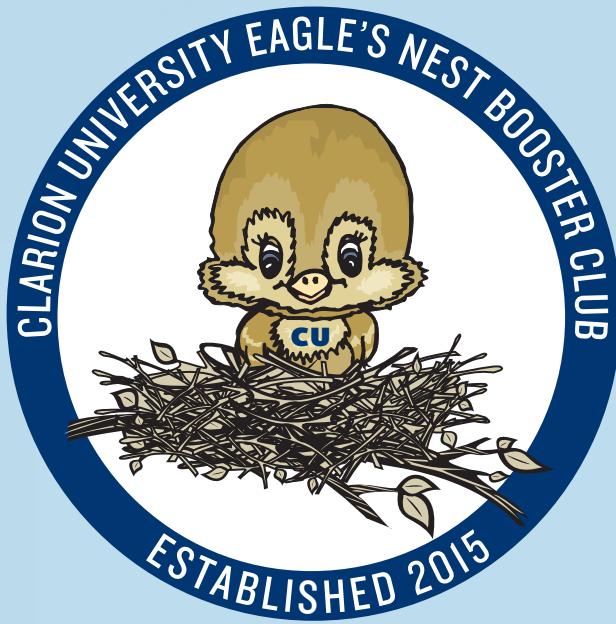
**CY YOUNG  
WINNER  
VUCKOVICH  
HONORED**

The 2015-16 school year marks a monumental first for Clarion University:  
We are proud to announce the launch of the  
**Clarion University Eagle's Nest Booster Club.**

Today, the nest shows our beloved Ernie as a baby eagle, but with your help and donation to the booster club, you will help Ernie become a fully grown Golden Eagle.

The goal of the Eagle's Nest Booster Club is to support all athletic teams and the athletics department at Clarion University.

All of our teams strive for success, and all of our student athletes are deserving of your support. While you are welcome to designate any gift over \$100 to the sport of your choice, please consider thinking of all Clarion student athletes as members of one team.



No matter where your team loyalty lies, give to the Eagle's Nest and lift up athletics at Clarion!

## FEATURES

**12**

### Heart for Uganda

Alyssa Cooper Sande (M.Ed. '06) is making a difference in Uganda, helping to provide food, shelter and education to the children.

**18**

### Not Just for Kicks

Stephanie Harris ('12) missed playing soccer after college, so she founded a semi-pro team in Pittsburgh.

**24**

### Viva Italia!

Since graduating in 2013, Daniel LaFata has visited seven countries. He's currently calling Italy home, teaching English to middle schoolers and working on acquiring his Italian citizenship.

**30**

### Oh, What a Day

With two national diving titles and a 4.0 undergraduate GPA, Kristin Day ('15) capped off her undergraduate career by being named NCAA Woman of the Year.

## DEPARTMENTS

**2 Letters****4 Clarion Digest**

Clarion gets the top spot in the Best Online Colleges for Pennsylvania ranking.

**Plus:** The new Suites on Main and renovated Becht Hall are open. CU Mentor links students with professionals in their field. Senior Hannah Gloeckl says "Poetry Matters" with events for campus and community.

**10 Alumni Gatherings****34 Sports Roundup**

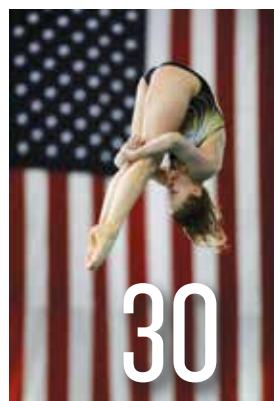
The Altoona Curve honors two-time Cy Young winner and former Clarion baseball standout Pete Vuckovich with a special evening and a throwback bobblehead.

**40 Alumni News & Class Notes****48 Courageous Endeavors**

Leann Martin found that Clarion had the one-two punch she needed with its ROTC and Bachelor of Science in paralegal programs.

**ON THE COVER**

CHAMPION DIVER AND  
4.0 GRADUATE KRISTIN DAY  
IS NAMED NCAA WOMAN  
OF THE YEAR IN  
INDIANAPOLIS.



**President:** Dr. Karen Whitney  
**Executive editor:** Tina Horner  
**Co-editors:** Rich Herman (sports); David Love ('86, '87); Amy Thompson Wozniak ('02, M.S. '06)  
**Design:** Brenda Stahlman  
**Contributors:** Michelle Port, S.C. Nolan ('14); Samantha Beal  
**Photographers:** Rich Herman, David Love, Adam Reynolds ('15), George Powers ('81), Jason Strohm ('01, MFA '05), Brett Whitling

**Address comments and questions to:**

Clarion University Magazine  
Center for Advancement  
Clarion University of Pennsylvania  
840 Wood St., Clarion, PA 16214

**Email:** [alumni@clarion.edu](mailto:alumni@clarion.edu)

Visit Clarion University on the Web  
at [www.clarion.edu](http://www.clarion.edu)

Clarion University Magazine is published by the Division for University Advancement for alumni, families of current students and friends of Clarion University. Alumni information is also located at [www.clarion.edu/alumni](http://www.clarion.edu/alumni).

It is the policy of Clarion University of Pennsylvania that there shall be equal opportunity in all of its educational programs, services, and benefits, and there shall be no discrimination with regard to a student's or prospective student's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation/affection, gender identity, veteran status, or other classifications that are protected under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other pertinent state and federal laws and regulations. Direct inquiries regarding equal opportunity, Title IX or services and facility accessibility to: Assistant to the President for Social Equity/Title IX and 504/ADA Coordinator, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, 207 Carrier Administration Building 16214-1232. Email [jgant@clarion.edu](mailto:jgant@clarion.edu) or phone 814-393-2109. Inquiries may also be directed to the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, 330 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201.

## Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Board of Governors

**Chair:** Guido M. Pichini  
**Vice Chair:** Marie Conley  
**Vice Chair:** David M. Maser  
Sen. Richard Alloway II  
Rep. Matthew E. Baker  
Ronald G. Henry  
Jane M. Earll  
Christopher H. Franklin  
Todd Garrett  
Chelsea E. Getsy  
Rep. Michael K. Hanna  
Jonathan B. Mack  
Joseph F. McGinn  
Pedro A. Rivera, secretary of education  
Sen. Judy Schwank  
Robert S. Taylor  
Aaron A. Walton  
Harold C. Shields  
Gov. Tom Wolf

## Council of Trustees

**Chairperson:** James L. Kifer ('83)  
**Acting Vice Chairperson:** Howard H. Shreckengost ('83)  
**Vice Chairperson:** J.D. Dunbar ('77, M.S. '79)  
**Secretary:** Miliissa Bauer ('84)  
Dr. Syed R. Ali-Zaidi  
Susanne A. Burns  
The Honorable R. Lee James  
The Honorable Donna Oberlander ('91)  
Randy Seitz ('09)  
Jeffrey J. Szumigale ('82)  
Darren Young, student trustee

## Alumni Association Board of Directors

**President:** Deborah Eckelberger ('07)  
**President-Elect:** Jeffrey Douthett ('79)  
**Secretary:** Jean Mills ('59, '74)  
**Treasurer:** David Reed ('09)  
David Bailey ('65)  
Floyd Barger ('58)  
Daniel Bartoli ('81)  
Angela Brown ('80)  
Jonathan Catanzarita ('11)  
Elisabeth Fulmer ('64, '80, '97)  
Lee Grosch ('62)  
Sandra Jarecki ('69)  
Terri (Tiki) Kahle ('87)  
Nancy Lendyak ('75)  
Ronald Lucas ('82)  
Ashley McCauley ('06)  
Chris Myers ('12)  
Virginia Vasko ('88)  
Daniel Zangrilli ('07)  
Glenn Zari ('97)

Morgan Woodin  
Eagle Ambassadors president

Karen Whitney, *ex-officio*  
President of Clarion University

Laura King ('09), *ex-officio*  
Executive Director of Clarion University  
Alumni Association

## LETTERS

Clarion University Magazine arrives in your mailbox just three times a year, but it's a year-round project for the magazine production team. In fact, as you hold this issue, we're already planning the spring 2016 magazine, choosing stories that illustrate Courageous. Confident. Clarion. and, hopefully, help you maintain your connection to the university.

When we debuted the redesigned magazine one year ago, we listened to feedback from our alumni and friends, and I believe that together, we've developed a publication that reflects the university and its people.

We still are listening. In fact, we've built into the magazine a place (this very spot) for you to share your thoughts and insights. We invite you to write to us and let your voice be part of Clarion University Magazine.

Please include your name, relationship to the university and a phone number for verification (but not publication). Letters should be 150 words or fewer and pertaining to the magazine content.

Email letters to [alumni@clarion.edu](mailto:alumni@clarion.edu) or mail them to Clarion University Magazine, Seifert-Mooney Center for Advancement, 840 Wood St., Clarion, PA 16214.

Tina M. Horner  
Executive editor

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



COURAGEOUS,  
*confident.*  
**CLARION.**

Dear Clarion Family,

As Clarion's president, the moments that make me proud are abundant. We are most proud of the many, many students and alumni succeeding and exemplifying Courageous. Confident. Clarion. These are the qualities that create champions. Champions come in all shapes and sizes, from the traditional champion of athletic sport, to the academic champion who masters an area of study, to someone who passionately champions a cause to save the lives of others.

Kristin Day ('15) has consistently challenged herself academically and athletically, making time to serve the community, too. Along with earning national diving titles and a 4.0 undergraduate GPA, NCAA recognized her efforts by naming her Woman of the Year, a first for a Pennsylvania athlete.

Alyssa Sande ('12) is a champion, too. Her challenge is improving the lives of Africa's children through Heart for Uganda, the mission she founded. Sande lives in Uganda, among the people the organization helps, providing food, shelter and education.

I can't talk about champions without mentioning our own Pete Vuckovich, who went on to play for the White Sox and win two Cy Young Awards. His story exemplifies how confidence in one's abilities translates into success.

I hope that you, as part of the Clarion University family, also feel honor in the achievements of these alumni, as well as your own. Clarion graduates are making a difference, exhibiting the trademark Golden Eagles grit and grace. Congratulations to our Courageous. Confident. Champions!

Fly Eagles Fly!

The signature of Karen M. Whitney, written in cursive ink.

Karen M. Whitney  
President, Clarion University



President Whitney  
with Pete Vuckovich

# ACHIEVEMENT

*spotlight on:*

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED DATA ANALYTICS (BIG DATA)

### WHY IT'S HOT

This is an area geared toward analyzing big data sets, categorized as so large there's no data program big enough to analyze them.

### WHAT IT'S GOT

Students will learn the design and manipulation of large data sets for a specific application, whether it be finance, marketing, management, health care, social science, political science, education or many other fields. A prerequisite structure is necessary to build the student's skill set, tool by tool, to work into a fairly deep technical background. Students are required to have a programming course and a statistics course before starting the program. The degree program is open to any undergraduate major who desires to leverage their training with a big data specialty. Only 80 schools in the country offer the degree, and no other state system school currently offers it.

### WHAT'S NEXT

The first cohort of 30 students will begin classes in fall 2016.

### RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Clarion received the top spot in the 2015-2016 Best Online Colleges for Pennsylvania rankings by AffordableCollegesOnline.org, a leading resource for online learning and college affordability information.

Clarion's online accounting degree is ranked seventh in the nation by bestcolleges.com, which compiles its rankings using data from the IPEDS and College Navigator databases.



### CLARION STAR

Graduate student William Snyder ('15), celebrated two years of and more than one thousand visitors to Stars Over Clarion, a planetarium show he created and produces, Nov. 5 in Peirce Planetarium. Snyder, of Apollo, who holds a bachelor's degree in physics with a concentration in astrophysics, began showing Stars Over Clarion in November 2013. The series, held the first Tuesday of each month, explores constellations, planets and other celestial items. Shows concentrate on that month's visible elements, offering the community a look at Clarion's changing heavens throughout the year.

### MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FRESHMEN

Merit scholarships for seniors in the high school class of 2016 who meet academic criteria have been created. Students with a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher and an SAT score of at least 1,000 (critical reading and math) or ACT score of at least 21, will be awarded between \$1,000 and \$3,000. "These scholarships are in response to the fact that we are getting more academically talented applicants to Clarion each year," said Ron Nowaczyk, Ph.D., Clarion provost. "We want to reward these students for their accomplishments and help them and their families make Clarion their college of choice." Eligibility will be determined through the admissions process. Students will be notified of their award shortly after receiving letters of admission to Clarion. The scholarship, open to all majors, is renewable for three additional years, as long as the student maintains a 3.0 GPA.

## GOLDEN EAGLES MARCHING BAND LOOKING ‘SHARP’

The arrival of this season’s long-anticipated band uniforms ushered in a new era for the Golden Eagles marching band. According to band advisor Casey Teske, Ph.D., professor of music, Clarion’s previous 17-year-old uniforms were due for a makeover.

“(They were) an old, classic West Point design,” Teske said. “Nothing really stood out.”

But after administration agreed last August to buy innovative outfits, President Karen Whitney made it clear she wanted the new look to be student-driven. Band students began researching ideas, bringing them to Teske and eventually narrowing them down to two options. Of those choices, a never-before-seen style was selected.

“The students were very clear, they wanted to make a statement,” Teske said. “And they did.”

Marching band director Jeremiah Dobo explained the uniform design is based on Bluecoats, a Drum Corp International group. The new uniforms no longer include a waist coat with braid, but a longer, open-fronted trench coat that falls to the knee. The pants feature a tuck stripe down the front, rather than side.

“We no longer use shakos,” Dobo said, “Now it’s a helmet with a phantom plume that wraps around.”



Marching band members also bear gold sashes that sparkle in different types of light. Overall, Teske describes the uniforms as “popping.” He and Dobo agree the campus and community response to the outfits has been most agreeable.

“We’ve gotten a lot of compliments,” he said.

## *poetry* matters



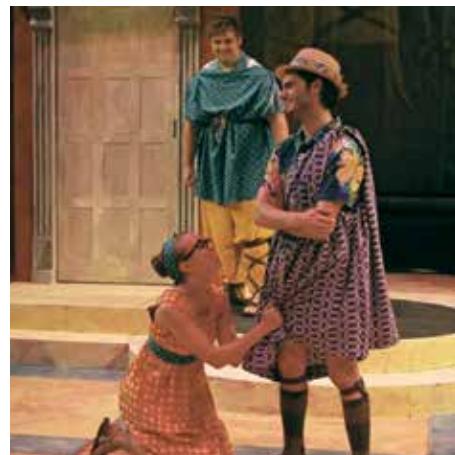
Hannah Gloeckl, a senior English major from Bethel Park, created, as her Honors project, “Poetry Matters,” a series of events for children and adults. Gloeckl said the importance of literacy and an

easy way to teach and reinforce literacy brought her to the shorter medium of poetry. Events included a graffiti poetry event for older children and young adults, a poetry workshop for kids, a poetry reading for adults and an all-ages open mic night held in partnership with Clarion’s literary magazine, Tobeco.

## MILES GLORIOSUS

The theatre season opened in October with “Miles Gloriosus – The Braggart Warrior.” Written in Latin by Plautus 2,200 years ago, the comedy features a boastful Greek captain, clever and conniving servants, an aged lusty next door neighbor, a beautiful courtesan and an innocent girl who is separated from her beloved. Each character is placed into a situation where hilarity ensues.

Theatre professor Bob Levy, who adapted the play for Clarion, said the play was chosen for production because of its humorous streak. The department had not produced a classic comedy for a while: “Miles Gloriosus” fit the bill. His adaptation was inspired by late 1950s and early 1960s sitcoms.



Coleen E. Scheerbaum as Scaledra, pleading with Sam Atwell as Palaestrius not to punish her, as Casey Martz as Plautus looks on, glad that he is not being punished this time.

# CONSTRUCTION

## SUITES ON MAIN OPENS

Clarion celebrated the grand opening of Suites on Main North on Founders Day, Sept. 10. The public grand opening included a ribbon cutting, refreshments, live music and tours of the building. The \$61 million Suites on Main project, built with Silver Leadership in Energy and Environment Design standards, features a geothermal heating and cooling system. LEED encourages use of sustainable building materials – recycled materials available nearby to save on transportation costs – and sustainable operations such as geothermal heating/cooling to save on utility costs. Both buildings total more than 230,000 square feet with 373 suites. Space for 728 students is available. Suites on Main South, slated to open in January, will house the Clarion University Store, Starbucks and Denny's Den. Wilkinson and Nair halls are scheduled for demolition this winter.





## BECHT HALL

The renovation of Becht Hall is complete and is serving as a centralized place for students to go to get their questions answered and their needs met. "Our philosophy is to make it as easy and efficient for students to get the support and resources they need in one physical location," said Ron Nowaczyk, Ph.D., provost. The building now houses the offices of Registrar, Student Financial Services, Clarion Online, Computer Help Desk, Residence Life, Judicial and Mediation Services, Auxiliary Operations, Center for Wellness, Admissions, Honors, ROTC, Writing Lab, Tutoring and Testing, Disability Support Services, Career Services, International Programs, Minority Student Affairs, SOAR, Advising Center and TRIO Student Support, as well as a coffee bar, meditation room and lounges for veterans, ROTC and international students.

# RENOVATION

A NEW PROGRAM is connecting Clarion University business and information sciences students with professionals in their field.



**CUmentor** is designed to link alumni and employer partners with current students to facilitate mentor-mentee partnerships that foster the sharing of knowledge and experience,” said Josh Domitrovich ('13, MBA '15), coordinator for career mentoring and internships in the Center for Career and Professional Development.

The program’s goals are three-fold:

- Provide students with opportunities for professional development, networking and information/idea exchange with professionals in their academic area;
- Provide opportunities for alumni and employer partners to connect with the university and play a notable role in current students’ future endeavors; and
- Establish partnerships between alumni and employer partners and students to facilitate career exploration and career coaching.

The idea for the program was pitched by Lindsay Banner ('07), a member of the College of Business Administration and Information Sciences’ advisory council. Banner, who holds a BSBA, will be among the mentors. Domitrovich will begin matching mentees with mentors at the end of the students’ sophomore years by using a unique algorithm to provide the best possible match. Initially, CUmentor opportunities will be available to students with majors and minors in the College of Business Administration and Information Sciences. Within two years, Domitrovich hopes to implement the program university-wide.

For information, visit [www.clarion.edu/cumentor](http://www.clarion.edu/cumentor).

## 10TH ANNUAL GIS CONFERENCE

The 10th Northwest Pennsylvania Geographic Information Systems conference met Oct. 15 and 16. Among other things, GIS supports new business markets, assists in 911 operations and natural disaster emergency management and handles data analysis for oil and gas exploration. Digital maps on mobile devices allow users to acquire information almost instantaneously, but GIS is more than that, said Yasser Ayad, Ph.D., professor of geology and coordinator of the conference. “It is used to identify environmental problems and help calculate and specify different solution scenarios.” The field of GIS has existed for nearly 30 years, but it is still considered an emerging field. The conference included concurrent sessions, exhibitions and poster presentations.



## CHANCELLOR *calls for* CREATIVITY, INNOVATION IN 'STATE OF THE SYSTEM' ADDRESS.



Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education is at a crossroads and must become even more creative and innovative to ensure both the viability of the system and to best meet the needs of students and the commonwealth in the future, Chancellor Frank T. Brogan said in October's State of the System address.

"We must be willing to challenge every assumption in order to ensure a sustainable future for each of our 14 universities within the system," Brogan said. "We must innovate and collaborate to achieve greater efficiencies as we work to deliver Pennsylvania's best value in higher education."

The state system universities continue to adapt their programming to meet the needs of students and the commonwealth, Brogan said. (see right)

"Since July 2014, the board of governors has approved 29 new academic programs, including five doctoral degrees," Brogan said. "These programs were developed with the future in mind — in fields where there is growing demand for well-educated, well-trained professionals. A number of these programs are collaborative efforts among two or more state system universities."

Brogan said the state system this year will take an exponential step forward in ensuring even greater alignment of our degree programs with the demands of students and the commonwealth.

"We're conducting a system-wide supply/demand gap analysis that will enable us to see — region by region — the kinds of degree programs that are needed in areas such as science, technology, the arts, the humanities, health, business and education," Brogan said. "The connection between the state system and Pennsylvania's economic vitality is undeniable. Our successes, our challenges, our opportunities are the foundation of Pennsylvania's future."

While it is important that the universities continue to serve their traditional student base, Brogan said they must do more to increase accessibility to community college transfer students and adult learners who want to pursue a degree while maintaining their careers and families.

"This will require us to offer more programs in flexible times, places and modes of delivery," he said. "Think about this: there are more than 1 million Pennsylvanians who started a degree but never finished. We must reach out to those individuals to let them know they have options at a state system university, and ensure we are organized in a way to meet their needs."

**"THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE STATE SYSTEM AND PENNSYLVANIA'S ECONOMIC VITALITY IS UNDENIABLE. OUR SUCCESSES, OUR CHALLENGES, OUR OPPORTUNITIES ARE THE FOUNDATION OF PENNSYLVANIA'S FUTURE."**



### HERE'S HOW CLARION IS MEETING THE CHANCELLOR'S CHALLENGE

Pennsylvania State System Board of Governors has approved new degree programs for Clarion University. Most recently, Clarion was approved to offer the MS in accounting. The interest in this program is primarily from accounting professionals who need 150 credit hours in order to receive CPA certification. Classes will prepare students to sit for the CPA exam which consists of four segments including auditing, financial accounting and reporting, regulation, and business environment.

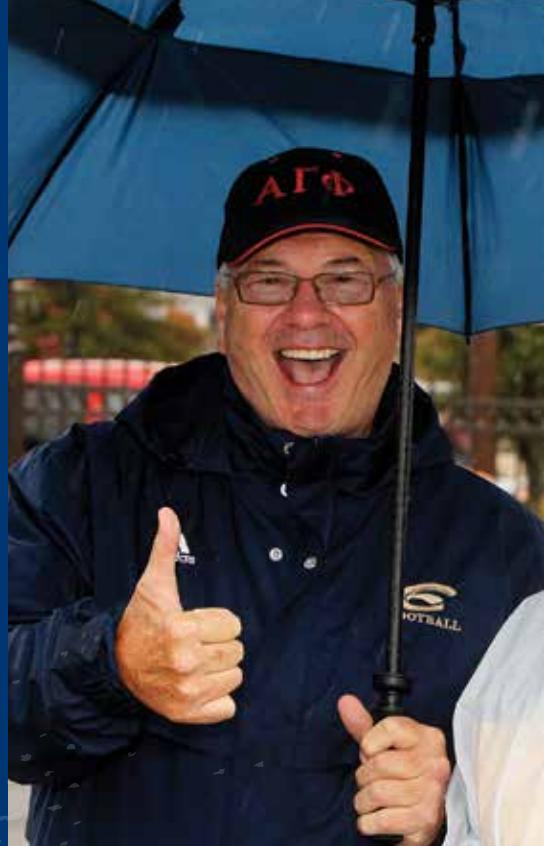
### ADDITIONAL DEGREES APPROVED IN 2015

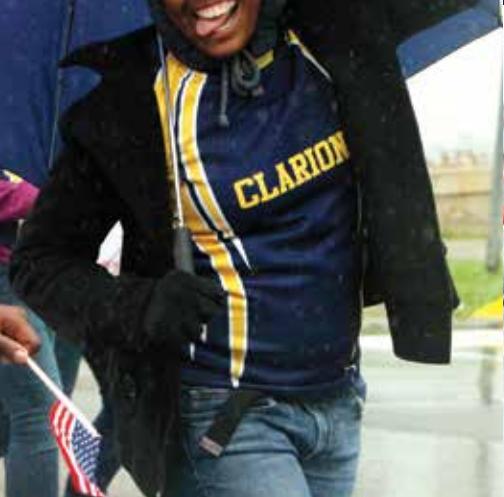
- MS in applied data analytics
- BS in sport management
- BSBA in paralegal studies



## alumni 2015

Alumni and friends donned rain gear to celebrate Homecoming 2015. Clockwise, from top left include: Clarion ROTC marching in the parade; homecoming queen Emily Smith and king Lance Whitehead; associate vice president Dr. Brenda Sanders Dede; a clown; a young alumna; President Karen M. Whitney; alumni office staff Sammi Beichner, Emily Weaver ('09) and Laura King ('09); Ernie the Eagle with some young friends; student Janine Strohm; cheerleaders marching along Main Street; student and rugby player Diamond Rodriguez; Georgia Yamalis ('15) and friend; former Clarion President Joseph Grunenwald. In the center photo is Robert "Bo" Garritano ('66) and wife Joyce.







# Heart for Uganda

When Clarion University alumna Alissa Cooper Sande (M.Ed. '06) was 7 years old, she dreamed of Africa. Specifically she dreamed of helping the children of Africa. In 2009, she moved to Kyenjojo, Uganda, to make that dream a reality.

"I do believe that God just put that on my heart," she said of her 7-year-old self.

A child in Uganda hauls water above his head. People in Africa often have to travel many miles to get clean drinking water.



Sande comforts a child in Uganda, where many of the children have been orphaned by AIDS and political conflicts.

Presently, students can attend school up to sixth grade.

"The need is so great, yet the finances are limited," Sande said.

Another project is getting potable drinking water to each community. The ministry discovered that the government already installed hand-pumped water wells in the district, they just needed to be repaired. So far, Heart for Uganda has fixed 10 of the wells, providing water to 1,000 people. Another 40 hand-pump water wells need to be repaired.

Along with providing water, there is the job of educating the village about water such as proper hygiene, potential cross contamination with livestock, and learning how to care for the wells.

"The children don't think anything of drinking dirty water," Sande said.

Contaminated drinking water is a problem because it leads to sickness, Sande said.

Getting clean water closer to villagers also is important because of a

serious problem affecting Kyenjojo. When children, especially girls, have to walk far distances to get water they can fall victim to sexual assault, so bringing water closer to each community helps protect them.

Sande said sexual immorality is a major problem there, with the local culture dictating that females of any age are not allowed to say no to a man's sexual advances.

It has created a culture where rape is prevalent and the AIDS epidemic is spreading.

"Our district is one of the highest for AIDS," she said.

Another effect it's having is that young people are starting to have sex at an alarmingly early age – as young as 4 years old – because they are mimicking what they've been shown or are trying to get love in this way, Sande said.

Further complicating the problem is that it's not customary to report sexual assault, so it continues, Sande said.

"Until hearts change, nothing is going to change," Sande said. "It's going to be God doing it."

In the time since, she has married a native Ugandan, had two children, fostered several more and been a witness to much change in her village.

Among the biggest change is the addition of a children's village where a medical center, school and home for orphans has been constructed.

Sande hopes her ministry, Heart for Uganda, can expand its medical center by adding a women's ward as well as increasing its area for admitted patients. The ministry also would like to add another grade to the school.

“

**Sexual immorality is a major problem there with the local culture dictating that females of any age are not allowed to say no to a man's sexual advances.”**

Another hurdle is combating jealousy in the village.

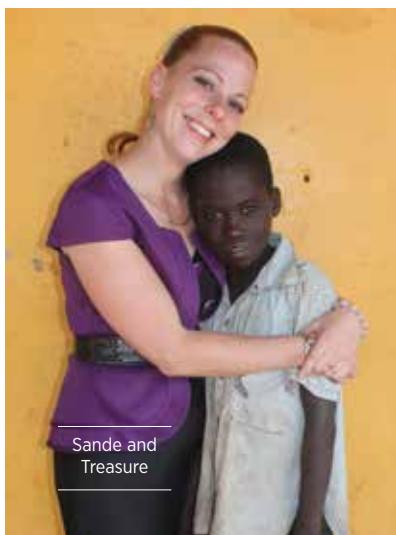
Sande said the ministry has to be careful to help not only the children, but the parents as well, because feelings of jealousy are so prevalent in the culture.

"Changing the mindset is one of our biggest hurdles," she said.

In that same way, some people in the village are upset with the progress the ministry has been making. Sande said sometimes when people are poor they can't understand that the things the ministry is doing is to everyone's benefit.

"In that sense people want to destroy what we're doing," she said. It's just another example of how "poverty really has a negative effect."

But it's not all sad news. Sande shared the story of a boy whose name is Treasure. ....



Sande and  
Treasure

Treasure was badly abused by his alcoholic grandmother and turned to stealing and living on the streets. He became a known thief in the village, putting his life at risk, because often thieves are killed – even if they're children. Eventually, Treasure stole from the mission's church. Instead of pressing charges, Heart for Uganda took him in and gave him a home in the children's village.

Sande said the change has been amazing, with Treasure excelling at school and responding to love. She told him, "Your name is Treasure for a reason."

"Now he's going to become the treasure he was meant to be all of his life," she said.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Heart for Uganda has gained momentum, in part, because so many people have embraced founder Alissa Cooper Sande's vision for the ministry. Those who have supported the ministry have done so in a variety of capacities by either working behind the scenes in the United States or by traveling to Kyenjojo, Uganda, on mission trips.

Many of the supporters are Clarion University alumni and employees who have found that their degrees or present occupations come in handy in assisting the organization.

Sande's Clarion degree is a Master of Education as a reading specialist. Part of her mission is a school which opened in February 2013 and has quickly gained a reputation as a place where children get a quality education.

"I have been able to use the knowledge that was imparted to me to improve the educational system in the area where I stay. My master's degree from Clarion University has empowered me to equip the teachers in the area of reading and writing," Sande said.

"The teachers need so much training," said Linda Bryce Coulson ('02, M.Ed. '12).

Coulson was part of a mission trip in 2013 and thought she'd be working primarily with the children, but she felt a burden for the teachers, whose occupation is considered one of the lowest in Uganda.

"The teachers are hungry for knowledge," Coulson said.

Sande holds workshops for teachers to help them better serve the students. She models her own instruction of reading so teachers may observe and apply the techniques in their own classrooms.

Reading is not a school subject in Uganda, and, because of that, the illiteracy rate is 63 percent for females and 79 percent for males in elementary school.

"Many children are completely unable to read and write, even in higher grades. I have been given many opportunities to teach the children and improve their reading and writing skills," Sande said.

Sande said changing Uganda's education system is one of her goals.

Volunteers have found other ways to serve in the ministry.

When Margaret "Margy" Port ('77) went to Kyenjojo in 2011 she was surprised how her educational background helped her communicate with the children there. She attended the mission trip with her husband, who was going to lend his agricultural expertise, but she wasn't sure how she'd be able to serve. She soon found her niche and used alternative communication strategies to overcome language barriers, particularly with children.

Brenda Sanders Dédé found her administrative skills to be valuable. Dédé is Clarion's associate vice president for academic affairs, but in Uganda she worked to manage and organize the pharmacy at the medical clinic. Dédé said you never know how your skills are going transfer in another country.

For others, their skills are used closer to home.

Because the organization has so many projects, the Heart for Uganda Board would like to establish an internship program for Clarion students and alumni in which they can offer their expertise to Heart for Uganda in areas such as business management, marketing and education.

Change hasn't been taking place just in the hearts of the villagers.

Early in Sande's missionary career, she was working in an orphanage, and so was Victor Sande, a native Ugandan. She became interested in him, but she didn't want to be interested in him.

"I didn't want to marry an African man," she said.

Her resistance had a great deal to do with the differences in their cultures, and the feeling was mutual.

"He didn't want to marry an American," she said.

As they worked together, it was clear they were meant to be married.

"It was truly God that brought us together, because we would not have married each other," Sande said.

They now have two children, Caleb, 5, and Vanea, 3. They also have two children from the village who stay with them year-round. Another six children stay with them when they are home from school breaks. None of them has been officially adopted, but they all have found a home with the Sandes.

It turns out that marrying a Ugandan has had its perks. First, her marriage allowed her to assimilate into the culture in a way that she would not have had she remained single or married another American. She prepares food like an African woman does and has a greater understanding of the culture now than ever before.

Also, Victor has helped her save money at the ministry because he knows the local customs and knows what products and services should cost.

Even with her marriage, however, she will always be the Mzungu, or the white person, whom people can't help but stare at when she goes into town.

"I never really totally fit in," she said.

Her children also receive the same Mzungu label because they are biracial and noticeably lighter skinned than people from the village.

People tend to think differently about her, too, because she's from the United States.

"People don't think I have problems because I'm American," Sande said.



The Sande Family  
Victor, Caleb, Vanea and Alissa

**“I didn't want to marry an African man. He didn't want to marry an American. It was truly God that brought us together.”**



Ugandan children amuse themselves near some available water.

## Five things Alissa Cooper Sande misses about the United States.

1. My family and friends.
2. Hot showers.
3. Comfort – There are a lot of comforts in America.
4. Nice roads.
5. Pizza.



## Five things Alissa Cooper Sande would miss if she ever left Uganda permanently.

1. The kids.
2. Laid-back lifestyle. People aren't so busy.
3. Family and friends over there.
4. Climate/weather.
5. Opportunities.

IN UGANDA, THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES OF POLITICAL UNREST AND IT HAS BROUGHT SOME FRIGHTENING MOMENTS."

Those factors can make it lonely for her, but Sande is undeterred.

"It's in my heart. I wouldn't feel at home if I wasn't there," she said.

In Uganda, there have been times of political unrest and it has brought some frightening moments.

"Right after I got married to my husband, there was rioting and he had to hide in a church," Sande said.

Another time, a group of political dissidents were going town to town and raping villagers. Sande had heard that they were coming to Kyenjojo, and was worried, but fortunately they never came.

Sande said the government is good about protecting its citizens from the dangers of political unrest.

"I think America can be scarier," she said.

Sande said there are different lines of security when she compares the United States to Uganda. When her

husband visits the United States, he often is surprised to see people park their cars outside without guards.

"Our culture is built around trust, and theirs is built around distrust," she said.

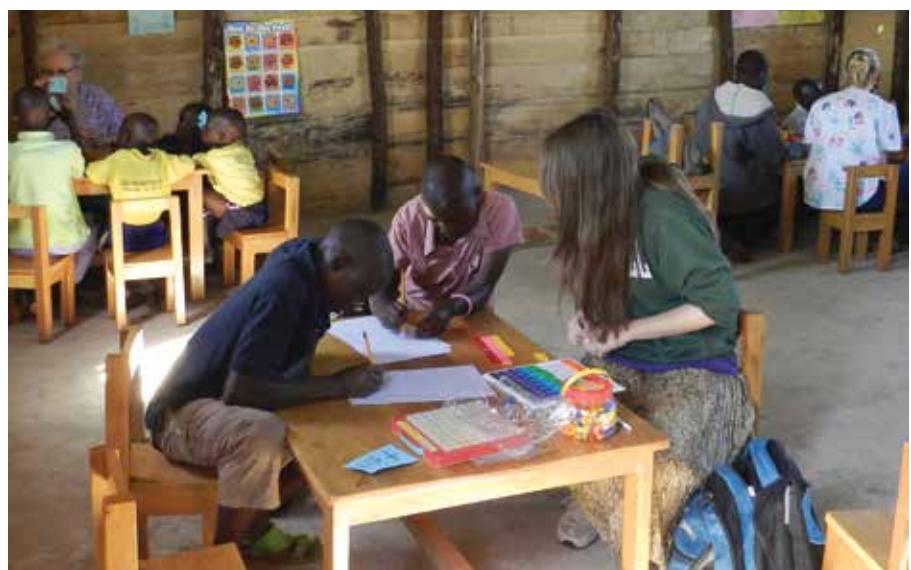
She said there are many misconceptions about the safety in Uganda and it's not what people envision.

"I don't really get afraid very often," she said.

What does worry her?

"It's easy to feel like you're doing nothing," Sande said.

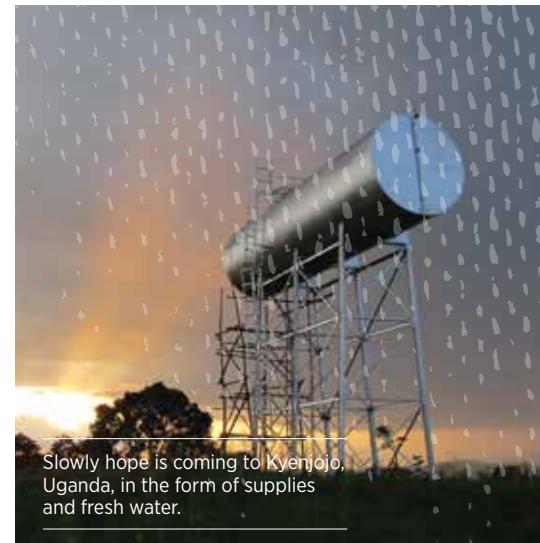
She said coming back to the United States gives her an opportunity to review her photos of the village children before and after they became part of the ministry. The progress in the photos is noticeable and gives Sande hope.



The school in Kyenjojo's children's village is gaining a reputation where children can get a quality education.

“

Some people in the village are upset with the progress the ministry has been making. Sometimes when people are poor they can't understand that the things the ministry is doing is to everyone's benefit.”



Slowly hope is coming to Kyenjojo, Uganda, in the form of supplies and fresh water.

She speaks about Heart for Uganda at area churches and organizations when she visits the United States, which is another way for her to recognize what the ministry has accomplished.

Mission teams to Kyenjojo, Uganda, are being assembled for next summer. People on mission trips to Sande's village have the

opportunity to perform a variety of needed tasks such as teaching, counseling and being part of the medical team.

The easiest way that people can help the ministry is to simply pray, Sande said.

“My dreams could have never been fulfilled if people hadn't stood with me in support,” she said.

She also encourages people to look for needs in their own communities.

“You don't have to go to Africa to see people in need,” Sande said. “I think we should encourage each other to make the world a better place.” ■

To learn more, visit [www.heartforuganda.org](http://www.heartforuganda.org).

---

Steel City FC players  
take the field.

---





# NOT JUST FOR KICKS

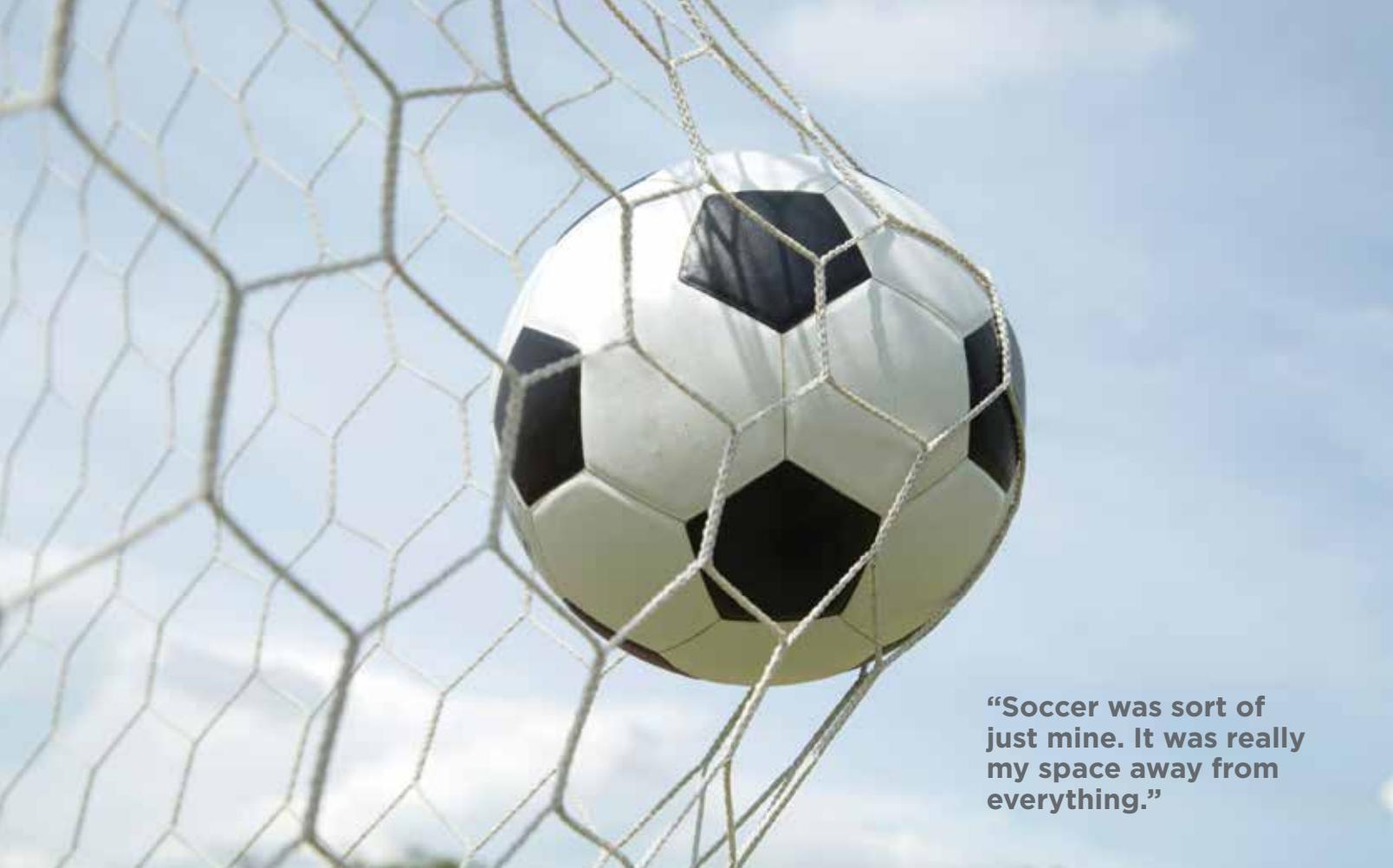
Alumna Stephanie Harrison ('12) has added a new team to the City of Champions and hopes to inspire girls in the region to get in the game.

When Harrison moved from Clarion to Pittsburgh after graduation, she thought that helping to coach the soccer team at Chatham would fill the void she felt after her final collegiate soccer game. She'd played for Clarion's women's soccer team for four years while she studied for her bachelor's in psychology and "loved every minute of it."

Being able to stay on the soccer field while she worked on her master's and Ph.D. in counseling psychology felt like the best of both worlds. Harrison soon learned, though, that she wasn't ready to coach; she missed playing.



Stephanie Harrison



**"Soccer was sort of just mine. It was really my space away from everything."**

"I knew at the time that I wanted to keep playing, but I told myself, 'Coaching will be fine,'" Harrison said. "But then I found myself driving home from games, starting to cry and wishing I'd been able to be on the field. Even at practice I just wished I were playing instead of coaching."

Despite her limited free time, Harrison set out to find a team willing to take her on as a defender. A small-town girl from Butler, she expected that a city like Pittsburgh would hold countless opportunities for someone in her position.

"I looked around, and as I was researching, it sort of slowly dawned on me; this city has two men's soccer teams – the Pittsburgh Riverhounds and the Fort Pitt Regiment – but there isn't a single women's team," Harrison said.

Somewhat dismayed, Harrison told her academic advisor about her failed search.

"I went to my advisor's office and just kind of casually talked about my

**I LOOKED AROUND,  
AND AS I WAS  
RESEARCHING, IT  
SLOWLY DAWNED  
ON ME; THIS CITY  
HAS TWO MEN'S  
SOCCER TEAMS BUT  
THERE ISN'T  
A SINGLE  
WOMEN'S TEAM."**

disappointment, and she just looked at me and said, 'You should do something about that,'" Harrison said. "So I decided to."

Thus, Steel City F.C., Pittsburgh's semi-pro women's soccer team, was born.

It's clear that – along with a competitive streak a mile long – Harrison has lived with this decisive nature her whole life. Though each of her six siblings dabbled in soccer when they were young, she was the only one who stuck with it.

"I think I just wanted to be different from them," she said.

Harrison continued to play through elementary and middle school. By the time she was 15, she was ready to play on a club team. Her parents, though supportive of her passion, couldn't commit to driving her to games across the region while working and raising her siblings.

Determined to play, Harrison didn't let that stop her. She attended the first practice where she met Jordan Daloiso ('12), who lived in the neighboring town

of Kittanning and whose parents offered to take Harrison to games and practices. Soon after, as Harrison and Daloiso transitioned quickly from new teammates to best friends, Harrison realized for the first time that she wanted to play soccer in college.

Part of this revelation came from the peace Harrison found on the field.

"Soccer was sort of just mine," she said. "My parents would ask, 'Oh, how did the game go?' and things like that, but it was really my space away from everything." Beyond its physical benefits, Harrison joked that soccer was a good way to avoid doing chores around the house.

After four successful years of high school and club soccer, Harrison settled on Clarion as her new home. She found an immediate connection with the squad's coach at the time, Nina Alonzo, forsaking even California University

of Pennsylvania, whose women's soccer program has a recent history of notable success.

Along with the school and the soccer program, like so many before her, Harrison says the town of Clarion won her heart almost immediately.

"I loved Clarion as a town," she said. "Especially Main Street. It's so cute and there's a lot going on. I really just fell in love with it the first time I visited."

It didn't take long for Harrison to decide on Clarion, especially when Daloiso revealed that she, too, would be a Golden Eagle.

The pair played all four years on the women's soccer team, though Harrison singles out her junior year as her standout season.



Harrison playing soccer for the Golden Eagles

"That year I played every minute of every game," Harrison said proudly.

Her senior year was not quite as successful, as Harrison was riddled with a series of injuries. Still, she fondly looks back on all of her time on the Clarion pitch.

"We sometimes had trouble winning games and, well, scoring, but we were a good team, and I loved the people I got to play with."



Steel City FC

That love for the game was a major part of what drove Harrison to form Steel City F.C., though she soon found that her new endeavor wasn't quite as straightforward as lacing up her cleats and stepping onto the field.

"Honestly, I had absolutely no idea how I was going to make it happen," Harrison said. "But I had a lot of people who were willing to help me, and a lot of support from the community."

Among those involved were Harrison's

two sisters – a lobbyist and a lawyer – who helped secure nonprofit status for the team and organized a network of potential donors and sponsors.

During the fundraising campaign, Harrison made contact with a UPMC employee whose daughter played soccer. According to Harrison, he was thrilled with the idea of a team for his daughter to watch and look up to, and got the team's information into the hands of the right people at UPMC. The organization soon

became a lead sponsor for Steel City FC, donating the expertise of their athletic trainers and providing financial support for the team.

Harrison also credits Betsy Warren, Chatham's head soccer coach, for her help in organizing tryouts and helping to staff the team, and Daloiso, who – though studying abroad in Ireland – managed the team's Facebook page, a major element in the team's online presence. She also thanks the city of Pittsburgh itself.



Harrison's team, in action

**"It's such a strong community. Even at our first game, we had more than 150 people show up. Obviously, I cried."**



A Steel City FC player goes for the ball.

"I don't think this would have worked so well or taken shape so quickly in any other place," Harrison said. "I think people in Pittsburgh – from Councilman Dan Gillman who constantly helped set me up with the right people, to the different businesses that clearly wanted to support a women's sports team in the city – they're the ones who really made this happen."

"It's such a strong community. Even at our first game, we had more than 150 people show up," she said. "Obviously, I cried. Especially seeing people with their daughters at these games. It's mind blowing."

## WHEN IT COMES TO GETTING GIRLS INTO SPORTS, HARRISON DOESN'T JUST TALK THE TALK; SHE'S WRITING HER DOCTORAL THESIS ON THE SUBJECT.

Those daughters, Harrison reflected, are a big part of why Steel City F.C. exists.

"As we went through the process of creating this team, it actually became less about me," she said. "Yes, I wanted a team to play with, but I realized I also wanted a team for young girls to look up to."

"If you grow up in Pittsburgh – it's a city of champions. Little boys dream of playing on the Steelers or the Pirates, but girls don't have as many opportunities. So seeing girls, whether they're 6 or 16, come to a Steel City game – that was incredible."

When it comes to getting girls into sports, Harrison doesn't just talk the talk; she's writing her doctoral thesis on the subject, exploring the psychology behind young girls who play sports. Though her paper is unfinished, Harrison's early research has found that women who played sports at a young age tend to be more assertive and confident than their non-athlete counterparts.

Steel City F.C. isn't alone in its effort to inspire young women to pursue sports, and with the success of Team USA in winning the 2015 Women's World Cup, Harrison believes now is the perfect time to get involved.

"People are really starting to realize that these women are athletes, and they're good athletes. And it's just getting people excited about soccer in general, as well as women's soccer," Harrison said.

"After the World Cup, I think parents will start to say, 'Oh, my daughter is enjoying this or my son is enjoying this, and hey there's this local team – let's go check them out,' and that can get kids even more excited about playing."

In its inaugural season, Steel City F.C. tallied six wins, two losses, and one tie, though Harrison noted that both losses were to the top team in their division.

"It was a whirlwind," Harrison said. "When I look back on it, I can't believe how quickly it went from being a concept in my head to being a real thing."

"It was a ton of work," she said with a laugh. "I think my school work this year might have taken a hit but – hey – I made it."

To learn more about Steel City F.C. and find out how you can support the team, visit [www.SteelCityFC.com](http://www.SteelCityFC.com). ■



Players invited young girls to take the field during a pre-game ceremony.

# VIVA ITALIA!

LaFata at the top of the Pyrenees Mountain range.



*Daniel LaFata is a free spirit travel blogger born and raised in a small farm town in northwestern Pennsylvania. While attending Clarion University, he discovered his love for writing and adventure. Daniel plans to live his life on the road and never have a permanent home. (From DanielLaFata.com)*

The summer after his freshman year at Clarion University, Daniel LaFata ('13) wanted to arrange a gathering for his group of friends in Erie, where he lived.

"Nobody's schedule was lining up, so I took a long weekend and stayed at one friend's house one night, another friend's the next night," he said. "I liked the feeling of waking up and going to a new city."

When he returned to Clarion in the fall, LaFata continued to explore new places through university organizations. He traveled to New York City with Psychology Club, Miami with ABLE, Washington, D.C., with a feminist group, New Orleans with Political Economics Club. He capped off his senior year with a trip to Boston with International Club.

### BIKE AND BUILD

With his bachelor's degree in liberal studies in hand, LaFata had one more trip to take before he settled into the 9 to 5 routine. He signed up for a cross-country excursion with Bike and Build, a group that "engages young adults in service-oriented cycling trips to raise money and awareness for the affordable housing cause," according to [bikeandbuild.org](http://bikeandbuild.org).

"I read about (Bike and Build) freshman year; a girl from Erie did it. I cut out the article and came across it every once in a while," LaFata said. "Going into my senior year, I thought there would be no better time to go than the summer after graduation."

Riders are asked to raise \$4,500 to help with Bike and Build's mission of providing affordable housing. LaFata wrote letters to "every person I

**"We'd bike to a town, the next day we'd build all day, then we'd wake up and bike another 100 miles."**





BERLIN GRAFFITI WALL



LAFATA DURING A BIKE AND BUILD BREAK AT SLIDE ROCK STATE PARK, ARIZONA.

ever met," and he stood in front of Walmart with a can and a poster. He reached his goal a month before the trip.

The 27 bicyclists started their 4,000-mile trip in Portland, Maine, riding 80 to 100 miles a day.

"We'd bike to a town, the next day we'd build all day, usually with Habitat for Humanity, then we'd wake up and bike another 100 miles," LaFata said. "On build days, we literally experienced every step of building a house – sometimes clearing the lot, other times pouring cement, putting up walls, putting a roof on."

"(The trip) took 77 days. We ended in Santa Barbara, Calif."

## MORE TO SEE

After Bike and Build, LaFata stayed in Chicago with a girl he met on the trip. He was planning to move there, but they broke up. After, he moved with friends to Philadelphia, but he only stayed two months. Then, his best friend from college moved to Austin, Texas.

It was February in Pennsylvania, and LaFata was complaining to the friend about the cold.

"It's 75 degrees here," the friend told him. LaFata was off to Austin.

"I was a bartender and I worked in a coffee shop, but my 'big boy' job was at AT&T," LaFata said. "My plan was to live

cheap and save money for two years, then travel the world. I only made it six months, but I had enough saved to do some traveling."

His first journey into a life of travel was to hike the Camino de Santiago trail in Spain. He had read about the trail after hearing friends' stories of hiking it. His plane landed in Copenhagen, Denmark, in April 2015.

"I figured I'll start in Denmark and figure out how to get to Spain to walk this trail," he said. "I used 'couch surfing,' which is pretty much travelers helping travelers. There's no exchange of money – it's pretty much the essence of human kindness."

TRAVEL DAY



BREAK TIME



LAFATA'S STATES VISITED MAP

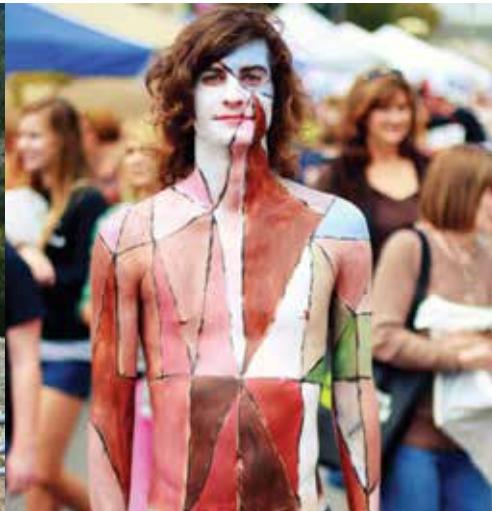


WEAR AND TEAR





LAFATA AND FRIENDS HE MET AT A BARCELONA HOSTEL HIKE MONTserrat.



LAFATA PAINTED AS MUSICIAN "GOYTE"



LAFATA WAS MESMERIZED BY A FIELD OF YELLOW AS HE HIKED THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO.

He admits he was nervous at the initial thought of staying with strangers.

"I was having a minor freakout before the first couch surf, but it was one of the nicest girls I've ever met. She said, 'I just bought groceries. I can cook you dinner,'" he said. "It was amazing. It was like that everywhere I went."

LaFata explored for a month before he arrived in Spain. He started to walk the 500-mile trail April 22.

"My plan was to walk all of it. I ended up walking about 400 miles," LaFata said. "The whole point was the walk itself. I felt like I'd grown a ton spiritually and mentally." He concluded his journey by volunteering at the hostel there before returning to the United States June 1 ... briefly.

## VIVA ITALIA!

"I grew up with a fairly rich Sicilian culture, listening to my grandparents talk Sicilian to each other. It's always been a dream to go there," he said.

LaFata's grandfather was born in Sicily, which makes him eligible for Italian citizenship.

"As long as you can link one blood relative back, you're eligible," he said.

He lined up a job teaching English in an Italian school and jetted back to Europe in September to begin his work there.

"It's only three months. It's demonstrating proper dialect for middle school students. It gives me the opportunity to get my feet wet and see

if I like it. If I do, it's easy to find a full-time teaching job," LaFata said.

In Italy, LaFata is seeing and doing all that he can. He has started the process toward citizenship, which will allow him to live anywhere in Europe. He's learning to speak Italian. He tried scuba diving. He's been to Milan and Rome, toured the Sistine Chapel and visited the Coliseum.

He keeps a video record of his travels, which he edits and narrates before posting them on YouTube, labeled with the event and the numbered day of his life. He also maintains a blog which also features videos of his travels at [www.DanielLaFata.com](http://www.DanielLaFata.com).

ALONG THE TRAIL



VOLUNTEERING AT A HOSTEL



LAFATA WITH FRIENDS HE MET ON A BARCELONA BEACH



# Hair

I was a quiet 7th grader getting excited for summer break. Like every middle school boy, I had a crush on a fellow classmate. So when my middle school crush told me I would look good if I grew my hair out, little young and naive Daniel would do exactly that.



That summer I let it grow long, covering my ears and draping over the back of my neck. Within a year I had forgotten all about my original reason of growing it out, and kept it long because I enjoyed the style.

For years I kept it long, usually just below the bottom of my ears. It wasn't until around Thanksgiving 2011 that I realized that the longer my hair got, the more compliments I was getting on this. It was at that point that I decided I should be sharing my hair with others that are unable to grow such luscious locks.

I looked into several hair donation organizations and eventually found that Pantene Beautiful Lengths was the right fit for me: the minimum requirement was only eight inches and they guaranteed that 100 percent of the hair would be donated. My new reason for growing it felt good and it kept my dad off my back from constant requests to get it cut.

Around the beginning of summer 2013, just before my Bike & Build trip, I decided to chop it all off. I went into a beauty salon with my friend, Jesse. To my surprise it was not long enough. I learned that in order to have enough to donate, I would need to shave my head bald – a style I was not welcoming.

I waited a few months, rode my bicycle across America, and when I got back I returned to the same beauty salon. This time it was plenty long, with enough left over to leave about an inch for styling. The hair stylist tied my locks into two ponytails and made the cut.

When she made the first chop, I couldn't help but cringe. I thought of all the time it took for my hair to get this long, the countless awkward stages it had to go through to finally flow smoothly. All of this to eventually disappear between two scissors. But it was all worth it because now some cancer patient will have a donated wig with my hair to help style her head.

## IT'S THE PEOPLE

As LaFata travels, he sees spectacular sights, but the people he meets have made as much of an impression on him, maybe more.

"My most amazing experience was when I was couch surfing in Milan, Italy. I found one girl online, and she said I could stay with her. Typically couch surfers are people in their 20s. She lived in a really nice, upscale condo. Her dad was a lawyer and her mom was a fashion designer. They welcomed me in. The dad was from Sicily – I said I was, too. The joke was that if you're from Sicily, you're related – it's just an island."

The second night I was there, their nephew was graduating from law school. They were going to a dinner celebration for him and invited me. I hopped in the car like one of the family – me and two daughters in the back, the mom and dad in the front. At dinner it was a long table of all Italians, yelling at each other, all speaking their native tongue. I couldn't be more immersed in the culture than having a family dinner."

LaFata said that nine times out of 10, if you talk to people, they'll help you out.

"We're communal creatures. We've lived in communities or tribes since the caveman days. It's instinctive to help each other out."



## PHILOSOPHY

"Open yourself up and let the universe do its thing. It's going to help you out, guide you to where you need to go," LaFata said.

"To me, the most important thing is having a lot of fun and doing what you love. It doesn't matter if you're not making a ton of money," he said. "I never want to do the 9 to 5, Monday to Friday."

LaFata said his dream is constantly evolving.

"I've never had a ton of money, and honestly, I don't care if I ever do. I've learned very quickly that money doesn't really play a factor in what I want to do," LaFata said. "I can very easily live a week on \$100 or less and travel while I am doing it. Most of the time I spend less money while on the road than I do when living in a city."

"I know that whatever my dream is, it has to be on the road. I feel most content and most in tune with myself when I'm traveling," he said. "I constantly hear older adults saying, 'If I could do it all over again ...' I say, why don't you just do it now? Life is way too short to give up on a dream."

Losing a close friend emphasized that philosophy.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**3**

NUMBER OF  
TRIPS ACROSS  
THE ATLANTIC

**400**

NUMBER OF MILES HIKED  
ON THE  
**CAMINO DE SANTIAGO**

**77**

NUMBER OF  
DAYS TO  
COMPLETE BIKE  
AND BUILD RIDE

**36**

NUMBER OF  
AMERICAN  
STATES VISITED

**7**

NUMBER OF  
COUNTRIES  
VISITED

**4,000**

MILES BIKE  
ON BIKE AND BUILD

**20s**

AVERAGE AGE OF  
COUCH  
SURFERS

**20,000** (more or less)

NUMBER OF PRECIOUS DAYS  
FOR LIVING THE DREAM



LaFata and Meg Kays

"Meg (Kays '12) was like my sister. She had big dreams – she wanted to move different places and see different things. She was passionate about helping people – her dream was to eventually run her own non-profit," LaFata said. She died after being hit by a car while running.

"Everyone talks about planning for the future and getting a stable career. What's the point? You can go for a run and get hit by a car," he said. "Live so you don't have any regrets."

LaFata travels on a shoestring budget, funded by working in various places. "You don't need money to do what you love; you find ways to do it," he said.

His method for labeling his videos by the numbered day of his life recently hit 9,000. Thinking of his life as day by day enhances his appreciation of it.

"I have maybe 20,000 more days to do what I want to do," he said. "I can't waste any of those days – all of those days are precious."

### CLARION

"I originally chose Clarion because of the business program, but in my senior year of high school I took a psychology class," LaFata said. "Before I even got (to Clarion), I switched my major to psychology, then I changed it eight more times."

The various majors reflected LaFata's openness to learning.

"I took an English class, and it wasn't like English in high school. You can write whatever the hell you want to write about. You can even swear if you want to," he said. "Then I took a philosophy class and thought it was so amazing."

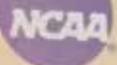
LaFata said he cherishes the opportunities Clarion gave him.

"Whatever I wanted to do – if I wanted to learn more about philosophy, there's Philosophy Club; more about

psychology, that opportunity was there," he said. "I wanted to go to a leadership conference in Miami, and I had to write a paper to be able to go. I came back and helped plan a leadership conference at Clarion. The next year I wanted to speak, and that opportunity was there – anything I wanted to do."

Going into his senior year, LaFata met with his advisor, Joseph Croskey, who looked at his classes and told him he could have his degree in liberal studies. He thought about staying an additional two years to focus on writing, but he graduated in May 2013 with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies, with minors in psychology and business. ■





NCAA Woman of the Year

# KRISTIN DAY



#### SCHOOL

Clarion University of Pennsylvania  
Division II

#### CONFERENCE

Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference

#### MAJOR

Chemistry, concentrating in biochemistry

#### SPORT

Swimming and diving

"I entered Clarion University to dive and took up the study of biochemistry, in which I studied with the same fervor that I approached my training in diving. ... My desire to study the mysteries of the human body have led me to seek a career path in

A two-year captain on the Clarion University of Pennsylvania women's swimming and diving team, Kristin Day served one year on her campus Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. She also served as chief financial officer for her family's Ride for Research initiative, which has raised more than \$60,000 for cancer research.

Day graduated with a degree in chemistry, concentrating in biochemistry, and a 4.0 grade-point average. In 2015, Day won the Elite 99 Award, presented to the college athlete competing at an NCAA championship with the highest GPA. She earned the Capital One Division II Academic All-America of the Year honor for all sports in 2015 and was recognized in the at-large category in 2014. She also received Clarion's Undergraduate Award for Achievement in Organic Chemistry and Analytical Chemistry. In 2015, Day received the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference's Pete Nevins Award for



# OH, WHAT A DAY

Former Clarion University diver Kristin Day ('15) was named the 2015 NCAA Woman of the Year Oct. 18 at the Westin – Indianapolis.

"I was so shocked – and ecstatic at the same time when she called my name," Day said. "What an unbelievable feeling that all of that hard work and sacrifice has paid off like this."

Day is the first winner of the NCAA Woman of the Year Award from any Pennsylvania-based university, and only the fourth NCAA D-II athlete honored with this award. Clarion is the only PSAC school to have had a finalist for the Woman of the Year Award, and the Golden Eagles have had three. Prior to Day's nomination, finalists from Clarion included Kayla Shull in 2013 and Dr. Jamie Wolf (Jackel) in 2007.

# Q & A

## **What was your mindset in Indianapolis, while waiting for Woman of the Year announcement?**

I was actually really nervous leading up to the announcement. I did not think that I would be the winner, but as I waited for them to announce who had won, I sat in hope that it would be me.

**There's a great shot from that night of your dad squeezing you close. What do you recall about that moment?**

As soon as they called my name I was in shock and did not really know what to do or how to react, but my dad just pulled me in for a hug and luckily the photographer captured that moment.



## **How have your parents have helped you achieve in athletics and academics?**

My parents have provided every opportunity for me to achieve to the extent of my talents in both athletics and academics. My mom drove an hour and 45 minutes one way, three days a week, to take me to gymnastics practice, just so I could have the opportunity to reach my potential. My parents built a gym for me, and my mom became my coach when I wanted to start trampoline and there were no gyms within two hours. My mom also worked with my school as I grew up so that I would be challenged to get the best education possible. My parents recognized my talents and wanted to make sure I fulfilled my potential, and for that, I cannot be more thankful.

## **Clearly, you have a wonderful work ethic. How did that develop?**

My work ethic is a product of my parents and older siblings (one brother, one sister). I saw from each of them that if you work hard you can reach goals and be successful. I actually picked that up at quite a young age, probably around 7 or 8, and once I applied it to my life, it became a part of me.

**“MY PARENTS RECOGNIZED MY TALENTS AND WANTED TO MAKE SURE I FULFILLED MY POTENTIAL, AND FOR THAT, I CANNOT BE MORE THANKFUL.”**

## **I understand Jamie Wolf is your idol. How did you come to know about her?**

I did not know about her until I came to Clarion. Once I saw her posters and awards in the pool area and realized how successful she was, I knew that I wanted to follow in her footsteps.

## **What about her do you admire?**

I admire how well rounded she is. She is incredibly smart, amazing at diving, a generous woman, and just a fantastic role model.

## **In what ways did she inspire you?**

She inspired me to utilize the opportunities and tools around me to reach the goals that she did while at Clarion, and beyond. Her achievements were so incredible to me and I just wanted to be able to achieve a fraction of what she did.

## **Have you met her?**

I did meet her when she was inducted into the Hall of Fame at Clarion. I only talked with her for a short time, as she was busy with her own celebration, but she was just as amazing in person as I had imagined.

## **Did you hear from her after your Woman of the Year announcement?**

Yes. Not long after the announcement she notified coach to tell me congratulations! It is still mind boggling to me that she was not awarded the Woman of the Year, but I was. I still feel that she deserves it more than I do.

# Q & A

## **What is your relationship with Coach Hrovat?**

Coach is like a father figure to me. He is a fantastic coach who made it enjoyable to go to practice, but he also helped me become an incredible diver. He has a special way of coaching that was perfect for me. He was also always there to talk or help in any way possible.



## **Coach Hrovat said you constantly improved, from the first time you dove for him until the last. Have you surprised yourself at how you've developed as a diver?**

Yes and no. I am surprised that I managed to take three national titles, but I am not surprised that coach developed me the way that he did. As an athlete, I strive to improve at every practice and every meet, so with his incredible coaching it was not a surprise that he could shape me into something so great. Coach truly has a gift.

## **What is your proudest moment in competition?**

I am most proud of my junior year at nationals (2014). I was not expecting to achieve both national titles, so being able to dig deep, perform my best, set an NCAA record and get named Female Diver of the Year was a great moment for me.

## **Were there competitive lows to go with the highs?**

Of course. I had many lows with competitions and also at practices. The tough times were motivation for me though; I used them as a learning experience and motivation to work harder and not make the same mistakes again. Losing also taught me about sportsmanship and how to overcome defeat.

## **You recently turned 21, and you're in your first year of medical school. Have you always wanted to be a doctor?**

I have wanted to be a physician ever since I had elbow surgery when I was 11. The orthopedic surgeon that I visited was amazing and inspired me to become a great physician just like him. He really connected with me and cared about getting me back to my sport as quickly and healthy as possible, and I was truly inspired.

## **You're so young and have already accomplished so much. Of what are you most proud?**

I would have to say that I am most proud of this award. Being named Woman of the Year wraps up all of my previous accomplishments. This award takes into account all of the things that I have done throughout my life – athletics, academics, community involvement and leadership, so to be given this well-rounded award is something I am very proud of.

## **Young women scholar-athletes will now look to you as a role model. What is your advice to them?**

Set goals and remind yourself of them each and every day with everything you do. Hard work comes from the desire to reach your goals, so if you continue to think of your goals and how important they are to you, you will reach them in no time. Work hard and enjoy the ride; it will all be worth it when you accomplish what you set out to do.



"What a great night for Kristin Day - and for Clarion University," Clarion President Dr. Karen M. Whitney said. "Tonight we not only celebrate her award, but especially what the award stands for. Her accomplishments in the classroom, in community service and as a national champion diver show Kristin's commitment to personal excellence in everything she does. We congratulate her on this great honor and know she is the epitome of Courageous. Confident. Clarion."

"This is a great honor for Kristin - we are so proud of her and what she has accomplished" said Clarion athletic director Dave Katis. "She represents what is best about our student athletes at Clarion and the reputation our athletes have exemplified over the years. Everyone here is Clarion proud tonight."

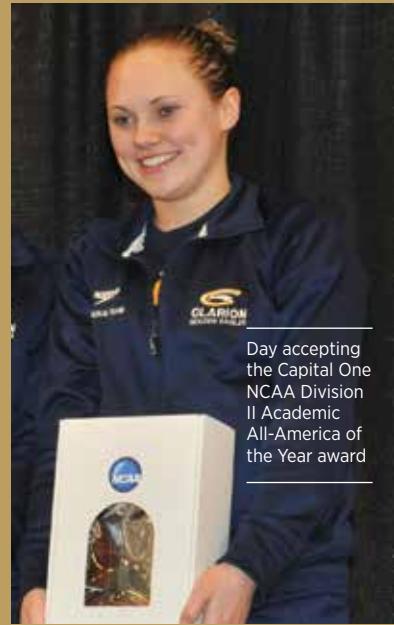
Day graduated in May with a degree in chemistry and a concentration in

biochemistry, earned 153 credits with a perfect 4.0 GPA. A daughter of Dennis and Susan Day of Reynoldsville, Day is a four-time Clarion and PSAC Scholar Athlete, plus a two-time Spring Top 10 PSAC award winner. She is currently enrolled at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine on an NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship.

The NCAA Woman of the Year program honors the academic achievements, athletics excellence, community service and leadership of graduating female college athletes from all three divisions. To be eligible, nominees must have completed eligibility in their primary sport. The NCAA Woman of the Year selection committee selects the Top 30 – 10 from each division and then three finalists from each division. The Committee on Women's Athletics selects the winner from the Top 9. ■



Day executes a back 1 1/2 pike



Day accepting the Capital One NCAA Division II Academic All-America of the Year award

Day is one of the most decorated athletes that has ever attended Clarion. Named in July as the Capital One NCAA D-II Academic All-America of the Year, she was a two time At-Large Academic All-America of the Year (2015, 2014), the PSAC Pete Nevins Scholar Athlete of the Year, the NCAA D-II Elite 89 award winner at swimming nationals, a three-time NCAA Division II National Champion and an eight-time career All-American.

She won the NCAA D-II one-meter national title this year, while finishing fourth on three-meter. In 2014 she won both NCAA championships. She won the three-meter springboard title, setting a new NCAA record. She followed that with a one-meter national title. For her efforts she was named the CSCAA NCAA D-II Female Diver of the Year.

In 2013, Day finished third on the three-meter board and fifth on one-meter, and in 2012 she was second on three-meter and fourth on one-meter.

# LIFE INSIDE THE DIAMOND

---

## PETE VUCKOVICH

Every modern baseball historian has heard the name Pete Vuckovich. A right-handed pitcher with a **distinctive moustache** and even more **distinctive personality** on the mound, Vuckovich holds a number of accolades that will cement his place in the **history books**. He led the American League (AL) in wins in 1981 and won the 1982 AL **Cy Young award**, awarded each season to the best pitcher in each league. He also recorded the **first shutout and the first save** in the history of the Toronto Blue Jays' franchise. And as a **small-town boy turned big-league star**, his story is the stuff of dreams for little leaguers everywhere.

Vuckovich first stepped onto the baseball diamond at Clarion University in 1971 (then Clarion State College), after a successful high school career in his hometown of Johnstown. A fierce competitor and self-proclaimed "confident young man," he was eager to help his team defeat its competition, and optimistic that his success would lead to a shot at

playing baseball professionally.

Months prior, he'd told head coach Joe Knowles he could "play anywhere except catcher." In high school, Vuckovich had spent a good deal of time on the pitcher's mound, filling in across the infield when needed.

"Maybe I shouldn't have said that, but I was cocky back then," Vuckovich said.

"Coach Knowles said I'd play second base – the position I had probably the least experience with."

In the early games of the season, a more senior second basemen took the field while Vuckovich took a seat on the bench. After watching his team lose a double-header, though, he thought, "I'm better than any guy out there." While most players might



Vuckovich as a Golden Eagles baseball player, throwing his first no-hitter.

keep this thought inside, Vuckovich marched up to his coach at the next practice and voiced his opinion.

"I told him just that, and he put me in at second base the next game," he said, with a laugh.

As it turned out, Vuckovich proved himself. He was, by all accounts, a great infielder. But it was another act of confidence that set Vuckovich up for his major-league career. During batting practice, with the available pitcher resting his arm for an upcoming game, Knowles asked if anyone could pitch for the team. Vuckovich volunteered.

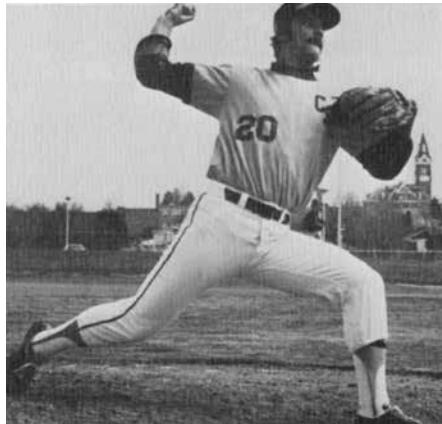
"The first batter I pitched to was a guy named Gary Nuss. He was an All-American hitter the year before," Vuckovich said. "I threw about three pitches to him and he starts screaming and hollering. Our coach comes running in from the outfield thinking somebody was hurt, and Nuss says, 'Coach, this is the best pitcher I've ever seen in my life.'"

Naturally, Knowles took a closer look at Vuckovich's pitching and quickly put him in the starting rotation, where he stayed for the remainder of his four years at Clarion.

Off the field, Vuckovich loved the location and the "quaintness" of the town of Clarion

during his time at the university. He was also fond of Frank Lignelli, the athletic director at the time, whom Vuckovich said "was kind of like a father to me; he kept me in line."

In both classes and at baseball practice, Vuckovich admits he wasn't the easiest person to teach or coach. "I was stubborn, so it was probably hard to get through," he said. "I knew what I wanted, which was to be a ballplayer. I knew what I could do. Coach Knowles tried to change up some aspects of how I pitched, or how I batted, and I resisted."



Vuckovich shined as Clarion's pitcher.

Though he may have frustrated his coaches, Vuckovich clearly did something right. In his senior year at Clarion, he signed with the Chicago White Sox after being chosen in the third round of the 1974 Major League Baseball draft. He is one of 13 players in Clarion history to have signed an MLB contract.

In his first season with the Denver Bears, the White Sox AAA minor-league team, Vuckovich and his teammates won the championship. The following year, Vuckovich continued to shine, and the manager of the White Sox took notice.

On an off-day for the White Sox, Vuckovich said, manager Chuck Tanner was scouting his team's minor-league talent. Impressed with what he saw from

Vuckovich, Tanner made him an offer.

"He said, 'You're coming with me to the majors,' Vuckovich said. "And I said, 'I don't want to go.' He was pretty surprised. He asked what I meant and said that I was the first person he'd ever heard of who didn't want a call up to the major league."

Always the competitor, Vuckovich explained to Tanner that he wanted to stay with the Bears for the AAA championship, which he believed the Bears would win again.

"He said, 'Okay, I'll make you a deal. You come back with me to the White Sox, and when the playoffs start, I'll send you back here to pitch.'" Vuckovich agreed, and Tanner kept his word. That

year, Vuckovich and the Bears made it to the championship series, but lost the championship in extra innings of game seven.

While his start in the majors was unconventional, Vuckovich says that his first day at that level is one of his fondest memories of baseball.

"I don't remember much about the first game, specifically. It was against Minnesota," he said, stating that it was the realization of his childhood ambition that made the day so special.

Over the course of his 11-year pitching career, Vuckovich played for the White Sox, the Toronto Blue Jays, the St. Louis Cardinals, and the Milwaukee Brewers, starting in multiple playoff and World Series Games. With a career record of 93-69, 882 strikeouts, and a 3.66 ERA,

**“He said, ‘You’re coming with me to the majors,’ and I said, ‘I don’t want to go.’”**



Vuckovich with former Clarion athletic director Frank Lignelli

**A** member of both the Western Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame and the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, Vuckovich was recently honored by the Pirates' AA affiliate, the Altoona Curve during "Pete Vuckovich Bobblehead Night." The first 1,500 fans in attendance received a bobblehead designed to reflect Vuckovich's Clarion days, a tribute to his local roots and his time with the Pirates.

"It was an honor to be a part of that night," he said. During the evening's festivities, Vuckovich threw out the night's first pitch and was interviewed on-field by the Curve's general manager Rob Egan. He was also reunited with Frank Lignelli, with whom he watched the game.



Vuckovich throws out the first pitch at the Altoona Curve's Pete Vuckovich Bobblehead Night. Those attending received a Clarion University-clad Vuckovich bobblehead.

he fulfilled the dream inspired by his childhood heroes, Roberto Clemente, Bob Gibson, and Juan Marichal. In fact, early on in his career, Vuckovich tried to emulate Marichal's pitching style, and was once compared to the Giants right-hander in an article.

"I haven't kept many things from my playing days, but I clipped that article out of the newspaper and kept it," he said.

Vuckovich's passion for the game didn't fade when his playing days ended. Since retiring in 1986, he has served as a color commentary announcer for the Milwaukee Brewers, a pitching scout and coach for the Pittsburgh Pirates, and special assistant to the general manager of the Seattle Mariners. He was even involved in a Hollywood version of baseball, playing the Yankees slugging first-baseman Clu Haywood in the 1989 film "Major League."

"Baseball is what I love. It's what I do," he said.

## "BASEBALL HAS BEEN MY WHOLE LIFE. IT'S WHAT I KNOW, AND I KNOW IT BETTER THAN MOST."

Throughout his years on the road with various teams, Vuckovich has almost always kept a home in Johnstown.

"It's home. It's where I grew up, and where my wife and I met. Even when I was playing, in the offseason we always came home to Johnstown," he said.

It was in Johnstown that Vuckovich and his wife Anna raised their three children, Louis, Pete Jr., and Damian. Pete Jr. is a Clarion graduate who, like his father, was drafted by the Chicago White Sox after a successful collegiate career. Though his professional run was cut short by an injury, he is now a lawyer,

which Vuckovich raises as a testament to Clarion's academic prowess.

"I think Clarion can provide anyone any opportunity they want if they're willing to work for it and apply themselves," he said. "I got a great education, even though, I'll admit, I was more focused on being a ballplayer."

Vuckovich is now back home in Johnstown, keeping an eye out for his next venture.

"Baseball has been my whole life," he said. "It's what I know, and I know it better than most. If an opportunity comes my way, I might take it. Otherwise, I'm happy being a retiree." ■



# CLARION FOOTBALL - "RESTORE THE PRIDE"

**When Chris Weibel took the reigns as Clarion's head football coach Feb. 6, 2015, he had one mission: Restore the pride and passion of Clarion football.**

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Clarion opened the 2015 season with a 7-0 record and a 4-0 start in the PSAC-Western Division, reigniting the Eagles' proud football tradition.

The season has brought back the memories and excitement of past outstanding teams and traditions formed by former coaches Waldo Tippin, Al Jacks, Charlie Ruslavage, Gene Sobolewski and Malen Luke.

The echoes reach back to the 1952 undefeated Lions Bowl and undefeated 1966 PSAC championship teams. Twenty-seven consecutive non-losing seasons from 1961 through 1987 established the pride and consistency of the tradition. Of course, the 1996 NCAA Final Four team, of which Weibel was a part, was an equally proud edition.



Weibel's formula for 2015?

"We talked from day one about restoring the pride and passion of Clarion football," Weibel said. "We explained we expect hard work, discipline and quality character out of each player, but we also talked about turning them loose, so to speak, to play with a love and passion for the game that we felt was missing. In other words – let's have some fun."

Fun indeed. Weibel unleashed a new look, wide-open offense that looked to get to the end zone on every possession.

Quarterback Connor Simmons, wideouts Matt Lehman and Kevin Genevro and running back Delrece Williams provided the fuel that powered the Eagles.

"We changed our approach from the past. We wanted to play exciting football, and we wanted our fans to be able to come out and enjoy watching us play," Weibel said. "That means scoring points."

The wins piled up. The season opener at Lock Haven saw Clarion pound the Bald Eagles 40-13 with Simmons passing for 407 yards and 4 touchdowns. After knocking off Millersville 27-21, the Eagles dominated Cheyney, winning 59-6. Simmons tossed four touchdown passes, three to Lehman.

Opening the PSAC-West schedule at pre-season top pick Gannon, the Eagles served notice that they were for real with a 47-31 win. The offense dominated as Simmons threw four touchdown passes to Lehman, and Delrece Williams rushed for 148 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Running their record to 7-0, Clarion topped Mercyhurst (41-27), Edinboro (36-23) and Seton Hill (44-29). Against Mercyhurst Simmons passed for 441 yards, third most at Clarion in a single game. Versus Seton Hill Clarion set a single game record with 676 yards of total offense.

## **HOWSARE ASSIGNED TO N.Y. JETS PRACTICE SQUAD**

Williams rushed for 201 yards and had 108 receiving yards as the offense continued to spread the wealth.

Weibel's 7-0 start was the best for Golden Eagles football since the 1983 team, coached by Gene Sobolewski, started 7-0 and went on to win the PSAC-West and PSAC championships.

The 4-0 Western Division record was the best since 1996 when then-quarterback Chris Weibel led Clarion to an 11-3 record, the NCAA East Region Crown, the Lambert Cup and the NCAA Final Four.

A few new additions have added to the fun of football again at Memorial Stadium. Weibel, with the help of the football alumni, has a victory bell to ring following every Eagles win. The bell was donated by former player Jeff Golias ('82).

Provost Ron Nowaczyk donated a cannon, reviving an old tradition of firing it after every Clarion touchdown. Chad Thomas used Pepsi funds to purchase an inflatable Eagle which forms a tunnel for the players to run through during pre-game introductions.

Although the Eagles finished the season 7-4, Clarion football fans are already looking forward to 2016, when all of Clarion's offensive fire power returns.

Junior quarterback Connor Simmons completed 228 of 405 passes for 3,582 yards and 34 touchdowns, all new single season records. Simmons broke

Weibel's 1996 records of 2,880 passing yards and 32 touchdowns, Craig Ray's 216 completions (1994) and Ben Fiscus' 383 attempts (2012).

Junior receiver Matt Lehman caught 15 touchdown passes, surpassing the old mark of 13 by Alvin Slaughter in 1998, while also grabbing 67 aerials for 979 yards. Junior Kevin Genevra averaged a whopping 21.5 yards per catch while clutching 42 passes for 886 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Sophomore Delrece Williams rushed 182 times for 978 yards (eighth best in school history) and six touchdowns and caught 31 passes for 465 yards and four touchdowns.

"The players really deserve all the credit," Weibel said

of the season. "We needed to change the attitude – the culture, and we had to gain the trust of the players. Getting off to a good start was really important in reaching our most important goal – restoring the pride and passion of Clarion football. Now it's up to us to keep this thing going."



Julian Howsare ('14), former Clarion University All-America defensive end/linebacker, was signed Sept. 6, 2015, to the New York Jets practice squad and has remained there during the Fall NFL season.

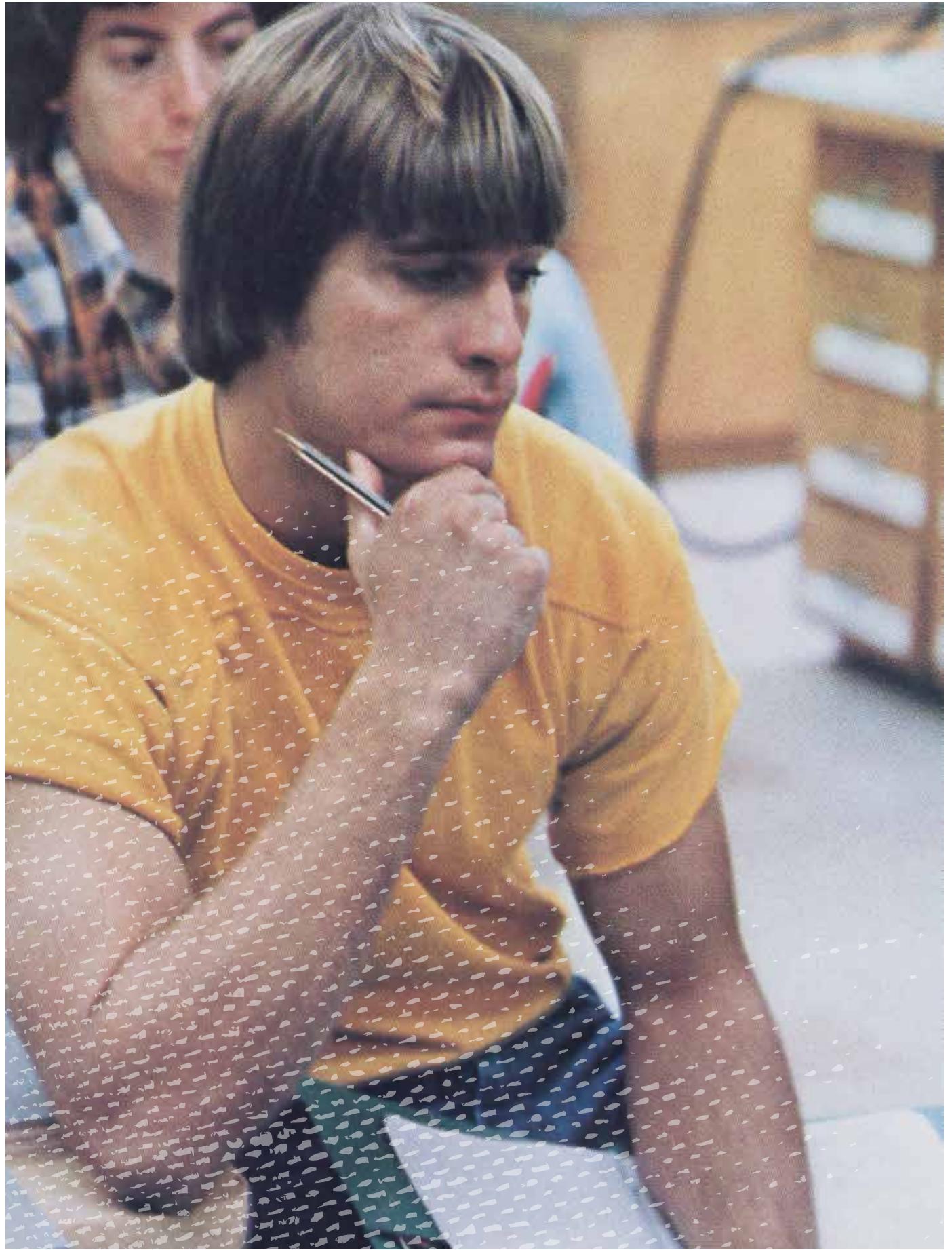
Howsare, who signed as an outside linebacker with the Jets immediately following the NFL draft, also saw time at fullback and on special teams during the New York Jets 2015 pre-season games. Howsare gained significant playing time in the pre-season games with the Jets. He was in for 85 plays, including 55 on offense. He started the final pre-season game against the Philadelphia Eagles and had one catch for six yards.

The Jets are led by new first-year head coach Todd Bowles.

Practice squad members can be called up to the game day roster at any time and activated to play for their NFL team. They do not have guaranteed contracts. The NFL generally allows players to be on NFL practice squads for up to two to three years, depending on circumstances.

The son of Karyn Stalter and John Howsare, he is a December 2014 Sports Management graduate and a Clarion Scholar Athlete.





# ALUMNI NOTES

## WINTER 2015

### 1968

**Jacqueline Taylor** was elected president of Brierly Heights Women's Club, West Mifflin. The group raises money for scholarships, a senior girls' tea and community services. Jacqueline is retired from West Mifflin School District.

### 1975

**Paul Antolik** retired after 40 years working in various management positions in the transportation industry, most recently with the management group at AAA East Central headquarters in Pittsburgh. He resides in Pittsburgh and plans also to spend time in Hilton Head, S.C.

### 1984

**Dr. Timothy Gerken** had his photographs shown at the 39th Street Gallery at the Gateway Arts Center in Prince George County, Maryland. He is an associate professor of humanities at SUNY Morrisville. Timothy resides in Garrattsville, N.Y.

### 1990

**Richie Summerville** is entering his second season as the play-by-play voice of Hampton University athletics. He is also working for ESPN Radio 94.1 in Virginia Beach, Va. Richie resides in Virginia Beach.

### 1991

**Jane Ryder** is director of editorial and client services for The Editorial Department, LLC, Tucson, Ariz.

### 1993

**Julie Jacobs** is chief financial officer for Warren General Hospital, Warren. She resides in Clarendon.

**Jon Sitler** has been named managing editor of the Times Observer newspaper in Warren. He previously was sports writer, news writer and sports editor for the daily newspaper. He was sports editor for the Clarion Call while attending Clarion University. Jon resides in Warren with his wife, Shannon, and children, Jordan and Chase.

### 1994

**Tracey (Cowan) Colwell** is a speech-language clinician for Riverview Intermediate Unit, Clarion. She resides in New Bethlehem with her husband, Conan.

### 1997

**Todd Freidhoff** is office manager for John Henderson Company, Johnstown. He resides in Johnstown with his wife, Amanda, and son, Corbin.

### 1999

**Shane and Alicia (Hall '00) Shaffer** reside in Martinsburg, W.Va., with their children: Noah, Sydney and Kennedy. Shane is an assistant principal and Alicia is an autism specialist, both for Berkeley County Schools.

### 2004

**Jeff Alley** is a revenue accounting manager for VCE, Richardson, Texas. He resides in Dallas.

### 2007

**Josh McAdoo** is a real estate appraiser. He resides in Clarion with his wife, Lynsey, and daughter, Molly.

### 2008

**Caleb Young** is an upper school history teacher and assistant athletic director for Dayspring Christian Academy. He resides in Elizabethtown with his wife, Maria.

**Amy (Bauman) Faith** is a special education teacher in the Hampton Township School District. She resides in Pittsburgh with her husband, Christopher.

### 2011

**Shawn Hallowell** is assistant principal, cluster director, educator and high school coordinator for The Intergenerational School, Cleveland. He resides in Cleveland.

**Alicia Dittman** is a front desk agent, assistant to front desk manager, at the Foxburg Inn Hotel, Foxburg. She resides in Parker.

# 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](http://www.clarion.edu/alumni-update)



## 2012

**Aaron and Samantha (Shiring '13) Shriner** reside in Midland, Mich. Samantha earned a chemical engineering degree from Case Western. She is a process engineer for Dow Chemical. Aaron is an accountant for ValuePoint.

**Ashlee Swales** is an algebra teacher for Putnam County. She resides in Palm Coast, Fla.

## 2013

**Kara (Smith) Starceski** is a library assistant. She resides in Pittsburgh with her husband, Dan, and daughter, Olivia.

**Kyleigh Vrettos** is the collection and circulation librarian for University School of Nashville, (K-12). She resides in a suburb of Nashville with her husband, James.

**Erika Minster** is a specialist for USAA, Phoenix.

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

**Darryl and Erica (Carbaugh) Main** reside in Marietta. Erica is a high school social studies teacher in the Red Lion Area School District.

## MARRIAGES

Conan Colwell and **Tracey Cowan '94**, April 17, 2014

Christopher Faith and **Amy ('08) Baumann**, July 11, 2015

**Aaron Shriner '12 and Samantha Shiring '13**, Aug. 1, 2015

## IN MEMORIAM

### 1940s

Evelyn (Rupert '45) Heath, July 5, 2015  
Orville E. Myers '41, July 23, 2015

### 1950s

Barbara (Deininger '57) Frederick, June 1, 2015  
Raymond A. Hogue '58, June 18, 2015  
Sergio Valori '52, June 18, 2015  
Raymond G. Sacolic '52, Aug. 1, 2015  
Jack O. Hackett '54, Aug. 9, 2015  
Robert L. Mohney '52, Sept. 11, 2015

### 1960s

Darlene G. Cowden '64, June 20, 2015  
Margaret (Martin '67) Phipps, July 10, 2015  
David E. Louder '68, Aug. 7, 2015

### 1970s

Donna (Best '71) Kinol, June 2, 2015  
Frank P. DeFina '75, July 26, 2015  
Candace S. Lauer '76, Aug. 1, 2015

### 1980s

Michael E. Bendig '85, July 30, 2015  
Gregory M. Smith '82, July 31, 2015

### 1990s

Jeffrey L. Shick '91, July 30, 2015  
Leslie Lubiano '97, Aug. 24, 2015

### 2010s

Benjamin L. Hause '12, June 26, 2015

### Friends

Robert H. Hoover, June 3, 2015  
Michael D. Barrett, June 5, 2015  
Larry Elkin, June 11, 2015  
Paul Stehle, June 19, 2015  
Brady Kadunce, June 20, 2015  
William Schierberl, June 28, 2015  
Conrad Wolbert, Aug. 29, 2015  
Joseph L. Michael, Sept. 1, 2015  
Paul J. McCrory, Sept. 1, 2015  
Gerald Trainer, Sept. 6, 2015  
Wilfred L. Messenger, Sept. 6, 2015  
Brian E. Maguire, Sept. 7, 2015  
Diana Coury, Sept. 20, 2015  
Sally (Harris) Staab, Sept. 21, 2015  
Marie E. Garbarino, Sept. 29, 2015

# BIRTHS

---

**David ('12) Watson and Katie ('14)**

**Delaney**, a daughter, Peyton Marie, May 2, 2014

---

**Brian ('09) and Audra (Sheatz '10)**

**Shontz**, a son, Lincoln, July 7, 2014

---

Paul Johngrass and **Courtney ('01) Baxter**, a daughter, Camdyn Jo, July 7, 2014

---

Mark and **Amanda (Rozik '04) DeCarlo**, triplets: two sons, Patrick and Andrew, and a daughter, Rosaleena, Sept. 16, 2014

---

**Jason Neubauer and Lauren ('08)**

**Stauber**, a daughter, Leila Marie, Oct. 11, 2014

---

**Dan and Moira (Brown '10) Shingledecker**,

a daughter, Ruthie Ann, Nov. 2, 2014

---

**Aaron ('12) Gluvna and Sara Sample**,

a son, Jaxon Joseph, Jan. 18, 2015

---

**Ryan ('02) and Heather (Bennett '03)**

**Miller**, a daughter, Alivia, March 6, 2015

---

**Nick and Andrea (Russell '06) Lewis**,

a son, Jackson Joseph, April 16, 2015

---

**Douglas and Jennifer (Kaltenbach '07)**

**DuSchied**, a daughter, Liliana Ruby,

April 30, 2015

---

**Joseph ('08) and Kristin (Jack '07)**

**Cunningham**, a daughter, Morgan,

May 7, 2015

---

**Elijah ('10) Daubenspeck and Amber ('09)**

**McMillen**, a girl, Abigail, May 14, 2015

---

**Cory ('08) and Katie (DePree '08)**

**Wagner**, a daughter, Claire Eileen Wagner, May 21, 2015

---

**Joshua and Kerry (Perks '10, M.Ed. '13)**

**Wallace**, a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth Amon, May 22, 2015

---

**Josh ('07) and Lynsey McAdoo**,

a daughter, Molly, May 23, 2015

---

**Jon ('01) and Cristina Longwill**,

a son, Tyler George, May 24, 2015

---

**Dan and Kara (Smith '13) Starceski**,

a daughter, Olivia May, June 1, 2015

---

**Jeff ('02) and Kristen Kardes Walch**,

a daughter, Kylie Jo, June 2, 2015

---

**Alex ('05) and Valorie (Rankin '08)**

**McKinney**, a daughter, Maylynn,

June 11, 2015

---

**Jason Curril and Amy ('98) Keener-Luderer**,

a daughter, Gracelyn June, June 12, 2015

---

**Phillip and Tara (Roberts '06, MLS '07)**

**Little**, a son, Theodore Francis,

June 12, 2015

---

Eric and **Beth (Lawrence '04) Raydo**, a daughter, Kaylynn Grace, June 27, 2015

---

**Trevor ('10) and Heidi (Horst '10) Miller**,

a daughter, Ellie Lia, June 28, 2015

---

**Luke ('01) and Mary Benedict**, a son,

William John, June 29, 2015

---

**Edward and Meghan (Knotts '04)**

**Gabrielson**, a son, Anders Michael, July 1, 2015

---

**Ryan ('08) and Stacey (Belsterling '07)**

**Wolkiewicz**, a son, Rory, July 3, 2015

---

**Jason ('06) and Christine (Leskovec)**

**Kooser**, a son, Jackson Allen, July 28, 2015

---

**Josh ('09) and Olivia ('12) McGarvey**,

Mack Elliott, Aug. 1, 2015

---

**Jason ('07) and Jennifer (Weaver '06)**

**Pollock**, a son, Owen Paul, Aug. 31, 2015

---

# BIB babes: WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

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](mailto:alumni@clarion.edu):

- Parents' names
- Graduation year of alumni
- Baby's gender and name
- 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.



Alivia Denise Miller, daughter of **Ryan ('02)** and **Heather (Bennett '03) Miller**, born March 6, 2015



Jaxon Joseph Gluvna, son of **Aaron ('12) Gluvna** and Sara Sample, born Jan. 18, 2015

Astra Sceski, daughter of **Ronice (Nolt '02)** and Jason Sceski, born Feb. 7, 2015



Braden Troy Duffola, son of Brad and **Jessica (Hummel '05) Duffola**, born March 16, 2015



Liliana Ruby DuScheid, daughter of **Jennifer (Kaltenbach '07)** and Douglas DuScheid, born April 30, 2015



Elliana (Ellie) Jean Slagle, daughter of **Dr. Dennis C. ('01)** and Dr. Stacey B. Slagle, born Jan. 22, 2015



Maylynn Grace McKinney, daughter of **Alex ('05)** and **Valorie (Rankin '08) McKinney**, born June 11, 2015



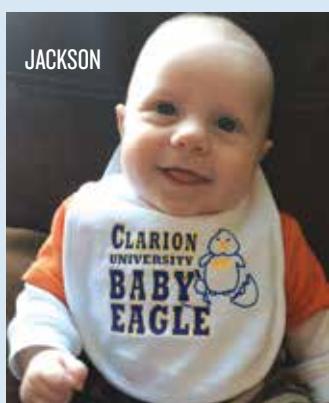
Oliver Alan Keck, son of Todd and **Abby (Burrows '06) Keck**, born March 15, 2014.



Olivia Snow Ledebur, daughter of Linas and **April (Cole '06) Ledebur**, born Oct. 31, 2014



Leila Marie Stauber, daughter of Jason Neubauer and **Lauren ('08) Stauber**, born Oct. 11, 2014



Jackson Allen Kooser son of **Jason ('06)** and Christine **Kooser**, born July 28, 2015

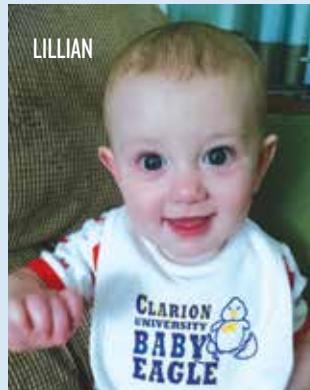


Payton Marie Watson, daughter of **David Watson ('12)** and **Katie Delaney ('14)**, born May 2, 2014



Ruthie Ann Shingledecker, daughter of Dan and **Moira ('10) Shingledecker**, born Nov. 2, 2014

# CLARION UNIVERSITY BABY EAGLE



Lillian Rose Weaver, daughter of **James ('09)** and **Emily (Hoover '09) Weaver**, born Jan. 29, 2015



Theodore Francis Little, son of Philip and **Tara (Roberts '06, MSL '07) Little**, born June 12, 2015

# THREE *alums*

Linda Kovanis Harcrow, Jane Ohrman Pisor and Joanne Wisniewski Winters, all class of '69 alumni, visited Clarion this fall, for the first time since they graduated 46 years ago. The women reminisced on campus, bought some new Clarion gear and strolled through downtown, noting the same friendliness that existed when they were students.



Three Class of '69 alumni returned to Clarion University in October, their first visit since graduating 46 years ago.

Linda Kovanis Harcrow, Jane Ohrman Pisor and Joanne Wisniewski Winters, along with another friend and classmate, Georgianna Winters, have been taking a trip together once a year for the last six years. Pisor's Pittsburgh high school class was celebrating its 50th reunion this year, so the group decided on a trip back

to western Pennsylvania.

The trio enjoyed reminiscing at Becht Hall, their first dormitory, and Givan Hall, where they also lived. Their campus excursion also included a stop at the library, which is new since they were students.

"I worked there," Joanne said. "It was wonderful to see the new library. There were lots of kids in there studying, plus artwork and sculptures.

Downtown they were disappointed that Harry's Pizza and the movie theater were no longer operating. They remembered eating at Captain Loomis when their parents came to visit.

Although some things have changed since they left Clarion in 1969, they were delighted to find the same friendliness among students and townspeople alike.

## 1970s CLARION BASKETBALL



Clarion basketball players from the 1970s gathered in Clarion: (front row, from left) Dave Zinkham ('76), Kevin Stroupe ('76), Gary Walters ('76); (second row) Dave Rooney; Carl Grinage ('77), Sonny Cicero ('73), Joe Sebestyen ('73), Don Wilson ('75); (third row) Carl Jefferis ('72), Ron Peden ('73), Tim Corbett ('75), Pete Belcher ('76), Coach Tom Beck, Rein Pold ('73), Reggie Wells ('2008), Bob Ondrasik ('76).

# LOVE YOU

# MISS YOU

# WISH YOU WERE HERE

**W**hile Santa is being inundated with requests for robot dinosaurs and Frozen palace playsets to appear under the trees of youngsters, we wondered what's on the wish list for college students. We asked, "If you were unable to go home for the holidays and your only way to communicate with your parents was by writing a letter, what would you say?"

Not surprisingly, material items were out and heartfelt expressions were in. Here's what students had to say:



I'd simply say, "Thank you." They always have my back.

**DEAN PULEIO**, Clarion  
Junior communication major



I'd only express love. That's what's important – material things don't matter.

**CAITLYN HOLOHAN**, Orwigsburg  
Senior Speech Pathology major



I'd tell them not to worry and I'm doing fine. I'd wish them a happy holiday and ask them to try to come to see me, because I miss them.

**EMILY SNOW**, Butler  
Sophomore history major



I'd let them know I love them and the semester is going well.

**NICK GAGLIANO**, Hershey  
Sophomore communication major



I'd thank them for everything they've done for me and express my gratitude for their support.

**DUSTIN PARSONS**, Clarion  
Graduate student, rehabilitative sciences



I love them and miss them. I'd tell them Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year, watching my brothers and sisters open presents and going to the church service, even though it's long. I'd say I miss the family tradition of going to my grandparents' house to open stockings.

**SHAMOUR TALBERT**, Sharpsville  
Freshman biology major

I love them so much and wish they were here. I'm working so hard and need the break of interacting with my brothers, sisters and parents. I'd tell my mom to tell my dog I miss him and love him.

**ERICA GREER**, Monroeville  
Freshman biology major

**“ THANK YOU ”**

# COURAGEOUS *endeavors*

LEANNE MARTIN



“

I LIKE THE ASPECT  
THAT THEY ARE  
STRONG AND  
CONFIDENT AND  
THAT THEY'RE  
WILLING TO LAY  
DOWN THEIR LIVES  
FOR OTHERS.”

When sophomore Leanne Martin decided to come to Clarion, it already fit her courageous lifestyle.

Martin, a Franklin native, always had an interest in the military, starting with joining the National Guard and then Clarion's ROTC program.

“I like the aspect that they (the military) are strong and confident and that they're willing to lay down their lives for others.”

In addition to Clarion's ROTC program, Clarion University also has a Bachelor of Science in paralegal program – something that fit into Martin's future plans.

Martin knew she'd need a Bachelor of Science degree to one day enter law school and was excited when Clarion announced

the Bachelor of Science in paralegal program was approved.

The program is enabling her to pursue her dreams. She's already participating in a paralegal internship with Franklin attorney Diane E. Hasek, Esq.

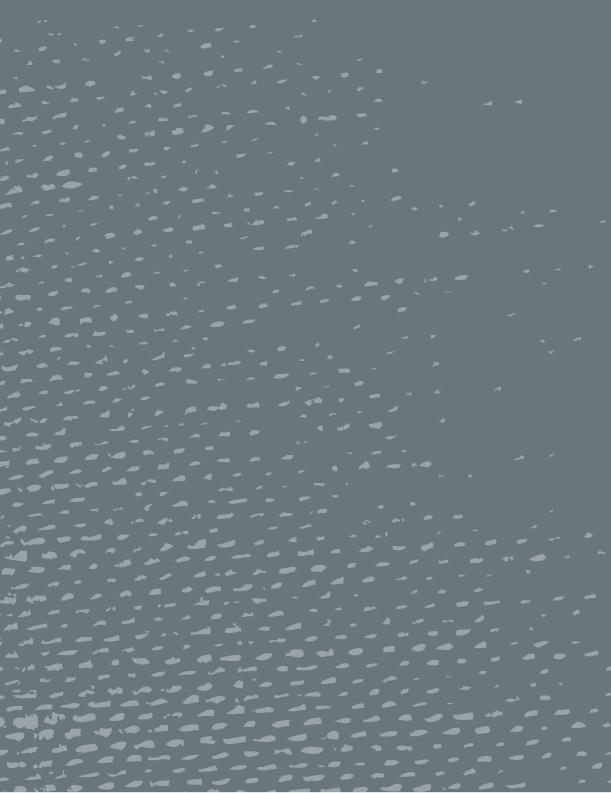
Her goal is to work her way through law school as a paralegal.

Martin doesn't have her sights set on a particular law school yet, but she's sure of one thing – her decision to come to Clarion was a good one.

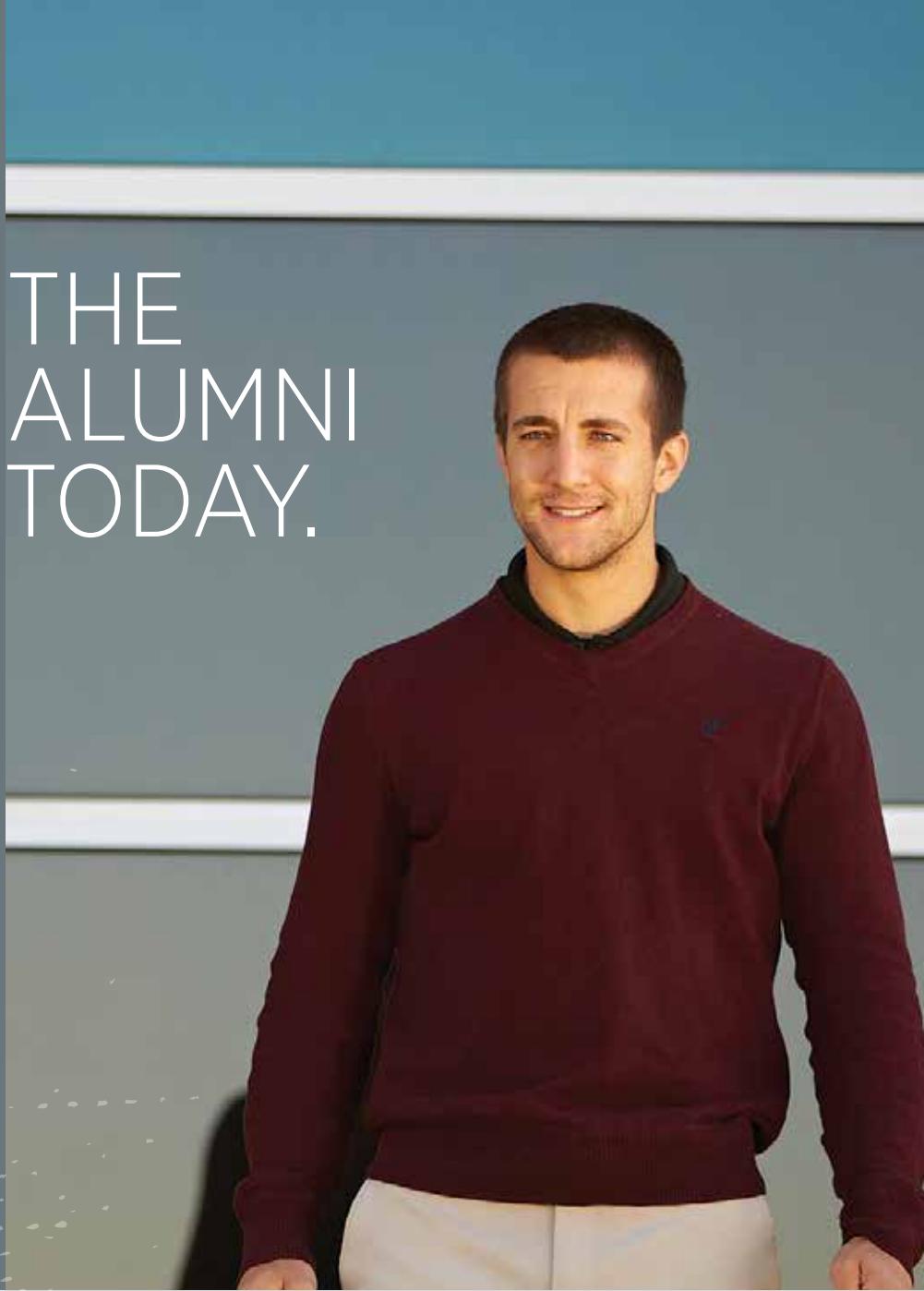
“Clarion is close to home – somewhere I've always known and loved.”

## CORRECTION

In the summer 2015 issue of Clarion University Magazine, incorrect information was listed about alumna Clare Novak. Novak graduated from Clarion in 1976, and she is ABD in her pursuit of her Ph.D.



# TAKE THE CLARION ALUMNI SURVEY TODAY.



[surveymonkey.com/r/AlumniCU](https://surveymonkey.com/r/AlumniCU)



Get a free travel mug and receive automatic registration for the opportunity to win Visa gift cards, tickets and other cool prizes!

Help strengthen the Clarion Alumni Network by taking the survey on your smartphone now.

**COURAGEOUS. *confident.* CLARION.**

# CLARION UNIVERSITY

840 WOOD STREET  
CLARION, PA 16214-1232

WWW.CLARION.EDU

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 2  
CLARION, PA

## WELCOME ALL CLARION ALUMNI JAN. 18-19, 2016



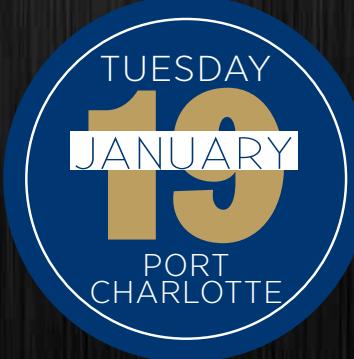
RIVER CITY GRILL  
COCKTAILS/DINNER

5:30 p.m. • 6:30 p.m.  
131 W Marion Ave,  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

### KINGSWAY COUNTRY CLUB

LUNCH BUFFET	11:15 a.m.	\$20
GOLF SCRABBLE	12:30 p.m.	\$45
DINNER BUFFET	6:30 p.m.	\$35

13625 SW Kingsway Cir, Lake Suzy, FL 34269



Music will be provided  
by Al Holland – former  
member of The Platters.  
Come joins us for any  
or all of the events: lunch,  
golf, or dinner.

Rooms will be available  
at a reduced rate at the  
Holiday Inn Express.  
Ask for Clarion's rate  
by January 13, 2016.  
941-764-0056  
Take I-75 exit 170; go East;  
Hotel is 1/10 of a mile  
on the right.

Kingsway Country Club:  
Take I -75 ; exit 170; go East;  
Club is one-half mile  
on the left.

RSVP to attend by  
January 13, 2016 to:

Wayne Norris	888-327-0280
Jack Bertani	941-627-0162
Diane Beatty	814-393-1832

SPONSORED BY ALPHA GAMMA PHI