

CLARION

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

FALL 2019





You wouldn't think a chainsaw is beneficial to a forest that is slowly being rebuilt, but you'd be wrong.

One such person yielding a chainsaw is Luke Bobnar, a 2010 Clarion University biology graduate with a minor in environmental sustainability. Bobnar works for the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, which is working to restore the Allegheny National Forest to its original splendor.

The project involves strategically cutting down trees and placing them in and across streams and bodies of water to provide habitats for fish and other wildlife.

Bobnar explained that our forests are relatively young and thick. The large trees that would naturally fall across streams and fall in flood plains in a natural ecosystem are not present, due to industrial clearcutting that occurred in

Pennsylvania more than a century ago. Clearcutting is the practice of clearing trees in a uniform way.

"It's left our streams bereft of habitat in many places," Bobnar said.

Bobnar estimates that the Allegheny National Forest should have between 70 and 380 large trees per mile, per stream. "We should naturally be chock-full of wood, and we're not," Bobnar said.

The wood, which they place either in the water or across the water, provides a cover and a habitat for fish, which need a cool place to swim in the summer, as well as a place to hide from predators such as other fish and birds.

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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.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



We have an abundance of wonderful projects happening on campus. The True North Initiative is steering our path toward our future success. One of the initiatives that came out of the TNI is the relaunch of the School of Education. I am proud and pleased to share with you that, effective July 1, our School of Education is once again a freestanding entity with its own dean. Clarion University has embarked on a renewed commitment to education as a cornerstone of our past and of our future.

Led by Dr. Gwyneth Price, former director and now dean, our School of Education leads the way in many areas. Our programs are recognized nationally for the exceptional preparation of undergraduate students as well as graduate students. In fact, Clarion is the only university in Pennsylvania authorized to offer Competent Learner Model courses for college credit, and our special education department is one of few in the commonwealth with a curriculum that embeds applied behavior analysis.

Teachers prepared at Clarion University launch careers all over our country and the world, thanks to the strength of our faculty, our community partners, and the diversity of the clinical educational experiences we offer. Our students benefit from exposure to rural schools, larger schools and private schools, and complete field work in a variety of settings such as Cook Forest State Park and the Elk Country Visitors Bureau.

Have no doubt that Clarion University's rich history in and reputation for excellence in education and teacher preparation continues! Education is thriving and growing!

Onward and upward!

Dr. Dale

President, Clarion University



(From left) Jasmine Hobson, Gerald Bickel and Emily Rahalla, and Mitchell Long (not pictured) have supported their hypothesis that the Greater wax moth larvae will eat polyethylene, which is used in plastic.

STUDENT RESEARCH COULD HELP *reduce* PLASTIC WASTE

What if the solution to the world's plastic woes is only an inch long and typically found at the end of your fishing hook?

Students Gerald Bickel, Jasmine Hobson, Mitchell Long and Emily Rahalla, and their research advisor Dr. Andrew Keth, have supported their hypothesis that the Greater wax moth in larva form will eat polyethylene, which is widely used in plastic.

In the abstract explaining their research, which took

two years, the students wrote, "This insect was chosen because it typically consumes beeswax, which shares a functionally similar structure to polyethylene."

The end result – they were right.

"Our data showed that larvae eating polyethylene were as likely to make it to adulthood as those consuming beeswax. This means that *G. mellonella* (the Greater wax moth) may be a viable method for reducing plastic waste," their abstract stated.



CLARK *interns* WITH D.C. CORRECTIONS INFORMATION COUNCIL

Sadie Clark served a 10-week summer internship with District of Columbia Corrections Information Council, an independent body that monitors the conditions of confinement where D.C. residents are incarcerated. Clark read and responded to letters from inmates and logged the correspondence, and she assisted with a site inspection. The internship was done through the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars.

Clark will graduate in May 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology/psychology with a minor in social work, and an Associate of Science in criminal justice. She plans to pursue a master's degree in social work and work in a federal correctional institution to advocate for inmates, improve conditions and lower recidivism rates.

She is active in Marching Band and Kappa Kappa Psi-Epsilon Phi. She is a French tutor and will begin work at CU Movies on Main this fall. She has worked as a model since 2015, appearing in ads for ModCloth clothing, in a short film by Point Park University students, and in the November 2018 issue of Marie Claire magazine.

CLARION STUDENTS *represent* COSTA RICA AT MODEL UN

Fourteen students participated in the National Model United Nations Conference last spring at the UN Headquarters, New York.

As delegates for the Republic of Costa Rica, they interacted with delegations in seven different UN committees and worked on resolution papers on different crucial topics. The students received an Honorable Mention Delegation Award. Economics professor Dr. Sandra Trejos networked with other

faculty members who either teach a Model UN class or advise a Model UN club.

"The range of skills (speaking, writing, research, negotiation, cooperation, diplomacy) the students develop at this conference is extensive and I hope we can pursue this opportunity further given the experiential learning to experience," Trejos said.





ASN CLUB WINS CORE *challenge* TO REGISTER ORGAN DONORS

Clarion University – Venango Associate of Science Nursing Club received first place in the Center for Organ Recovery & Education College Challenge in which clubs raise awareness about organ, tissue and cornea donation and register new organ donors. Top prize was \$1,000.

“The students were very creative with events to promote organ donation and held a shamrock and shake event for St. Patrick’s Day that was extremely successful,” said Chris Weidle, nursing faculty and club advisor.

Members of the CORE Challenge Team were: Steph Zimmerman, Lisa Bowser, Angela Remmick, Clint Eakin, Hannah Keyes, Katrina Favreau, Ali Fleming, Christina Weidle, Debra Flaherty and Helen Baker.

Combined, the clubs that participated in the challenge registered 334 people as organ and tissue donors, potentially saving 2,672 lives. The ASN Nursing Club pulled in 80 of those new donors.

The challenge is held annually in April as part of national donor month.

LAUGAND SERVES INTERNSHIP WITH CENTER FOR *rural* PENNSYLVANIA

R.J. Laugand, a senior majoring in math and economics, is a summer intern in Harrisburg’s Center for Rural Pennsylvania, a bicameral, bipartisan legislative agency that serves as a resource for rural policy within the general assembly. He assists with data analysis, mainly looking at hospital finances before and after Medicaid expansion.

Laugand, who will graduate in December, has played basketball for the Golden Eagles for four years. He was named a scholar-athlete and has earned dean’s list distinction six times. He has served on the Student Advisory Council for two years and is a member of Math Club.

After graduating, Laugand plans to pursue a career in a business-related field in the Pittsburgh area.



HAMMERSTROM NAMED TO LMA *hall of fame*

Jeanne Burger Hammerstrom (’86), chief marketing officer for Benesch, was named to the Legal Marketing Association’s Hall of Fame, which recognizes lifetime achievement in the legal marketing industry and outstanding contributions to LMA.

Hammerstrom brings 30 years of legal marketing experience to her post at Benesch. During her tenure, Benesch has grown substantially in size and reach, joining the AmLaw 200 and perennially earning recognition as one of Northeast Ohio’s Best Workplaces, and it was named one of BTI Consulting’s Badass Business Development Firms.



KIEHL HONORED AS WOMAN OF *excellence*

Renae Kluk Kiehl (’98), senior counsel and deputy corporate secretary for Capital BlueCross, was recently honored as a YWCA of Greater Harrisburg Woman of Excellence. The award is given to 30 of central Pennsylvania’s leading female professionals and community volunteers who have made significant contributions to their communities and/or companies.

After graduating from Widener Commonwealth Law School in 2008, Kiehl served her country and state as a judge advocate in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, rising to the rank of major. Under her leadership, Pennsylvania opened a full-time Trial Defense Services office to ensure that all Pennsylvania soldiers have access to defense counsel.



BETTS RECOGNIZED FOR *commitment* TO STUDENT SUCCESS

Dr. Thomas Betts (’85), professor of chemistry at Kutztown University, has been named the 2019 recipient of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Outstanding Faculty Award. This honor recognizes a faculty member in the college with a consistent and conscientious commitment to student success, both in and out of the classroom.

Betts has been with Kutztown University since 1992. He has dedicated himself to undergraduate research, having served as a mentor in more than 50 undergraduate research projects with 60 students. Prior to his tenure at KU, he served as both a research chemist and laboratory manager for Quaker State Motor Oil Corporation.



Katy Mapes (’19) and grandmother **Jeanette Brothers Fillgrove** (’64) stand outside of Hart Chapel, where Mapes’ Bachelor of Science in Nursing pinning ceremony was held and where Fillgrove received her education degree in 1964.



**DR. LAURA DELBRUGGE *leads,*
AS DEAN, THE COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES. SHE STARTED JULY 1.**

“We are excited to have Dr. Laura Delbrugge join us as the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences,” said Dr. Pam Gent, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs. “Laura was selected as a result of a robust year-long national search. She is forward thinking and a solutions-based leader who understands the realities of higher education.”

Delbrugge joins Clarion from Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she served as a tenured professor of Spanish and as the chair of the Department of Foreign Languages. She has worked there since 1998, but also worked as an assistant professor at Clarion from 1997 to 1998.



PHI DELTA THETA *activates* TO AID AREA MAN

Richard and Nancy Diener are staging a rebellion, and Phi Delta Theta fraternity is standing with them.

Four years ago, Richard was diagnosed with primary lateral sclerosis, a rare form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

ALS is a progressive, fatal neuromuscular disease that slowly robs the body of its ability to walk, speak, swallow and breathe. The life expectancy of an ALS patient averages two to five years from the time of diagnosis. PLS impacts the body in the same way, but it progresses more slowly.

Last January, Nancy opened up to coworker **Alyssa Katz-Domitrovich ('14, MS '15)**, whose husband, **Josh ('13, MBA '15)**, is a brother of Phi Delta Theta. Josh shared the Dieners’ story with his fraternity, whose national philanthropy is ALS.

“Clarion University’s Phi Delta Theta chapter decided to dedicate all fundraising proceeds during the spring 2019 semester to the Diener family,” Josh said. “Furthermore, the chapter volunteered its services to support yard cleanup and chores at the Diener home.”

Nancy said the group was able to talk with her husband before beginning the chores. She said it’s important for them to see how the disease affects an individual.

“We were very grateful for the opportunity to aid the Diener family in their courageous battle against ALS,” said Phi Delta Theta brother John Danvers. “This kind of work in the community really exemplifies the spirit of Phi Delta Theta.”

Additionally, Clarion’s entire Greek community, which includes nine fraternities and sororities, donated more than \$500. In April, the Dieners attended Phi Delta Theta’s 25th anniversary event, where the fraternity presented a check for \$1,100.

“It’s overwhelming,” Nancy said of the support given to her family.

As the Dieners look ahead to Richard’s Rebellion – the team effort of family and friends taking part in the Pittsburgh Walk to Defeat ALS in September – Richard is very weak and has lost 17 pounds in less than a month. He is still on his feet, but it’s unlikely that he’ll be able to do the walk.

Every 90 minutes a person in this country is diagnosed with ALS and every 90 minutes another person will lose their battle against this disease. ALS occurs throughout the world with no racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic boundaries. To donate in Richard’s name to the Walk to Defeat ALS, visit web.alsa.org/goto/richarddiener.

plugging in TO THE SUN

Solar-powered charging stations are in place in the outdoor seating area of Starbucks, located at Suites on Main South. Purchased through sustainability grant money, the environmentally friendly stations are an added convenience for students and guests. The 100-watt solar panels are mounted on fiberglass umbrellas. Each unit has two Apple and two Droid ports, four USB ports and a 2.1-amp fast charge.



**17TH ANNUAL *juneteenth*
MARKS ‘400 YEARS
OF RESILIENCE’**

Pennsylvania State Representative Jake Wheatley Jr. (D-Allegheny) delivered the keynote address, “400 Years of Resilience,” at the 17th annual Juneteenth celebration June 14 in Hart Chapel. Junior philosophy/pre-med major Kaitlyn Sobiech, a native of the Bahamas, was emcee.

Juneteenth began in Texas. Although the Emancipation Proclamation was issued Jan. 1, 1863, slaves in Texas didn’t receive word until two-and-a-half years later, on June 19, 1865, that they were free. This year, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf declared Juneteenth to be a holiday in the commonwealth.

Clarion’s Juneteenth is sponsored by: Clarion University and its African American Caucus and NAACP Student Chapter, and Clarion Chamber of Business and Industry.

We have *a lot* to brag about at Clarion University.

Our faculty, staff and students do great work, and that work is recognized by nationwide organizations in the number of rankings, accolades, honors, achievements, distinctions and general high fives that we have received. We think you'll be singing our praises, too, after you visit www.clarion.edu/rankings.



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“A teacher affects eternity;
he can never tell where his influence stops.”

Henry Adams

Education: A commitment to the future

This spring, President Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson announced the university’s relaunch of the School of Education as a freestanding entity, effective July 1. It had been part of the College of Arts, Education and Sciences. Dr. Gwyneth Price, who has led the school as director for two years, is dean.

The decision is the result of ongoing dialogue since Pehrsson’s arrival in July 2018. Price’s leadership and innovative thinking in working with the faculty and staff in both education and special education departments helped to move the discussion forward. As dean, Price will oversee the school’s budget, curriculum and scheduling decisions, and she will make personnel decisions.

“We are proud of our tradition in providing cutting-edge programs to educate future teachers, such as following best practices and going beyond state mandates for certifying special education teachers,” Pehrsson said. “That put Clarion ahead of the curve when the commonwealth reversed 2008 legislation dividing certification into two age groups.”

Building on a solid foundation

“I see us broadening our horizons in terms of keeping the kernels of solid, evidence-based teacher preparation, then expanding that to embrace innovation,” Price said. “We have confidence that what we’ve been teaching historically has been the right thing, but we also have confidence that our faculty engage in research and continually update what they’re doing. We have been on the forefront of developing programming that prepares graduates to be better teachers of all students.”

“Under Gwen’s leadership, the School of Education will develop a strategic plan specific to education. This is necessary to be able to address the existing teacher shortage in special education, math and sciences, and the looming teacher shortage in all areas,” said Dr. Pam Gent, provost. “It is also necessary as we begin to pilot new and innovative ways to educate future teachers. Gwen is a strong and talented leader who understands this and is willing to lead our teacher education programs to meet the challenges of the next generation of learners.”

The launching of the School of Education aligns with the university’s True North Initiative and its six priorities for moving the university forward. It builds on the momentum gained through 150 years of consistent excellence in teacher preparation and development of new programming. Clarion University is one of 17 universities



CLARION UNIVERSITY | **SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

in Pennsylvania with national accreditation, boasting 15 nationally recognized programs, and has one of six special education reading programs in the state with International Dyslexia accreditation.

A leader in teacher preparation

Clarion University is leading the way on many efforts. The School of Education has one of the first early childhood education programs in the state to implement a full-year teacher residency, which will begin this fall. Student teaching will be done the entire last year of the program, with coursework integrated into the student teaching experience. It is the only university in Pennsylvania authorized to offer Competent Learner Model courses for college credit, and Clarion led the development of and was the first school to offer the Skills for Teacher Leadership Endorsement. Additionally, the innovative intervention specialist program boasts a 100 percent employment rate.

“There are schools that will hire Clarion graduates before any others,” Price said. Clarion University has more than 15,000 education alumni.



Dr. Gwyneth Price



★ ★ ★ HARMONIOUS WITH LEARNING ★ ★ ★

“My mind is abuzz when I enter the room,” said **Dr. Joe Harmon ('93)** about stepping into his classroom each morning. “I do a mental check of what I want to accomplish and what I need to do before the students enter the room.”

When the students arrive, his focus is on engaging them in learning. Harmon teaches civics at Redbank Valley High School.

“My students know that my goal for them is to learn, not chase points or a grade,” Harmon said. “Civics and history are more than memorizing ‘dead men and dates.’ It’s instilling the ability to think critically about the content, make connections, analyze, evaluate and so on.”

One way he does that is by creating experiences for students beyond the classroom and the curriculum.

“For the last two years, I have taken my 8th grade civics students to experience a naturalization ceremony at Heinz History Center. This year, I was able to take 50 students to the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.,” Harmon said. He covered most of the cost himself, saving money he made from speaking engagements about his trip to Poland to tour Holocaust sites.

Another example is the Student Edcamp that he and another teacher spearhead. Held each year before the holiday break, the event brings in community members, alumni, fellow teachers and students to design learning stations throughout the school. Students can choose what they want to attend, and, ultimately, they learn a skill or gain knowledge that’s not typically part of the curriculum.

In-classroom experiences are just as engaging. While teaching 8th grade economics, Harmon posed the question, “If you could start a business, what would it be?” Instead of the 10-minute discussion he had planned, the students spent the entire class discussing the topic. Knowing he was on to something, he created a unit that spans 15 class periods.

The first day of the unit, students in small groups brainstorm to develop business ideas. The second day is spent doing market research. Methodically, the students go through steps until the final day of the unit when they present – in “Shark Tank” fashion – the business plan they developed.

“I could just sit down and teach prices and marketing, but when they’re actually doing, that’s when they’re learning,” Harmon said.

He measures his success in three ways: “First, success is when a student is inspired by a teacher to go beyond the classroom learning and/or curriculum. Next, I define success by students pursuing learning over a letter grade or points. Lastly, I define success by the ability to evoke positive change and growth in students, whether in their learning or in their disposition to learn.”

He is particularly proud of having received a note from a senior upon graduation. “He told me that since 8th grade, he was inspired to be a history teacher because of me,”

Harmon said. “Since graduation, this student attained a teaching degree and is teaching secondary social studies for Butler School District.”

Harmon doesn’t stop being a teacher when the school day ends.

“I spend countless hours beyond the classroom talking with students, doling out advice, sharing a joke or a story, listening to their stories, hearing about their plans for the future, and so on,” he said. “Further, I live within the community where I teach, and I realize my responsibility as a role model. I know that how I behave in and out of the classroom, how I treat others, what I say and do – are all on display and can have powerful ramifications.”





SERVICE *through* EDUCATION

One of the most important lessons that **Antoinette Parker McDonald ('00)** learned from her elementary school teachers is that she is more than her circumstances. Antoinette took that message to heart. She knew since she was a young girl that she wanted to have that same influence on children.

"It definitely increased my motivation to be better than I ever imagined," Antoinette said.

A guidance counselor's recommendation led her to Clarion. Her path was clear. She would become a teacher.

Before he graduated from high school, **Sean McDonald ('97, Med '01)** was working at McDonald's. He didn't plan to attend college. That changed when a family friend took him to Clarion University during Black Arts Weekend.

"Everyone I came into contact with embraced me," he said. He felt at home; he applied and was accepted.

Sean began classes that summer through the Educational Opportunities Program, which strives to make the ideal of education a reality. His EOP experience led him to face a difficult truth: He was not as well prepared for college as his counterparts.

His passion became guiding the next generation to be on par with their peers. He would become a teacher.

As education majors Antoinette and Sean were immersed in the values of acceptance, encouragement and appreciation of diverse people, cultures and ideas.

For Antoinette, the Building Bridges program, which facilitates communication and understanding among students of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, helped her learn to respect and embrace differences and to be attentive to the needs of others.

For Sean, the university-wide attention to the needs of students allowed him to build the skills and confidence required to become a leader.

"It showed me that I can make an impact with my peer group and with other students," he said. He continued to the Master of Education program. Through a graduate assistantship, he further refined his leadership skills.

As teachers, Antoinette and Sean knew those skills led to successes with their students. Now, each holds an administrative position – she as principal and he as a human resources staffing manager – where the skills are essential. Both are employed by Prince William County Schools, Virginia.

Antoinette works with a student population that is 70 percent Hispanic. Many are learning English as a second language. Sean works with 5,000 employees from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Situations they experienced as students at Clarion have helped them navigate the real world.

"Being from the urban center of Pittsburgh and going to rural Clarion prepared us for real life," Sean said.

They view education as a way to serve others, and to truly serve, flexibility of thought is key.

"With social media and technology, we must be inventive in our expectations of kids being critical thinkers, so we must meet kids exactly where they are," Antoinette said.

"We have to be innovative. It's not just about Pennsylvania or Virginia – it literally must be a global perspective," Sean said. "The students have to be marketable no matter where they live."

The rewards are innumerable.

"One is providing the love, attention, support, motivation and overall belief in all students to be amazing – paying it forward, just like my teachers did for me," Antoinette said. "My heart is full because I gave back," she said.

"It's not about money or fame. It's about knowing that the educational journey can positively change lives," Sean said. "Education is a gateway to every career. It is life changing."



GOLDEN EAGLES *at the top*

Regan Weldon, Lori Murtha and Melissa Niedbala are Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit's top three female administrators in special education.

The School of Education is proud of its excellence in preparing teachers, and three of the best examples of that excellence can be found in one place: Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit. **Melissa Gring Niedbala ('02, '03 MS), Regan Weltner Weldon ('89)** and **Dr. Lori Welch Murtha ('92)** are the top three female special education administrators at BVIU.

Niedbala began her career there in 2003 as a special education teacher and was promoted to supervisor of BVIU's New Horizon School in 2014. It was a wonderful coincidence for her when, five years later, she discovered that Murtha, the new supervisor of early intervention, was also a Clarion alumna. The trifecta was complete in 2010 when Weldon joined the team as New Horizon School supervisor. Weldon was promoted to director of special education in 2014.

"It is coincidental that the three of us are working at the same school. We were thrilled to realize we were all Clarion grads," Weldon said. "We work extremely well together and attribute that to our camaraderie as Golden Eagles."

Each of the alumnae has her own memories of Clarion University, as well as her own thoughts about major influences on her career, but the common denominator is the foundation laid as undergraduates in the special education program.

"We all agree that Clarion gave us the foundation that we needed to get into the field of special education," said Weldon, speaking for the group. "We believe that having graduated from a university known for education helped us climb the educational ladder."

At Clarion, it was the devotion to special education of Dr. Lisa Turner and Dr. Pam Gent that most influenced Niedbala

and resounded with her. After completing her bachelor's degree, she remained at Clarion for a year to complete her master's degree in rehabilitative sciences. She has since become certified in special education supervision through Penn State.

Weldon, who earned her master's degree in education and special education supervision at Slippery Rock University, said it's the lessons of Clarion's Dr. Dan Shirey that have stuck with her.

"He was my toughest professor, but the one from whom I learned the most," Weldon said. "He was ultra-critical of my work, but that helped me to become the strong special education leader that I am."

Murtha and her staff rely on evaluations for early intervention identification. She said Dr. Lynn Davis, who taught the assessment and evaluation course at Clarion, was an important part of her education.

"Early identification is critical for children with developmental delays," Murtha said. After Clarion, she graduated from SRU's Master of Elementary Education program with certification as a reading specialist, then completed a Doctorate of Education in Special Education through the University of Pittsburgh.

For each of the women, the reward in their work is helping special needs children learn and prepare for the next step in their education, as well as assisting them in finding the services they need to become independent members of society.

"It is gratifying to watch students progress and to see the smiles on their faces every time they walk through the door," Niedbala said.

A PLACE in the heart



Dr. John McCullough remembers former colleague Dr. Brian Maguire as a completely selfless person who was devoted to students “100 percent.”

“He would spend hours at night answering emails, solving problems and buying supplies for students,” McCullough said. “He was always working with people. He was the kind of person who, if you asked him a question and he didn’t know the answer, would spend hours researching and the next day would know the answer, whether it was ‘What book is good if you’re being bullied’ or ‘How do you change the engine in a 1979 Cavalier.’”

He was a tireless supporter of students – whether “6-year-old first graders or 25-year-old graduate students,” according to his obituary – and they loved him.

Chrissy Boryenace met Maguire when her then-three-year-old daughter attended a summer reading camp that he and Dr. Kathleen Murphy supervised.

“Dr. Maguire and I struck up a conversation about children’s literature and our mutual passion for authors and illustrators. What impressed me at that point was how joyfully Dr. Maguire talked about literature and its impact on children, his college students and adults,” Boryenace said.

The conversation turned to Boryenace’s career; she had passed the reading specialist test but was interested in graduate coursework. Maguire invited her to bring a resume, and two weeks later he had arranged a graduate assistantship for her to pursue the two-year graduate reading specialist program.

“As a student in his graduate courses, he encouraged me to grow in every conceivable way,” she said. “I was teaching preschool at the time, and he volunteered in my classroom, found resources for me and pointed me in research directions I had not previously considered.”

It transformed her life.

“I am the teacher I am today because of his mentorship,” Boryenace said.

Teachers **Traci Blazoski ('02)** and **Marcy Best Sundling ('02)** said they were blessed to have had Maguire in elementary school (Traci in sixth grade, Marcy in fifth and sixth grade), then again as Clarion University education students. They recall his personal mark of excellence – moose drawings.

“The moose drawings were always something he put on our assignments when he graded them,” Blazosky said. She recalled his Bullwinkle voice. “Even as sixth graders, we loved seeing those moose drawings on our papers and to hear him talk in his silly voice. When both Marcy and I had him in class at the university, he brought back the moose and drew it on our college papers, too.”

Cara Defibaugh, Maguire’s daughter, said the moose drawings began as a way to encourage students.

“It came from the fact that he had a heart for students who didn’t fit the norm. He could see potential in the kids and would look for



ways they could excel, and celebrate their achievements,” she said.

“If kids didn’t like to read or didn’t feel good about themselves, he would find what they were interested in. If they were interested in fishing, he’d help them explore fishing,” Defibaugh said. “He’d find what would make them light up, help them work toward a goal and feel successful.”

When she started college, Defibaugh recalls her dad being invested in the thought that he wanted to treat his students the way he hoped her professors would treat her. He also modeled how he wanted his students to behave with their future students.

“He had a huge advisee load. People wanted him. He would always respond, but he wouldn’t just respond. He provided feedback. He didn’t want to just put an A on a paper. He felt the feedback was important and was an encouragement to his students,” Defibaugh said.

Maguire retired as a professor in May 2015. He passed away in September of the same year.

His absence left a void in the School of Education.

“He went out of his way in terms of time, resources and finances to support students,” Boryenace said. “Clarion University lost a treasure when he passed away, and there has been a hole in the education program that has been hard to fill.”

That void led to Boryenace, McCullough and Murphy developing Dr. Brian’s PLACE, which opened March 27. Its mission is to provide professional development with Act 48 credits for local teachers and resources for Clarion education students, and to foster community engagement.

More precisely, the purpose of Dr. Brian’s PLACE is to:

Provide a location where School of Education students can get additional support, borrow resources, and develop skills critical to their success in field placements;

Provide block and student teachers with resources, support and remediation;

Provide a lending library of books, manipulatives, and adult resources that School of Education students can use to complete coursework or fieldwork;

Engage the community in leadership, language and literacy learning events;

Provide tutoring for basic skills and teacher certification exams;

Provide students to help meet established needs of the community; and

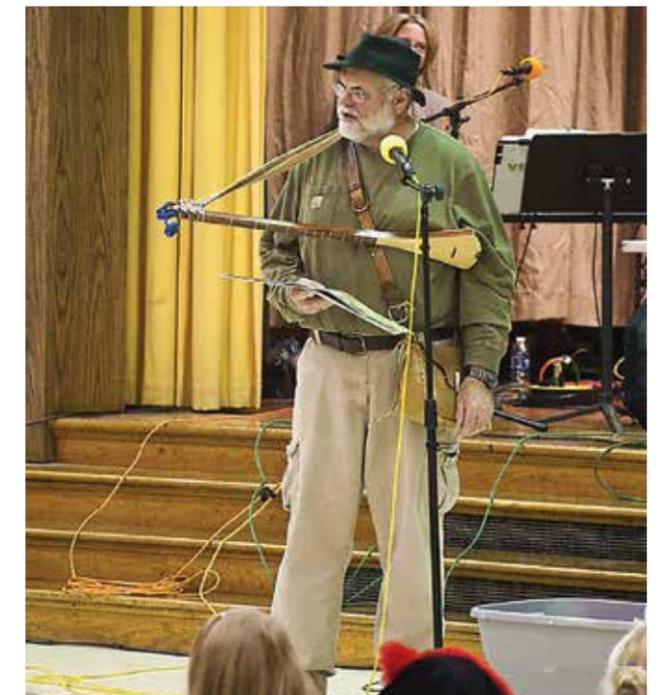
Provide a location for community groups to gather on the weekends for developmental and educational programming.

Storytelling was an important component of Maguire’s life. Maguire and others performed at area school, church and community functions as “Dr. Brian and Friends.” One of the goals of Dr. Brian’s PLACE is to bring the art of storytelling to Autumn Leaf Festival. Other plans include a “School of Education has Talent” day in which contestants show off their teaching skills, a professional development series for students and local teachers, a workshop at which local writers will present to students and teachers, and a computer workshop for members of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post.

McCullough said community and alumni involvement in Dr. Brian’s PLACE is welcome.

“If someone has ideas for professional development or resources for our students or adult learners, they can contact us to get involved,” he said.

Contact drbriansplace@clarion.edu. To support Dr. Brian’s PLACE, contact Jamie Koshak at (814) 393-1813 or jkoshak@cuf-inc.org.



Maguire at a Keystone Elementary School performance of Dr. Brian and Friends.

THERE'S A MOVEMENT HAPPENING IN TEACHING TOMORROW'S EDUCATORS.



Dr. Amy Shannonhouse

In recent years, school districts have started eliminating classes in specialty areas. Classes such as music, art and physical education have taken a hit in favor of more time for other academic areas so that mandatory test scores may improve, or in some cases, so districts can save money.

This caught the attention of Dr. Amy Shannonhouse, an associate professor in the department of education, who has a background in physical education.

Her dissertation, "The Effects of Physical Activity on Academic Achievement in Kindergarten Aged Children," examined those benefits after she worked with kindergarten students for one year.

Shannonhouse worked with physical education teachers and high school students who took the kindergarten class to physical activity stations each morning before regular lessons began.

For 20 minutes, students engaged in activities like "Dance Dance Revolution," a bike game and a virtual boxer game, to name a few.

Her kindergarten students' test scores improved in the areas of language arts and literacy. Shannonhouse explained that when you introduce any intervention you see other positive changes such as improved body mass indexes, improved behaviors, improved focus and better academic grades, which was the case with the kindergarten class she studied.

"You never want to have young children sitting still," Shannonhouse said.

Shannonhouse said research reinforces the idea that physical activity positively affects learning, so much so, that Clarion University professors are now teaching education students the art of brain breaks.

The education program emphasizes integrating fundamental motor skills into content areas.

When you combine movements with literacy (i.e. have children write their name in the air or hop when they hear words that have the "op" sound) you are helping brain development and motor skill development.

That enables children to be efficient movers, which leads to physical health and improved self-esteem. For young children, what they can or cannot do with their bodies in gross motor and fine motor skills is connected to how they feel about themselves, Shannonhouse explained.

Shannonhouse uses various tools to combine physical activity with learning. She has music CDs that put a fun spin on learning health concepts, while also getting children to move.

"We are showing future teachers how to do it, and giving them some different resources," Shannonhouse said.

Clarion University students in the pre-K block take a course called Motor Learning and Development, which teaches fundamental motor skills, creative movement and nutrition education.

Another way Shannonhouse and the education department are helping the next generation of teachers is through its summer reading camp. Graduate students who are preparing to become reading specialists create literacy activities and select books related to a theme. The graduate students then develop movement strategies and brain breaks for the camp.

A game as basic as tag can be used, but it must be inclusive. Shannonhouse explained you could have a tag game where some players are 'it,' but others free people from the frozen position, teaching empathy for others.

That's especially important, because the camp ranges in age from preschool to eighth grade. The games also feature some type of word component so that literacy skills work with the movement.

"IT'S CREATIVE MOVEMENT TEAM BUILDING, WHERE ALL CHILDREN GET TO BE SUCCESSFUL WITH THE ACTIVITY," SHANNONHOUSE EXPLAINED.

Shannonhouse has been busy the past couple of years spreading the message and sharing strategies for movement in the classroom at national conferences like the National Association for the Education of Young Children and for the education fraternity, Kappa Delta Pi. In addition to national conferences, Shannonhouse presented "Increasing Empathetic Behaviors in Preschoolers through Creative Movement Activities" at Clarion University's Early Childhood Conference in April.

She has shared the message of movement in education at nearby schools and for professional development days for Catholic schools in the Erie Diocese.

Every time she presents movement strategies at conferences, she gets feedback that incorporating motion into lessons is something educators aren't doing, but should be doing. To her, the feedback means this is a message worth sharing.

Shannonhouse would like to take this message to school administrators. She said teaching to the whole child would result in overall wellness and, therefore, increased academic performance. Teaching to the whole child means including music, art and physical education in curriculums and never cutting recess as a punishment.

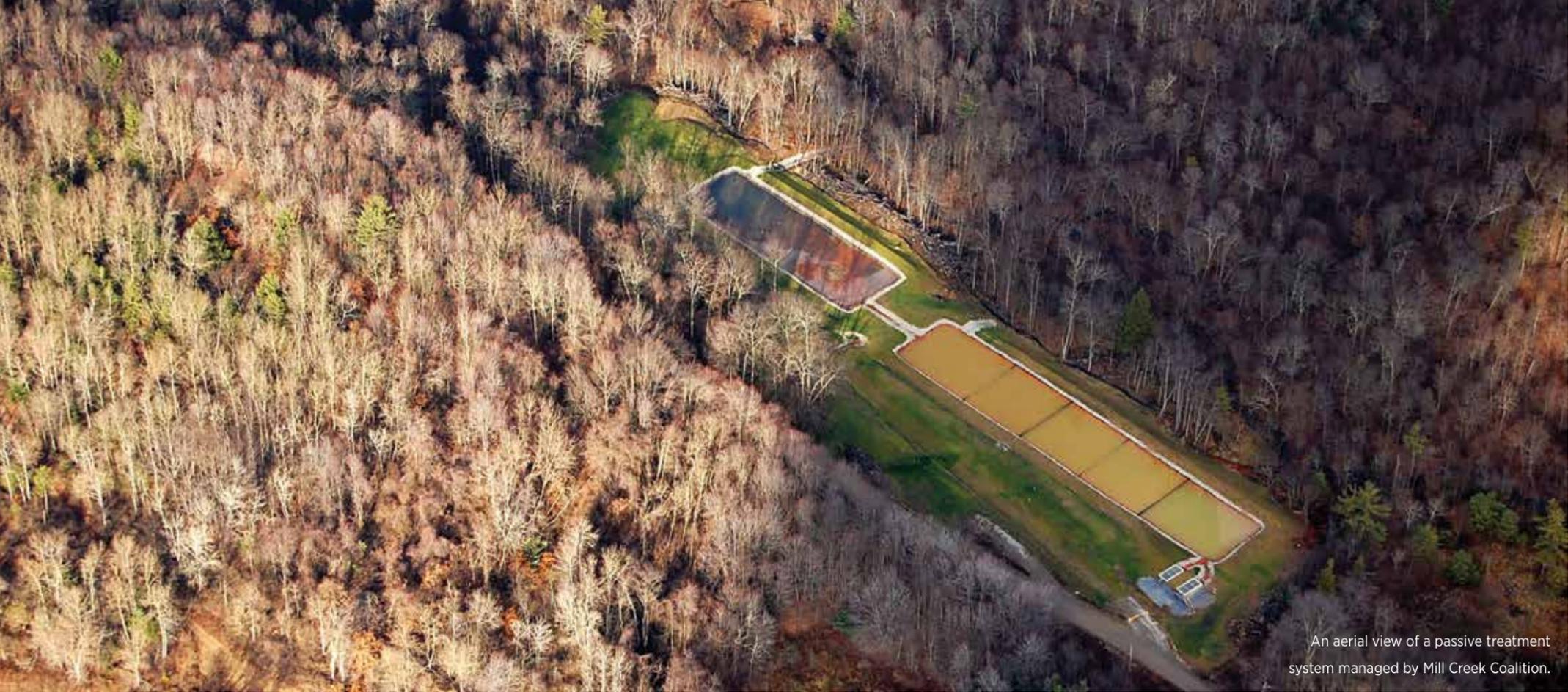
"It's a detriment. Administrators focus on teaching to the PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment)," Shannonhouse said.

In the next year, Shannonhouse would like to get the word out to even more educators, starting with education majors at Clarion.





Clarion River was voted 2019 River of the Year, an about-face from 20 years ago when it was one of the state's most polluted waterways. Many hands have worked together to improve the river, including faculty, students and alumni of Clarion University.



An aerial view of a passive treatment system managed by Mill Creek Coalition.

Clarion River has 63 tributaries and flows through parts of McKean, Elk, Forest, Jefferson and Clarion counties. The river is formed at Johnsonburg in central Elk County by the confluence of its east and west branches. The east branch, approximately 15 miles long, rises in northeastern Elk County and flows southwest through East Branch Clarion River Lake to join the west branch. The river flows generally west-southwest across western Pennsylvania in a tight, meandering course past Ridgway and Clarion. It joins the Allegheny from the east in western Clarion County approximately five miles south of Emlenton. The Clarion is a designated part of the National Wild and Scenic River program.

ACID MINE DRAINAGE

As early as the 1880s, coal mines were developed using gravity drainage to prevent excessive water accumulation in the mines. As a result, acid mine drainage – water polluted by acid, iron, sulfur and aluminum – drained away from the mines and into streams.

AMD is formed when pyrite, an iron sulfide, is exposed and reacts with air and water to form sulfuric acid and dissolved iron. Some or all of this iron can precipitate to form the red, orange or yellow sediments in the bottom of streams containing AMD.

The results are devastating to aquatic plants and animals. The sediments coat not just the stream bed, but also the leaves and plant debris in the stream bed. The coating prevents them from biodegrading, a process that provides food and habitat for aquatic insects and animals.

Dr. Andy Turner, biology professor, said mining practices have changed, and coal companies not only take precautions to prevent AMD from occurring in new mines, but they also help to correct and prevent damage from AMD that still flows from old mines. Drainage can continue for 100 years or more after mining activity ceases.

United States Environmental Protection Agency said AMD is one of the most serious water pollution problems for Region 3, which includes Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and the District of Columbia.

Among the 37 Pennsylvania counties negatively affected by acid mine drainage, Clarion County is number one for the number of miles of waterways negatively affected. Jefferson County ranks fourth.



Turner's biology students get a firsthand look at a passive AMD treatment system.

MILL CREEK COALITION

In 1990, Clarion professors Dr. Terry Morrow and Dr. Pete Dalby organized a conference that drew in people from the community and surrounding areas. It included the National Guard's Punxsutawney unit, the Army Corps of Engineers and area conservation districts.

"It was investigative," Morrow said. "Could we actually do anything with (acid mine drainage)? Where's the research at this point? What is our knowledge? Is anyone interested in being involved?"

From that gathering, Mill Creek Coalition was formed.

"Today, we take grassroots watershed groups for granted. In 1990, there really weren't any," Dalby said. "With regard to extensive mine drainage, people just wrote those streams off. The formation of MCC was an effort to bring back the dead stream."

Field trips to AMD-affected waterways were a regular occurrence for students in Morrow's, Dalby's, and (later) Turner's classes and in the BIOS Club they advised. Then, passive treatment systems relied on vegetation – cattails, namely – to absorb the iron.



Morrow with then-student Alicia Ramsey



Iron settles here rather than flowing into the waterways.

“On the simplest ones – if there was not too much iron and was enough alkalinity – it worked,” Morrow said. In some areas, however, the problem was far from simple.

“Really, it was two students, Doug (Kepler) and Eric (McCleary), who went from a different direction.”

RIVER OF LITTLE FISH

The name Damariscotta is Native American, meaning “river of little fish.” When **Eric McCleary ('84)** and **Doug Kepler ('85)** decided to start a company that would restore streams by improving water quality, the name perfectly described the work they intended to do and the result they sought.

“Clarion River has been a part of my life since I was a little guy. I grew up on the river,” McCleary said. “The lower Clarion River didn’t have much life in it. Now, it’s one of the best kept secrets for fisheries.”

As biology students at Clarion University, McCleary and Kepler had studied the orange-stained tributaries in the Clarion River watershed. They knew acid mine drainage was what had caused – and was still causing – the problem. An abandoned coal mine can continue to seep AMD for 100 years or more.

“At that time, there was a lot of inertia institutionally that said you can’t (treat the AMD-impacted streams) passively – you have to use chemicals,” McCleary said.

The problem with chemicals is that they require 24-hour-a-day monitoring and produce waste product – not so with passive systems. Both systems typically cost the same to implement, but a passive system is much less expensive to maintain.

HOWE BRIDGE

Together, McCleary and Kepler developed a large-scale passive treatment system that was first implemented at Howe Bridge, which spans Mill Creek in Jefferson County. The system, now used worldwide to restore waterways, was a game changer in AMD remediation. It was MCC’s first project.

Simplified, their system uses a series of limestone drains and settling ponds between the source of the AMD and the waterway into which it flows. The limestone raises the pH of the AMD-tainted water, which causes the iron to precipitate. The iron remains in the settling ponds, and the water that flows into the waterway has a pH conducive to sustaining aquatic life.

“We didn’t go into (forming Mill Creek Coalition) with any idea of how to identify which stream to address first,” Dalby said.

They chose the most adversely affected site in the county: a portion of Mill Creek at Howe Bridge.

“Doug and Eric came up with the idea for the Howe Bridge design,” Morrow said. “It was a grassroots event with volunteers, very little money and a lot of pro bono work on the part of contractors.”

The National Guard’s Punxsutawney Unit was an engineering unit that had old bulldozers and equipment, and they basically built the system for free as part of their training. When the National Guard’s equipment got stuck and they couldn’t proceed, Simpson Excavating in Corsica donated machinery to use.

“We buried a lot of limestone and put in settling ponds to collect the iron,” Dalby said. “When we saw that it was successful, we were on top of the world. A lot of people started studying it, from the Bureau of Mines in Pittsburgh to people in Germany. It became famous.”

The system requires very little monitoring and lasts about 15 years before needing to be replaced. Since it was organized, MCC has raised and spent about \$30 million to restore water quality in the area. More AMD remediation is yet to be done. Current faculty and students remain active in the group.

A NATURAL LABORATORY

“We are, of course, very active in working in the watershed,” Turner said. “Combining student education with community service, all in a field setting, is really what sets our program apart.”

Turner said he and fellow biology professors Dr. Steve Harris and Dr. Kurt Regester have applied research programs based in the watershed and maintain strong connections with the state agencies responsible for managing fisheries and water quality.

“Our graduates populate those agencies,” Turner said. “We contribute directly to protection and restoration by being the boots on the ground and indirectly by training the professionals who now manage the river.”

That includes **Alicia Ramsey ('17)**, a student who worked on AMD remediation with Turner, Morrow and Dalby.

In June, Ramsey was talking with her 8-year-old son Trey about what he had done that day in science camp. One of the activities was showing that a sponge placed in water will absorb what’s in the water, including pollutants, just as fish absorb what’s in the waterways where they live.



The lesson Trey learned that day is the basis for the work that Ramsey does every day as an erosion and sedimentation/dirt, gravel and low volume roads technician for Clarion Conservation District. In her role, she addresses the runoff of sediment into streams.

The materials generally come from two sources: dirt and gravel roads, which are common in rural areas, and waste sites from construction, such as the dirt removed to widen the roadway at the Interstate 80 interchange in Monroe Township.

According to Clarion Conservation District, Pennsylvania has more than 17,000 miles of dirt and gravel roads, which must be maintained to protect nearby streams from runoff and sediment from unpaved roads. By raising road elevations, reshaping banks, installing drainage pipes and planting natural buffers, Pennsylvania waterways and their inhabitants are shielded from the damaging effects of that pollution.

The issue began to get attention nearly 30 years ago, when a group of anglers had to cut short their day of fishing after a thunderstorm came through. The water had become too muddy. After some sleuthing, the group determined that road sediment had washed into the stream during the storm. That began conversations about prevention.

“Sediment is pollution,” Ramsey said. “The goal is to keep clean water clean.”

Erosion and sedimentation controls are used where soil is disturbed by development, timber harvesting or highway development, according to CCD. Control plans include measures that promote the maintenance and protection of existing water quality and its uses.

“Any sort of improvement will improve each individual stream or water body,” Ramsey said. “Those streams all run somewhere, and much of Clarion County is in the Clarion River watershed. Any improvements we make to the streams will impact the river.”

Former student Ramsey, now an erosion and sedimentation specialist, guides Clarion student intern Jonathon Best as they inspect a site. Below, netting holds ground cover in place while grass seed germinates.





Some little girls dream about their wedding, but **La-Aja Wiggins Hernandez ('06)** dreamed about becoming successful so she would never be poor again.

What she probably did not expect is that her success would also mean she would be a four-time Daytime Emmy nominee for editing on the Price is Right.

Hernandez grew up in the Hill District in Pittsburgh with her three sisters and her single mother, who at the time was addicted to drugs. (Her mother has been drug free for the last 22 years and now helps other addicts recover at a well-known hospital in Pittsburgh.)

Her situation in life resulted in bullying by her classmates and some consequent fights, but deep down Hernandez knew that education would be her way out. Teachers also impressed that upon her throughout her life.

"I feel that when I was growing up, and in college, people have always rallied around me," Hernandez said. "I've always felt supported and that people saw something special in me."

Growing up, Hernandez remembers walking to the public library and devouring books.

"I love learning. I loved competing," Hernandez said, recalling her time in spelling bees.

It was that spirit which landed her a college scholarship to Clarion University of Pennsylvania and the title of Journalist of the Year by the Society for Collegiate Journalists.

She was set to become a journalist until she took a production class that introduced her to film editing.

"Writing came naturally to me. In editing, I saw my potential," Hernandez said.

As part of the class, Hernandez had to make a documentary. Her subject was her sister Dolores and the stereotypes she faced as a teen mom. She showed the final product to her family and they loved it, which struck a chord with Hernandez.

"Oh my gosh, I can make people cry," Hernandez said.

Hernandez knew her path had changed and wanted to go where the jobs would be and where she could learn more about editing. With recommendations from two communication professors, she headed to graduate school in San Francisco.

However, when she was in graduate school, she felt like it was more of the same education she received at Clarion. She specifically wanted to study editing and discovered she could do so at Video Symphony Post-Production Institute in Burbank, California.

While she was in editing school, she was a contestant on "The Moment of Truth," a show on FOX in which people competed against a lie detector test for a chance to win \$1 million. During the taping of the show, she had the oppor-

tunity to ask the producer who was responsible for editing the show.

Hernandez called the editing company, Chainsaw Edit, and scored an interview. The interview went well, and the hiring manager told her to call Chainsaw when she graduated.

One month before she was done with school, she had a job with Chainsaw Edit. Her first editing job was on "Don't Forget the Lyrics" hosted by Wayne Brady. She worked from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. and earned \$1,000 per week.

"It was a dream come true," Hernandez said. "They left me by myself with millions of dollars of equipment," she said in amazement.

Hernandez, who did not know anyone in the industry, did her best and asked questions.

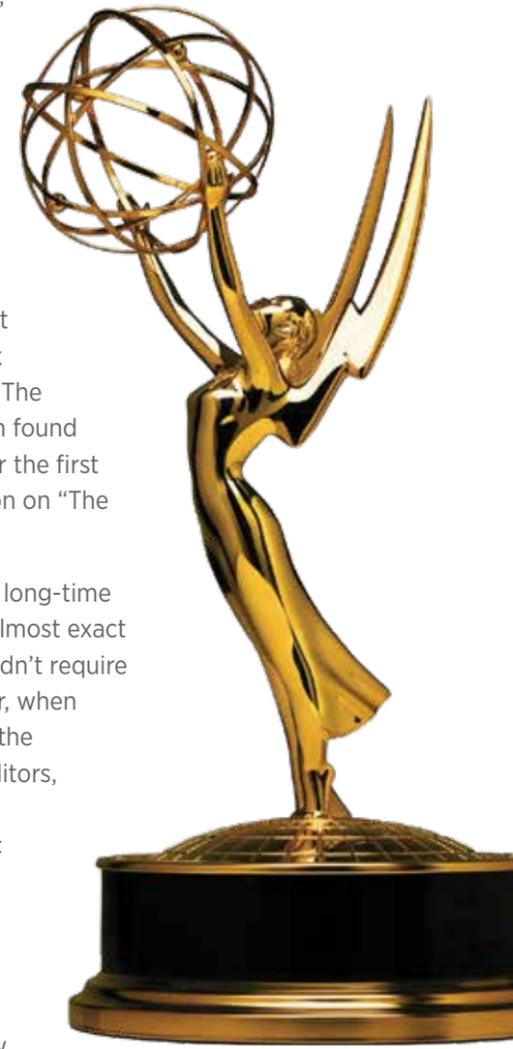
"I kept getting job after job," Hernandez said.

For about five years, she worked in reality TV, landing assistant editing jobs on "American Idol," "America's Got Talent," "Jersey Shore," "The Sing-Off," "Face Off" for the SyFy channel, shows for the Country Music Television channel and Black Entertainment Television.

Finally, she broke out of reality TV with work on the first season of "The Talk" on CBS. She soon found herself interviewing for the first assistant editor position on "The Price is Right."

Hernandez said that long-time host Bob Barker was almost exact on his timing, which didn't require much editing. However, when Drew Carey took over the show he liked using editors, especially since he comes from a comedic and television series background.

"He's very much aware of the skills that editors bring to a show





and is not shy about using them. In fact, while taping the show, he's remarked to our live audience, 'Don't worry, the editors will cut that out!'" Hernandez said. "I always smile when he says things like that."

The editor required an assistant to help share the editing duties, and the need has only continued to grow.

"Our department has gotten significantly larger," Hernandez said. Within two years she was promoted and is now one of four editors on the show.

She edits the show for length, which can mean removing a person's long decisions or something that always makes her laugh – butt cracks.

"People spin the wheel and their butt cracks show," Hernandez said with a laugh.

She also edits clips for the TV news and social media posts. The trick to her trade, however, is for no one to notice.

"All of our edits have to be invisible. That's the craft of editing," she said.

Her love of editing also seems to fit the aspect of her personality that is slightly shy.

"I like to work behind the scenes," she said.

She may have to get used to a little bit of limelight as she received two Daytime Emmy Award nominations in May, one for Outstanding Multi-Camera Editing and the other for Outstanding Sound Mixing. This was the third time she was nominated for Outstanding Sound Mixing and the first time for Outstanding Multi-Camera Editing.

She said the good thing about working in the industry is that everyone is as driven as the next person is, but it's odd when a friend becomes famous.

"This is Hollywood. It attracts all different kinds of people," she said.

It's also one of the reasons she likes "The Price is Right" so much. She likes seeing people from different backgrounds being happy for each other and rooting for each other, especially in today's climate.

"I love this show. I catch myself smiling when I'm editing it. It's a really great show," Hernandez said.

When it comes down to it, the people is what she misses most about Pittsburgh and Clarion.

"There's nothing like the people you grew up with.

There's nothing like the people you spent four years with in college."

That's the downside of California. "Sometimes you don't get to know your neighbor."

That and everything is expensive. She said even when you make good money it doesn't go as far.

Living in California and being in this industry does have its perks. She is a member of the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences and has been a mentee of the American Cinema Editors' Diversity Mentorship Program. Because she is in these prestigious organizations, she's received invitations to some popular and exclusive events, including a private screening of "The Black Panther." Only 100 people, including the film's stars, attended the event at a mansion in the Hollywood Hills.

"I was very starstruck," Hernandez recalls. "Lupita Nyong'o and Danai Gurira were there. Angela Bassett touched me!"

She said it was so surreal that she had to go out on a balcony to compose herself.

However, if you know anything about Hernandez, it's that rubbing shoulders with celebrities, while fun, isn't the most important thing in her life. Hernandez met her husband, Alex Hernandez, when they were both students at Video Symphony, and together they have a 3-year-old boy.

She also relishes the opportunity to give back to the community and filmed a video segment for the Love Yourself Program, which celebrates and empowers fourth and fifth graders as they transition to middle school in Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh Public School counselor Shandia Booker ('06) created the program and knew Hernandez would be a great source of inspiration for the youth.

In Hernandez' video, she advises students about having a positive life and future.

For a girl who grew up dreaming of being successful, it seems as though her dreams are coming true, one edit at a time.

Clarion University Sports HALL^{of} FAME

welcomes five

Clarion Sports Hall of Fame inducted five new members to its ranks - **Bob Betts ('82)**, **D.J. Bevevino ('77)**, **Susie Fritz ('88)**, **Logan Pearsall ('10)** and **Don Wilson ('75)** - in a ceremony April 28 in Gemmell multi-purpose room.

The evening was filled with laughter and reminiscence as generations of Golden Eagles came together to celebrate the successes of the past and present, as well as look toward the future.

Here is a look at some of the special moments from that warm spring night in Clarion!



1
2 *trio*

3
4
5
OF UNDERCLASSMAN
LEAD THE WAY AT
TRACK AND FIELD
CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Clarion track & field team closed out its 2019 outdoor season with a good showing at the PSAC Outdoor Championships, with a trio of underclassmen providing the bulk of team points on the track and in the field.

Ashley McCluskey came up just short of scoring in the Javelin at the 2018 Outdoor Championships, but she made up for it in 2019 with a fifth-place finish and the best toss of her college career. The sophomore tossed the javelin 40.54m, her best throw of the season and the second time in her career that she topped 40 meters.

On the track, freshman Alice Fernald followed up her lights-out performance at the Indoor Championships with another scoring run, this time taking seventh in the 400m. After gutting out the windy conditions in the preliminary

heats, Fernald posted the best time of her short college career in the finals, crossing the line in 58.53 seconds.

Rounding out the individual scoring performances was Allison Gates, who represented the distance events well with an eighth-place finish in the 10,000m. A grueling event that is as much about mental stamina as it is physical, Gates crossed the line in 40:29.12 to add on to Clarion's points total.

The Golden Eagles also showed their stuff in the 4x400m Relay on the final day of the championships. The quartet of Fernald, Letizia Collini, McKayla Hoover and Courtney Young took second place in their heat and seventh overall with a time of 3:59.95, with Fernald's blazing fast 58.99 anchoring the relay.



Ashley McCluskey



Alice Fernald



Allison Gates

CLARION SENDS MULTIPLE GOLFERS TO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mitch Faulkner



Nathan Sandberg

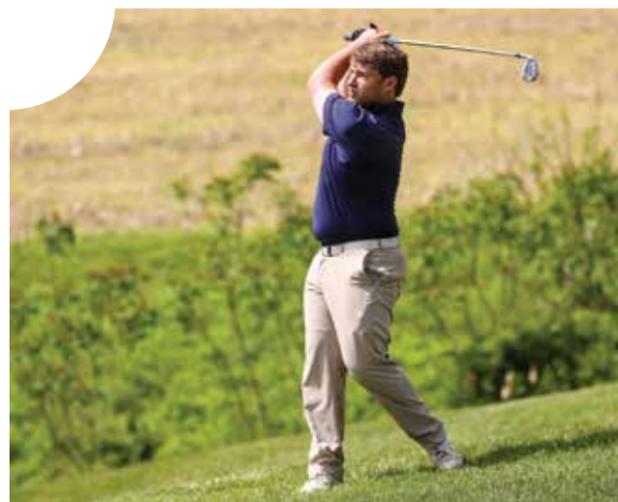


For the first time in nearly a decade, multiple Golden Eagles competed at the NCAA Division II Atlantic/East Region men's golf championships, as Nathan Sandberg and Mitch Faulkner earned at-large spots in the prestigious field in early May.

Sandberg and Faulkner represent the first Clarion men's golfers to compete in the Atlantic/East Regional since Sean Edgar did it in 2017. That was the second of Edgar's two appearances in the regional tournament, but Clarion had not had multiple competitors at the event since the entire team qualified in 2012.

The event was held May 9-11 at Totteridge Golf Club, Greensburg, with Faulkner and Sandberg showing well among the best in the region. The two Second Team All-PSAC selections finished in the upper echelon of the 107-player field, with Sandberg placing 14th and Faulkner taking 17th, the best finishes for Golden Eagles men's golfers since Ross Pringle took 11th at the 2012 tournament.

The success of Faulkner and Sandberg is just another feather in the cap of head men's golf coach Marty Rinker, who just completed his 10th season at the helm of the Golden Eagles. Taking over for the late Clarion Sports Hall of Famer Al Lefevre in August 2008, Rinker has coached Clarion to three NCAA Division II Regionals as a team and four total appearances by individuals in Regional action.



BRAINS AND BRAWN

The NCAA announced its list of Division I teams earning Public Recognition awards for their academics in May, with the Clarion wrestling team among the programs ranking in the top 10 percent of their sport in the most recent Academic Progress Rate (APR) results.

The APR is an annual scorecard of academic achievement for all Division I sports teams, with this report based on scores from the 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic years. APRs for programs in the top 10 percent of their respective sports ranged from 987 to a perfect 1000. The Golden Eagles were the only of the former Eastern Wrestling League programs to be recognized this year. In total nine programs were honored this year: Bucknell, Cal Poly, Clarion, Columbia, Lehigh, Penn State, Stanford, Air Force and Wisconsin.

Over the last five years, academics has become a cornerstone of the Golden Eagle wrestling program. The



National Wrestling Coaches Association recently announced that Greg Bulsak and Evan Delong were both named NWCA Scholar All-Americans for 2018-19, the third such honor for Delong and second for Bulsak. Clarion also boasted the greatest number of EWL Scholar-Athletes with 17 wrestlers cracking the list in 2018-19.

In addition to the historic rivalries and opponents that Clarion wrestling fans are accustomed to seeing, the Golden Eagles will welcome a new crop of opponents in 2019-20 as the team becomes an affiliate member of the Mid-American Conference. The MAC will welcome all seven of the former members of the Eastern Wrestling League into the fold this year, making the MAC the second-largest conference in NCAA Division I.

"Clarion University is very much looking forward to competing in the Mid-American Conference as an affiliate member," said Clarion director of athletics Dr. Wendy Snodgrass. "The opportunity to join a highly competitive conference enables our wrestling program to continue to compete at the highest level and elevates our entire institution. We are excited to honor the rich history of our program with this next chapter."

"Joining the Mid-American Conference is a great opportunity for our wrestling program. We have valued our time in the Eastern Wrestling League, and we are proud of the tradition that we leave behind," said Clarion head coach

Keith Ferraro. "We look forward to the competitive rigor of the MAC. This change brings about great opportunities for our program to establish new traditions and to build new rivalries. We look forward to these changes and feel honored to have the responsibility of helping to enrich the MAC for the years to come."

Current MAC wrestling membership includes Buffalo, Central Michigan, Kent State, Northern Illinois and Ohio, along with affiliate members Missouri, Old Dominion and SIU-Edwardsville.

With the announcement to join the MAC, Clarion and other EWL partners that are also Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference members have informed the PSAC that they will no longer participate in the conference's annual championship.

"This new affiliation requires that we concentrate fully on our Division I membership and other scheduling opportunities," Snodgrass said. "We thank the PSAC for helping us make a move for the betterment of our wrestling program."





BASCHNAGEL ON HAND FOR *induction* OF THIRD PLAYER

Earlier this year, **Susan Fritz ('88)** became the third member of the Golden Eagles tennis team to earn a spot in the Clarion Sports Hall of Fame, joining teammates **Tammy Myers ('91)** and **Lisa Warren Dollard ('90)** on the list of all-time greats. The trio were part of the greatest era of tennis in Clarion history, when then-coach Norb Baschnagel led the team to multiple conference championships and national rankings.

A two-time Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Coach of the Year (1988-89), Baschnagel coached Clarion to four consecutive PSAC championships from 1986 to 1989. The Golden Eagles was one of the toughest teams in the nation in that time, ranking first in the NCAA Division II East Region in three consecutive years and taking eighth at the 1988 NCAA Division II Nationals.

The Golden Eagles went undefeated in dual match play from 1986 to 1988, winning 28 straight regular season dual matches entering the 1988 NCAA Championships. Clarion was the only team selected from the East region while

Warren and Fritz were also selected to compete in the individual championships, with Warren playing both singles and doubles. The Golden Eagles finished 16th in the Volvo/Collegiate final rankings, Warren ranked 28th in the nation in singles, and the doubles pairing of Warren and Fritz ranked 21st in the final rankings.

Things kept rolling in 1989 when Warren became the first four-time PSAC No. 1 Singles champion and won her second straight PSAC Player of the Year award. Baschnagel earned his second consecutive coach of the year laurel, as Clarion became the first women's tennis team to win four straight PSAC team championships.

Baschnagel's success also included his time as an assistant with the Golden Eagles men's basketball program. During his stint as assistant men's basketball coach, Clarion had a record of 159-67, won or tied for first in the PSAC West five times, made it to the NAIA Nationals in 1977 and 1980 and the NCAA Division II playoffs in 1981.



*winner*s, RIGHT OFF THE BLOCK

In 2019, the Golden Eagles swimming and diving programs boasted seven All-American nods at the Division II championships, Christina Sather became a two-time national Diver of the Year, and the swimming team remained a force in the PSAC, even without a pool in which to practice.

It was also a year of mourning. Don Leas and Chuck Nanz – who coached Clarion swimming and diving to national and international prominence – passed away in the spring, both at the age of 84.

Leas' 24-year career was unequalled by any coach in the nation from 1966 to 1990. His divers won 36 individual national championships and 234 All-America placings. Named NCAA Division II Coach of the Year in 1984 for swimming and diving, he was twice selected as NCAA Division II Men's Diving Coach of the Year in 1988 and 1989.

He helped the men's swimming team win 19 straight PSAC titles from 1971 to 1989 and the women's team capture 15 PSAC crowns and eight Division II National Championships between 1977 and 1986. In 1977, Leas was inducted into Clarion University Sports Hall of Fame, and in 1999 he was the International Swimming Hall of Fame's Paragon Award winner. In 2012, he was recognized with the Duraflex International Diving Award for his outstanding international contributions to the sport of diving.

In USA Diving, Leas chaired almost every committee, including rules, certification, safety and membership. He was the technical and administrative liaison to FINA World Trials, Goodwill Games, FINA World Cup, US Olympic



Don Leas

Festival, NCAA, AAU and USOC.

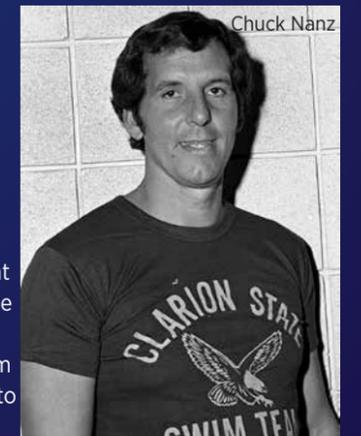
He was an advisor and referee of at least 10 international events. At the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, he served as diving coordinator. Leas consulted on many diving videos for the Athlete Institute and was involved with writing the rules and regulations for competitive and technical diving. He was author or editor of 12 books on diving and diving rules.

Nanz was hired in 1968 to build a swimming program at Clarion. He spent the first year organizing, then teamed with Leas in 1969-79 to debut the program. The team took second place in the PSAC that year, then won seven straight conference championships from 1971 to 1977.

In Nanz's eight season, Clarion had an impressive dual meet record of 74-10, with three teams going undefeated. Several of those teams placed in the top six in both the NAIA and NCAA nationals, and each year under his direction, the Eagles were 13th or better at nationals. The momentum continued even after Nanz left the program. The Golden Eagles men's swimming team won 24 PSAC championships.

In 2010 he was inducted into Clarion University Sports Hall of Fame, one of 11 men's swimming and diving athletes to be in the Hall of Fame.

With his dedication to the university spilling into the community, Nanz's influence went beyond collegiate competition. He started the Eagle Summer Swim Camps – a learn-to-swim program for area children – that continue to this day.



Chuck Nanz



1997 Sequelle

ALUMNI NOTES *Fall 2019*

DEMCHAK RECOGNIZED FOR LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION



Dr. MaryAnn Demchak ('79) received the Distinguished Faculty Award from the University of Nevada, Reno. The Distinguished Faculty award honors the faculty member who demonstrates a commitment to excellence and exemplary performance with significant achievement in his or her area through service to citizens of the state and/or the university community. She has served as the educational specialties department chair, associate dean of the College of Education, chair of the University Research and Grants Committee, and director of the Special Education Graduate Program. For the last 28 years, Dr. Demchak has been the Project Director for the Nevada Dual Sensory Impairment Project, which provides services to schools, teachers and parents of students who have both deafness and blindness. She has dedicated her entire career to improving the lives of children with severe disabilities. Dr. Demchak resides in Really, Nev.

1989

Stephanie Madden Purgerson is chief operating officer for Nanoracks, Houston. She resides in Flower Mound, Texas.

1990

Dr. Laura Kidder McNeill received a doctorate degree in instructional leadership and technology from the University of Alabama. She is employed at Samford University, Birmingham. Laura resides in Birmingham.

Todd Dieffenbach is chief financial officer for Skills of Central PA, Inc., State College, Pa. He served as a field artillery Officer in the Pennsylvania National Guard for 20 years, holding the rank of major. Todd has two children, Kiley and Matt, and resides in Sandy Ridge.

1992

Angela Morton is employed by the Crawford County Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission, Meadville. She resides in Meadville with her son Isaac.

1997

Dr. Daniel Shevock and **Dr. Mercedes Boggs ('99)** reside in State College with their daughter, Penny. Daniel is an adjunct instructor for Penn State Altoona. He recently published a scholarly book, "Eco-Literate Music Pedagogy" with Routledge.

1999

Heather Shultz Dippold is an associate attorney for Burns White LLC, Pittsburgh. She resides in Pittsburgh with her husband Michael and daughters: Keara, Teagan and Gwenn.

2000

Dr. Chris and **Jennifer Kibler Davis** reside in Virginia Beach with their children: Emma, Noah, Addison, Kristen, Victoria and Carter. Chris is a chief information officer and assistant professor of education and instructional technology for Virginia Wesleyan University, Virginia Beach.

2006

Sheena Hoover Sundin is a marketing manager for Hayes Design Group Architects, Pittsburgh. She resides in Pittsburgh with her husband Jamie and son Aidan.

2007

Jennifer Chamberlin Krishart is employed as therapeutic staff support for Evergreen, Luzerne. She resides in Wilkes-Barre.

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

2010

Hunter Jones is a reference librarian for the Belleville Public Library, Belleville, N.J. He resides in West Orange, N.J., with his sons, Matthew and Gregory.

Katelyn Monrean Hollingshead ('16 ASN) is a case manager registered nurse for Clarion Forest VNA, Clarion. She resides in Clarion with her husband James.

2013

Casey and Lauren Szoszorek Dunleavy ('15) reside in Erie. Casey is a digital marketing specialist for Eriez Magnetics. Lauren is an event manager for Larson Texts.

Wesley and Brittany Kowatch Sprankle ('18) reside in Manassas, Va., with their son, Carson. Wesley and Brittany are both teachers for Manassas City Public Schools.

2014

Thomas and Taylor Myers McConnell ('13) reside in Clarion. Tom is the Clarion County treasurer.

2018

Dr. James Condon is a certified registered family practice nurse practitioner for UPMC Hamot Medical Park – Johnsonburg. He resides in St. Mary's with his children: Brittany, Rachel, Sophia and Olivia.

MARRIAGES

Jamie Sundin
and
Sheena Hoover '06,
Aug. 31, 2018



IN MEMORIAM

1940s

Margaret Zuendel Rumbaugh ('45)
April 6, 2019

1950s

Loretta Allegretto ('54)
May 6, 2019

William Hajdukiewicz ('56)
May 7, 2019

1960s

Victor A. Beck ('63)
June 8, 2019

John P. Wallo ('64)
March 5, 2019

Robert C. Castagna ('67)
May 6, 2019

William A. Yost ('68)
March 9, 2019

1970s

Mary Jeanne Kurtzhals Schmader ('71)
Jan. 7, 2019

Wayne B. Geissinger ('71)
Jan. 23, 2019

Susan Althea Miller Baker ('71)
Feb. 11, 2019

Gary Lee Brinker ('71)
June 6, 2019

Thomas Craig Brink ('72)
April 8, 2019

Sandra Shofestall Siegel ('72)
May 28, 2019

Debra S. Sloan Dean ('73)
June 16, 2019

Donna J. Simpson Carey ('74)
March 30, 2019

Martha M. Nestich Novelly ('75)
April 26, 2019

Dilip K. Ghosh ('78)
March 11, 2019

1980s

Daniel E. Mikuta ('81)
March 22, 2019

Flora W. Wheatley Todd-Doster ('83)
Jan. 28, 2019

Mary Joy Tegtmeier Kennedy ('84)
March 12, 2019

Patrick J. Connelly ('85)
March 11, 2019

Douglas William Burchard ('88)
March 14, 2019

2000s

Kay Hopwood ('04)
Feb. 8, 2019

Denise Diane Holowell Irwin ('05)
April 23, 2019

April Sue Sheatz Martinez ('06)
May 26, 2019

2010s

Jessica Marie Stephens ('12)
March 19, 2019

Justin John Gerasimek ('13)
May 6, 2019

Emilee Elizabeth Kephart Burtop ('14)
May 2, 2019

Friends

Robert Kaufman
Feb. 10, 2019

Charles E. Nanz
March 23, 2019 (former faculty)

David J. Zacherl
March 24, 2019

Allan Larson
March 26, 2019 (retired faculty)

Sarah L. Bedick
March 29, 2019

Joseph Levi
March 31, 2019

Alberta K. Nelson Cole ('73)
April 3, 2019 (retired staff)

Robert E. Leonard
April 15, 2019 (retired faculty)

Donald Ericsson Leas
April 25, 2019 (retired faculty)

Velma McMaster
May 10, 2019 (retired staff)

John Morris
May 27, 2019

Nancy Stover Jones
June 12, 2019

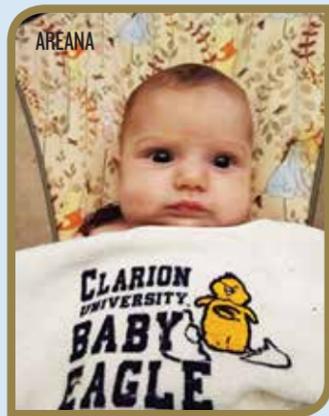
CLARION UNIVERSITY **BABY EAGLES**



Our gift to baby Eagles of Clarion alumni is a dashing new bib!

To receive a bib, visit www.clarion.edu/babybib and complete the online form. 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.

For more information, call the Office of Alumni Engagement at 814-393-2572.



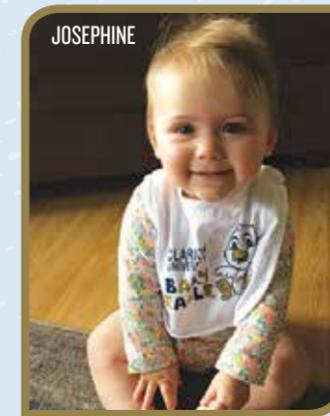
AREANA
Areana Amelia Preston, daughter of James and **Christine (Campbell '11) Preston**, born April 5, 2018



AVA
Ava Carmella Toborowski, daughter of Thomas and **Karlana (Price '16) Toborowski**, born March 17, 2019



GUNNAR
Gunnar Michael Raydo, son of Eric and **Beth (Lawrence '04) Raydo**, born Aug. 25, 2018



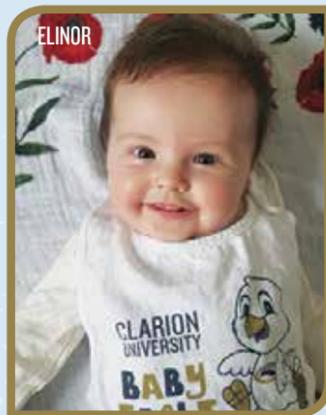
JOSEPHINE
Josephine Mae Fargiorgio, daughter of Lisa and **Jordan ('10) Fargiorgio**, born July 18, 2018



KENZLEE
Kenzlee Ann Campbell, daughter of **Hannah (Arnett '15) and Alexander ('11) Campbell**, born Aug. 29, 2018



MEREDITH
Meredith Lois Lewis, daughter of Justin and **Kelli (Dixon '10) Lewis**, born Nov. 19, 2018



ELINOR
Elinor Grace Wilmoth, daughter of **Anne (Acton '11) and Luke ('11) Wilmoth**, born Nov. 23, 2018



ELIZABETH
Elizabeth Ann Fox, daughter of Michael and **Kelli (Straw '05) Fox**, born May 5, 2018



KIRSTEN
Kirsten Anne Hanson, daughter of Adam and **Tiffany ('16) Hanson**, born Jan. 13, 2019



LUCIANO
Luciano "Luca" Orlando Martinez, son of Orlando and **April (Sheatz '06) Martinez**, born May 26, 2019



OLIVIA
Olivia Sue Harbison, daughter of **Nicole (Riger '14) and Zachary ('14) Harbison**, born Nov. 28, 2018

2019 Distinguished Awards

Clarion University Alumni Association is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's awards. They will be honored Friday, Oct. 4, at the annual Distinguished Awards Dinner and Ceremony, held on campus. To purchase tickets, visit clarion.edu/alumni-events.

Nominations for the 2020 Distinguished Awards are now being accepted. Visit clarion.edu/awards to view the category criteria and make a nomination.



DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

Dr. Sharon L. Montgomery
Professor, Chemistry, Mathematics & Physics, Clarion University



DISTINGUISHED YOUNG ALUMNI

Brandon Gray ('14, '15)
Lead Technologist, CT Department, Central Florida Regional Hospital



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Dr. Leah M. Chambers
Associate Professor, English & Modern Languages, Clarion University
Co-Founder, Community Learning Workshop

Dr. Richard D. Lane
Professor, English & Modern Languages, Clarion University
Co-Founder, Community Learning Workshop



DISTINGUISHED VENANGO ALUMNI

Angela C. Shontz Harriett ('07, MEd '12)
Reading Specialist, Oil City Middle School



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Michael P. Rastatter, Ph.D. ('72)
Chair, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Retired
Fellow, National Academy of Inventors
Vice President and Founder, Reading Comprehension Solutions, LLC

Jeffrey R. Schmeck ('80)
Executive & Co-Founder, Miner Fleet Management Group

An alumni chapter is a grassroots organization for alumni to connect with one another, engage with the Alumni Association, and stay connected to the university through leadership and volunteer opportunities, student outreach, local events, and social and professional networking. Find your chapter at clarion.edu/alumni-chapters.

The chapters are looking for steering committee members. If interested, send email to:

Philadelphia – phillyclarionalumni@gmail.com

Pittsburgh – Michelle Vensel at mvensel@gmail.com or Brad Jones at jonesb@pghfdn.org

Venango – alumni@clarion.edu

Washington DC Metro Area (DMV) – alumni@clarion.edu

Harrisburg and Cleveland (new chapters) – alumni@clarion.edu or call 814-393-2572.

If you would like to form a chapter by location or interest (marching band alumni, black alumni, theatre alumni, etc.), call the Office of Alumni Engagement at 814-393-2572.

Congratulations to our Philadelphia Alumni Chapter for their contributions to their community. Many thanks to the alumni who came together to give their time to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery and Delaware Counties. All had a great time at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore this past April!



Alumni enjoyed a performance of "Grease" at Barrow Civic-Theater with a pre-theater reception hosted by the Venango Chapter. The Venango Chapter includes individuals who attended the Venango campus, or who attended Clarion campus and reside in Venango County.



Congratulations to the DC Metro Area Chapter for their kickoff event, "Build Your Own Bob's Sub Day." It was great to bring a taste of Clarion to you. Special thanks to **Patrice D'Eramo-Flack ('86)** for hosting.



UPCOMING EVENTS

For a full schedule of events, visit clarion.edu/alumni-events.

AUG. 24-25: Volleyball Alumni Weekend

SEPT. 28: Baseball Alumni Game

OCT. 4: Distinguished Awards

OCT. 4-6: Homecoming Weekend

NOV. 2: Party for a Purpose – King of Prussia

NOVEMBER: Pittsburgh Chapter Stuff a Bus with Toys for Tots

JAN. 20-21: Alumni Golf Outing – Port Charlotte, Fla.

JAN. 22-24: Florida Alumni Gatherings – The Villages & Tampa

MARCH 11-13: California Alumni Gatherings – San Diego & Los Angeles

COURAGEOUS *endeavors*

JARRED HANNOLD

NEW TEACHER NAMED ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Jarred Hannold, a 2018 graduate of the dual early childhood/special education program, was honored as Rookie Teacher of the Year by Patrick Copeland Elementary School in Hopewell, Va., where he is a special education inclusion teacher for kindergarten and second grade.

Jarred is one of the few teachers who is certified in both general education and special education. He said that being knowledgeable in both areas has helped his ability to co-teach in the inclusion classroom setting.

“Stepping into a classroom as a new special education teacher, I was nervous for the first couple of days because of the two grades I was working with and the inclusion model.

Our school uses the inclusion model in which the special education teacher pushes into the general education classroom to provide services (instead of pulling the children out to a separate room).

As a new special education teacher that has never had the opportunity to see fully how the model works, I was nervous, yet interested to see it in action. It took a couple of days for me to adjust to each grade I was servicing and to my crazy schedule of running between kindergarten and second grade. I had never had to provide services for two separate classrooms in two separate grades, all in the same day.

The challenge of balancing two grades and a model that I have not had much experience in made for quite a learning experience. I feel that my willingness to ask questions, to advocate for myself, taking on additional tasks in the school, my ability to make personal connections with each student, and reaching out to their parents aided in my winning of Rookie of the Year.”



“It takes a noble person to plant a seed for a tree that will one day provide shade to those whom he may never meet.”

~D. Elton Trueblood

Clarion University Foundation, Inc.



Larry W. Jamison '87
Director of Planned Giving
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ljamison@cuf-inc.org

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