

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Newsletter



Claflin University
Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, President

Spring 2009
Volume 8 No. 2

The World Needs Visionaries

We develop the whole person

Dr. Peggy S. Ratliff

English professor and dean



Dr. Peggy Ratliff

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences is proud to welcome to Claflin University Dr. Ronnie Hopkins, professor and chairman of the Department of English and Foreign Languages. Dr. Hopkins comes to us with vast teaching and administrative experience. Read details about Dr. Hopkins in "Welcome, Dr. Ronnie Hopkins".

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences, along with Claflin University, is also proud to have with us this semester Dr. Barbara Lekatsas, an associate professor of comparative literature and art, who is joining us as a faculty member in the Department of English and Foreign Languages. Additionally, she is assisting Mr. Herman Keith, director of the Arthur Rose Museum, and Mr. Habibur Rahman, interim department chair of the Department of Art, and art faculty members in exhibitions for the Museum.

Our faculty and students continue to do well and make strides toward excellence in all that they do. Be sure to read about their accomplishments in the departmental sections of this newsletter.

The scheduled events include the following:

See **THE SCHEDULED EVENTS**, page 2

An aim of education

By Mandakini Hiremath

Many parents' impromptu answer to those who inquire what they want for their children always has been they want their children to be happy. Therefore, I believe education should be aimed at happiness. The aim of education should be being happy. As I reflected a little longer on this theme, I recalled an essay, "Our Way of Life Makes Us Miserable," written by Dr. Eric Fromm.

Dr. Eric Fromm believes that our society of consumption-happy, fun-loving, jet-traveling people creates anxiety, unhappiness, helplessness, and stress, and, eventually, leads to the disintegration of our culture. He declares, "I refuse to identify fun with pleasure, excitement with joy, business with happiness, or the faceless, buck-passing 'organization man' with an independent individual."

Modern industrialism has succeeded in producing an 'alienated' man. He is alienated in the sense that his actions and his own forces have become estranged from him; they stand above him and against him, rather than being ruled by him. The means have become the end for him. His life forces have been transformed into things and institutions, and these things and institutions have become idols, which he worships and to which he submits. He is the prisoner of the very economic and political circumstances which he has created.

"Our society is becoming one of giant enterprises directed by a bureaucracy in which man becomes a small, well-oiled cog in the machinery," he states. The oiling is done with higher wages, fringe benefits, well-ventilated factories and piped music, and by psychologists and "human-relations" experts; yet all this oiling does not alter the facts that man does not wholeheartedly participate in his work and that he is bored with it. The blue- and white-collar workers have become economic puppets who dance to the tune of automated machines and bureaucratic management.

When they apply for their first job, they are tested for intelligence as well as for the right mixture of submissiveness and independence. From that moment on they are tested again and again by the psychologists and by their superiors, who judge their behavior, sociability and capacity to get along, etc., their own and of that of their wives. Every society creates a

See **AN AIM OF EDUCATION**, page 14



The School of Humanities and Social Sciences Newsletter

Dean

Dr. Peggy S. Ratliff

Compiler

Mandakini Hiremath

Editors

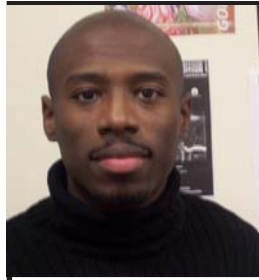
Linda R. Hill
Mandakini Hiremath

Design and Layout

Mandakini Hiremath

Department of Art

Prof. Damond Howard's drawings exhibited



Mr. Damond Howard

In celebration of Black History Month, the UT Downtown Gallery of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville exhibited drawings by Damond Howard, an assistant professor of art here at Claflin University. His exhibition, entitled "Still America's Greatest Problem," was on exhibit from February 6 – 28, 2009. Professor Howard gave a lecture about his work on Thursday, February 5, and served as a panelist for a discussion entitled "The Changes That Have Come upon Us: Reflections and Thoughts on African Americans and the Arts" on Friday, February 6.

Special Thanks to

Dr. Peggy S. Ratliff, dean of the school of Humanities and Social Sciences, for giving me the opportunity to produce the newsletter.

Ms. Linda R. Hill, assistant professor of English, for agreeing to work with me as an editor.

Members of the School and Department Chairs for their contributions.

Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, president, and **Dr. George E. Miller, III**, vice president for academic affairs, for encouragement.

Finally, I sincerely appreciate all the compliments of my administrators, co-workers, students, and friends on the previous issues of the newsletter and the columns that are printed in The Times and Democrat for a job well done. These encouraging words are a source of motivation to me.

The School publishes its newsletter periodically; therefore, please bring your stories to the compiler, Mrs. Hiremath. I am in the Writing Center, GTK, room # 228, ext. 5422. Your stories should be typed using Microsoft word.

You may e-mail attachments at mhiremath@claflin.edu.



SCHEDULED EVENTS

- **International Poetry Festival** – Monday, March 23, 2009 – 6:30 p.m. – Ministers' Hall
- **Great Works by Blacks** – Tuesday, March 24, 2009 – 11:00 a.m. – WVM Auditorium
- **Open House, Department of Art** – Tuesday, March 24, 2009 – Laymen Hall
- **Chamber Ensembles Concert** – Thursday, March 26, 2009 – WVM Auditorium
- **Annual Art Students' Expo 2009** – April 2009 – Arthur Rose Museum
- **Senior Art Students' Show 2009** – April 2009 – Arthur Rose Museum
- **Exhibit, Will Bernett and Bob Blackburn** – April 1-19, 2009 – Arthur Rose Museum
- **Choir, Conducting Students' Concert** – Thursday, April 2, 2009 – 7:30 p.m. – WVM Auditorium
- **Tasha Hawthorne's performance of Sonia Sanchez's *Sister Son/ji*** – Tuesday, April 7, 2009 – 7:30 p.m. – WVM Auditorium
- **Opera Production** – Lyric Opera Theatre – Thursday, April 9, 2009 – 7:30 p.m. – WVM Auditorium
- **Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo Concert** – Tuesday, April 14, 2009 – 7:30 p.m. – WVM Auditorium
- **Mrs. Annette Grevious and Mr. Cedric Rembert on a theatre-arts topic** – Thursday, April 16, 2009 – 11:00 a.m. – GTK 223
- **Choir Concert** – Monday and Tuesday, April 20 and 21, 2009 – 7:30 p.m. – Ministers' Hall
- **Wind Ensemble Concert** – Thursday, April 23, 2009 – 7:30 p.m. – WVM Auditorium



Barnet and Blackburn: An artistic friendship in relief

By **Dr. Barbara Lekatsas**



Dr. B. Lekatsas

“Will Barnet/Bob Blackburn: An Artistic Friendship in Relief,” an exhibition sponsored by the Art Department and the Arthur Rose Museum and with the support of Hofstra University and scheduled for April 1-19 at the Arthur Roe Museum, showed fifty-one original prints from the Cochran Collection (Wesley and Missy Cochran of LaGrange, Georgia)

that track the parallel and intersecting artistic journeys and constructive collaboration of these two great American artists over a fifty-year period. The prints of Barnet, the elder and mentor, who is still alive at 97, are echoed by those of his protégé, Bob Blackburn, whose participation in the Harlem Renaissance enabled him to expand the artist group or movement concept by creating the Printmaking Workshop in New York, which was to become the most well-respected printmaking workshop in the country.

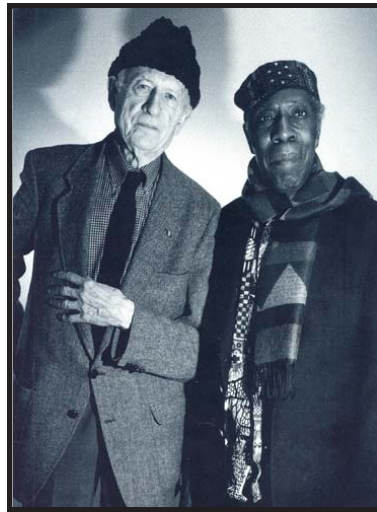
In an interview with Barbara Lekatsas before his death, Bob Blackburn spoke of the Printmaking Workshop as “an institution designed to give.”

In his art, he escapes the human world into a world of perfect geometric forms, almost like visual notes with titles like “Root-Toot.” Blackburn was also influenced by the French art movements, as was Barnet, reflecting abstraction, cubism, yet also New Deal Realism. Blackburn modeled the Printmaking Workshop on Stanley William Hayter’s Atelier 17, first created in Paris, then in New York during wartime. He attended that workshop, then replaced it.

Barbara Lekatsas conceived the concept of the exhibition, “artistic friendship in relief,” from the prints in the Cochran Collection.

She interviewed the artists in preparing the exhibition catalogue essay.

She is our Faculty Exchange scholar from Hofstra University cur-



Will Barnet and Bob Blackburn



**Will Barnet, “Blue Robe”
color aquatint, 1971**

rently teaching Introduction to Literature while working with Mr. Herman Keith, museum director, Dr. Habibur Rahman, chair of the Department of Art, and the Art Department itself to bring this exhibition of American prints to Claflin University.

Professor Lekatsas is happy to act as envoy and ambassador for the Cochran Collection, a Southern collection rich in Afro-American and 20th century prints, to bring beautiful art by two great American artists to Claflin this spring.

Professor Lekatsas is an expert on surreal-

ism and the avant-garde. She spoke about surrealism and politics on February 26 at a conference in Columbia at the University of South Carolina. She teaches within the Department of Comparative Literature at Hofstra University and writes about art and literature.



Interior 1958 Lithograph



**Will Barnet, “Seventh Season”
color serigraph, 1971**



Welcome, Dr. Ronnie Hopkins

By Mandakini Hiremath

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences welcomes Dr. Ronnie Hopkins. He joins us as chair and professor of English in the Department of English and Foreign Languages. He earned the Doctor of Philosophy degree in English in 1994 and the Master of Arts degree in English in 1991 from Michigan State University. Also, he has completed postdoctoral studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1995). His foundation in English studies came from North Carolina Central University, where he earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in English with Secondary Teaching certification in 1986.

Dr. Hopkins' significant teaching experiences include language arts and English teaching at the middle school, high school, community college, and university. His academic specializations include the Critical Issues in the Teaching of English, Reading and Composition Theory, and African American Language and Literacy. He has served at Allen University as vice president for student affairs and professor of English and at Benedict College as dean of the School of Continuing Education, Graduate Studies, and Life Long Learning and founding dean of the School of Honors and professor of English. Professor Hopkins has held faculty appointments at Lansing Community College, Norfolk State University, the University of Missouri – St. Louis, and Virginia Tech.

Dr. Hopkins has designed and taught courses in composition, language and literacy, children's and young adult literature, creative writing, speech communications, small group communications and English Education on the undergraduate and graduate levels throughout his career. His writing and research interests include Honors Education, African American male and minority studies, Hip Hop Culture and its integration into the public school curriculum, and African American community and living histories. Additional research interests include career development for the homeless, HIV/AIDS impacted citizens, ex-offenders and incarcerated populations as well as mentorship, elderly care, and citizenship in the local communities. Dr. Hopkins is committed to serving diverse populations, Historically Black Colleges and Universities and students throughout the African Diaspora.

Dr. Hopkins is the author of *Educating Black Males: Critical Issues in Schooling, Community and Power*



Dr. Ronnie Hopkins

(State University of New York Press: Albany, 1997). Currently, he is completing the manuscript "Hip Hop Cultural Connections: Integrating Hip Hop in Curricula" (under consideration, State University of New York Press). Dr. Hopkins is founder and CEO of Possible Worlds Foundation, Inc., which provides full-service opportunity in education and employment for disenfranchised citizens. Additionally, he is founder and CEO of the Hopkins Group Educational Consultation Firm, specializing in multicultural educational strategies.

Dr. Hopkins' synergistic activities include international scholarly research and presentations at the University of Technology at Quibdo, Choco, South America; Guilan, Beijing, and Shanghai, Republic of China; University of Ghana-Legon, Accra, Ghana, West Africa; Merida, Mexico; and Rio Ochos, Jamaica.

Also, Dr. Hopkins is a member of the Alpha Psi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, South Carolina's oldest alumni chapter. Additionally, Dr. Hopkins is a member of the Bible Way Church of Atlas Road, and he serves on the Board of the Midlands Community Development Corporation.

When asked why he chose Claflin and what he plans to accomplish, Dr. Hopkins responded, "In my quest to return to academics after having served in student affairs, I was elated to find compatibility at Claflin University in an academic arena. Claflin University was an easy choice because of its academic status and growing reputation throughout the nation and the world as an excellent institution. However, I was most attracted to the University's theme, "The World Needs Visionaries." He added, "I plan to accomplish an acknowledged quest in concert with the faculty and staff in the Department of English and Foreign Languages and in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences to establish a premiere Department of English and Foreign Languages that is nationally and internationally ranked."

Again, we are delighted to welcome Dr. Ronnie Hopkins and look forward to working together to accomplish Claflin University's mission.

Department of English and Foreign Languages

By Dr. Ronnie Hopkins, Chair

For the 2008-2009 academic year, the Department of English and Foreign Languages identified five critical areas that constitute new critical initiatives that will strategically place the Department on the road to becoming a premiere Department of English and Foreign Languages, thus establishing regional, national, and international distinction. The faculty in the Department of English and Foreign Languages is convinced that in order to become distinguished as a premiere department the primary focus must be the development and strengthening of the curriculum and program offerings. Under the new leadership of Dr. Ronnie Hopkins, chair and professor of English, the faculty believes that a strong curriculum with competitive program offerings will generate unprecedented student interest and foster faculty-student engagement, thus assisting the Department in becoming the premiere entity that we seek to become. To that end, the critical areas identified by the English and Foreign Languages faculty include the following curriculum additions and program enhancements: 1) the Master of Arts in English degree program, 2) Spanish major, 3) Gender Studies major, 4) Theater major, and 5) development of the University Writing Center, Composition Program and Summer Writing Institute.

In an effort to join the ranks of premiere English programs that offer career-focused, academically challenging, and globally impacting graduate studies in English, the English and Foreign Languages faculty has proposed offering the Master of Arts degree in English. The design of the MA in English at Claflin University has full potential to strategically impact undergraduate recruitment in the Department of English and Foreign Languages, especially by attracting underserved populations, such as African American males, and serving public school teachers holding teaching certification.

Under the direction of *Dr. Donald Gene Pace, professor of history and Spanish*, the Foreign Languages faculty submitted a proposal to the administration for a new major in Spanish. This major increasingly seems well timed, given the growth in the Hispanic population in the United States. Claflin University already has sufficient faculty to sustain a major, its library resources are adequate or nearly adequate, and a Spanish minor has proven popular with students with a variety of majors.

Dr. Mitaili Wong, professor of English and Gender Studies, led the English and Foreign Languages faculty in

completing and submitting a proposal for a minor and certificate in gender studies. The gender students program is an effort to optimize program choices for English and foreign languages majors and to foster intellectualization for all Claflin University students, especially impacting how students view the world from feminist and womanist perspectives. The Department's faculty seeks to pursue a major in gender studies.

Ms. Annette Grevious, associate professor of speech and drama, Mr. Cedric Rembert, assistant professor of speech and drama and the English and Foreign Languages faculty have been charged with and are enthusiastic about the development of the Theater Arts program to include a major. As Claflin University is one of the United States' premiere liberal arts institutions, the University seeks to reflect such distinction by developing a comprehensive Theater Arts program.

Ms. Sherietta Murrell, English instructor and newly named director for the Writing Center, has taken the lead in the comprehensive development of a full-service Writing Center. The vision for the Department is for the Writing Center to become a haven for all students for service learning and civic engagement. Also, a goal for the Writing Center is to engage all Claflin University faculty and students in the mastery of transformational writing in all disciplines. Certainly, in the charge for developing Visionaries, the mastery of effective writing and communication is imperative.

The aforementioned initiatives shall continue to be the focus of Department of English and Foreign Languages faculty until such time that each initiative has been adequately addressed, completely met or exceeded and opportunities for expansion are exhausted. The faculty in the Department of English and Foreign Languages is committed and delighted to pursue this course of action as we predict that development of the critical initiatives should provide the renewal and energy needed to continue yielding a productive department that promotes intellectualism throughout the entire campus and challenges and motivates all students while preparing them for graduate and professional studies and competitive work-force placement as world Visionaries. Moreover, this course of action has implications for placing Claflin University in the top academic ranks with regional, national and international acclaim as a premiere Department of English and Foreign Languages.



Foreign Languages

By **Dr. D. Gene Pace**, Director of Study Abroad.



Dr. D. Gene Pace

Dr. Juan Carlos Hernández Cuevas, assistant professor of Spanish, has published extensively and has prepared other materials for future publication: *Los cuentos mexicanos de Max Aub: la recreación del ámbito nacional de México*, Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes. Alicante, University of Alicante, 2008 (forthcoming publication); “Harlem: en vísperas del

Modernismo,” *Letralia* 196 (2008) <<http://letralia.com>>; “Orangeburg,” *Revista Literaria Remolinos* 34 (2008) Oct-Nov. 2008

A revised version of **Dr. D. Gene Pace**’s second doctoral dissertation is scheduled for publication by University Press of America in March 2009: “*Unfettering Confession: Ritualized Performance in Spanish Narrative and Drama*.” He has submitted “Ideological and Environmental Trash: Violence in Vargas Llosa’s *Historia de Mayta*” for publication consideration. He published or submitted several articles with Dr. Omar Bagasra: “NACO and the World Bank are correct in their crackdowns.” *Nature Medicine*. 14.6 (June 2008): 588; Pace, D. Gene and Bagasra, Omar. “NACO must clean up phony NGOs in India.” *Indian Journal of Medical Research*, 128 (July 2008): 87-88; “Reflections on Dr. Montagnier’s Nobel Prize for the Discovery of HIV-1.” *Journal of Infection in Developing Countries* 2 (2008): 462-6; “An Attack on the Eyes and Teeth of the Body Politic: An Autopsy in Memoriam of the Mumbai Massacre” (submitted for publication); “Widening the War Against HIV: The Need to Include Some Cheaper Battlefields” or “An African Model of HIV Prevention: A Reaction to ‘Reassessing HIV Prevention’” *Lancet* (submitted for publication); and “Reassessing HIV Vaccine Design and Approaches: Towards a Paradigm Shift” (submitted for publication). He and Dr. Bagasra have assisted with two additional publications with other authors: Addanki, Krishna C.; Pace, D. Gene; and Bagasra, Omar, “A Practice for All Seasons: Male Circumcision and the Prevention of HIV Transmission,” *Journal of Infection in Developing Countries* 2 (2008): 328-34; Noorali, Samina, Rotar, Ioana C.; Lewis, Cindi; and Pestaner, Joseph P. Pestaner; Pace, Donald Gene; Bagasra, Omar, “Role of HERV-W

(*Syncytin-1*) in Placentation and Maintenance of Human Pregnancy,” *Applied Immunohistochemistry and Molecular Morphology* (in press). He and Dr. Bagasra are nearing completion on a book manuscript that calls for a paradigm shift in the search for an AIDS vaccine. Dr. Pace presented a paper entitled “Ideological and Environmental Trash: Violence in Vargas Llosa’s *Historia de Mayta*” on 17 October 2008 at the Congreso Anual de Literaturas Hispánicas at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. On 10 February 2009 in Baton Rouge, he presented a paper entitled “HIV/AIDS and the Hispanic Community: Current Overview and Future Prospects” at the meeting of the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies. Dr. Pace continues to serve as an associate editor of *Essays in Economic and Business History*. He has also been asked to serve on the editorial board of the *The Journal of Infectious Diseases* (JDIC). Dr. Pace and Dr. Christopher Curtis co-authored a proposal letter of intent for a grant of \$100,000 to host a faculty member for one year in a field related to Eurasian and Eastern European affairs. On 22 January 2009, the Funding agency International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) plans to select two institutions for participation in the Teaching Fellowship Program for Eurasian and Eastern European Affairs.

Ms. Clarissa Williams’s panel submission for the College Language Association, “The Power of *la música*,” was accepted in December 2008 (25-29 March 2009 in Cambridge, Maryland). She will co-present research that demonstrates the similarities between Hip Hop and urban Latin genres. A second panel submission, “Beyond the Music: Socio-economical and Socio-political Messages in Latin Music,” was accepted in November 2008 for the VIII Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica (9-12 March 2009, Puntarenas, Costa Rica). Her panel will present extensive research that reveals the implications of music for underrepresented groups and the powerful messages that are conveyed via the lyrics.

Mrs. Ingrid Watson-Miller continues to work on her doctoral dissertation in Spanish literature under a \$42,000 grant from the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). She also completed the administration of a grant at the end of 2008. This grant greatly improved the foreign language lab, and helped students and faculty in a number of different ways.



A semester in London

By **Mandakini Hiremath**



Gary, in front of Buckingham Palace

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences welcomes **Tyesha Gary**, who returns after spending the fall 2008 semester in London.

When Tyesha was asked about her experience, what her total impression was, she responded, “Studying abroad was definitely an awesome experience. Being in a totally different geographical location was exciting in itself, but gaining a deeper understanding of the complex cultural, political and social-historical framework of other countries was, perhaps, the most exhilarating aspect of my abroad experience.” She attended a university in London and was excited to tell us that she visited Paris. She added, “As an English major, I took advantage of the opportunity to see Shakespeare’s plays at the Globe, and, of course, I visited Buckingham Palace, The Eye, the London Bridge, Big Ben, Hyde Park, and so many other historical landmarks and architectural designs. In Paris, I toured the Louvre Museum, Notre Dame, and the marvelous Eiffel Tower, just to name a few.”

Knowing Tyesha’s amicable nature, I was sure that she would get along well and make lots of friends wherever she went. However, my only concern was about her diet. Tyesha is a vegan. My first question to Tyesha, after her return, was about her health and the food, and then I inquired about hospitality and friends. “The food in London was great, especially the fresh produce. Surprisingly, the cafeteria made a special vegan dish every day just for me! I feel as though I have achieved personal growth, made new friends, built professional relationships, and definitely brought home a genuine appreciation for various people’s way of life.” And then she added that she does plan to visit again upon her graduation.

“I recommend that those considering studying abroad first find a country that they are interested in visiting, speak with an advisor, find an organization that they plan to apply through, prepare the paperwork, and, most importantly, make sure that the study abroad will not interfere with, or postpone, their projected graduation date,” responded Tyesha when she was asked how she would encourage others who might be interested in following in her footsteps.

By **Dr. D. Gene Pace**

Study abroad and Spanish minor

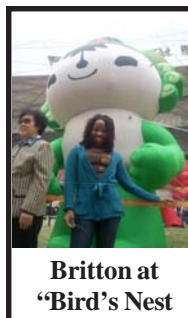


Phillips at "Bird's Nest"

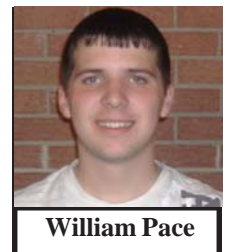
During the fall 2009 semester, three Clafin University students studied at Nanjing University in China: **Laura-Mae Britton, Cindi Lewis, and Petrina Phillips**. They also visited other cities and such notable places as the Forbidden City and the Great Wall. This enabled them to learn a great deal about the Mandarin Chinese language, and about the history and culture of China. Petrina Phillips was impressed by the work ethic and integrity of the Chinese people and found their non-complaining manner inspiring. Her earlier visit to China with the Clafin University Choral Association sparked her interest in returning. “This trip exposed me to a touch of the Chinese lifestyle, which significantly sparked my interest,” she said. Some of her most memorable experiences include interactions with professors, whom she describes as engaging and encouraging, as well as visits to the Great Wall and historical sites such as The Forbidden City and The Summer Palace. Her advice to students interested in studying abroad: “Consider the numerous benefits that a study-abroad opportunity can contribute

to your academic and personal growth.” Ms. Phillips, a senior mass communications major, plans to pursue a career in foreign diplomacy on behalf of her home country, Trinidad and Tobago. Laura-Mae Britton appreciated the name given to her by her Chinese advisor, Bai Lu, which has the beautiful, peaceful meaning of “White Dew.” She had a wonderful experience and said, “Studying abroad is a marvelously unique experience that I believe all college students should take full advantage of. I’ve been asked about it at every graduate school interview that I’ve attended, and my fond memories live on with me, adding much more luster to life!”

On 21 February 2009, a freshman Spanish minor, **William Pace**, participated in the Coker College Undergraduate Humanities Research Conference, in Hartsville, South Carolina. In his paper presentation, “Literary Genius of Barbara Tuchman,” he analyzed Tuchman’s historical study *The Zimmermann Telegram* as if it were a novel, and found that the two-time Pulitzer winner utilized many literary devices seen in fiction writing and developed her history book much like a novel in terms of structure.



Britton at "Bird's Nest"



William Pace



Department of History and Sociology

By **Dr. Christopher Curtis**, Interim Chair



Dr. C. Curtis

The Department of History and Sociology completed another very successful fall semester and is in the midst of a continued ambitious agenda this spring. The department's primary effort will be focused on completing the curriculum revisions that emerged from the self-study report last spring. Chief among these are finishing the necessary administrative procedures to implement the modified criminal justice curriculum as an innovative politics and justice studies major next August and gaining the requisite approval for implementing a long-awaited major program in psychology. Necessary revisions to the sociology and history curriculum will also be proposed in order to impose the uniform standard of thirty-six credit hours of departmental course work for all our major programs. The curriculum changes, along with the implementations of a new syllabus-vetting procedure, should place the department in a strong position for the upcoming accreditation review by SACS.

In September, Dr. Mackinem and Ms. Bagasra began offering monthly workshops for our students preparing for graduate school. The idea for such a forum emerged from the need to provide students interested in applying to graduate school programs with relevant information regarding the program search process and the application process and to develop the skills necessary for them to successfully reach their graduate school goals. The workshops included advice on the timeline for applications, preparing writing samples, when to take the GRE and other graduate school exams, when and how to ask for letters of recommendation and writing the dreaded personal statement. Other faculty members volunteered their time to assist Dr. Mackinem and Ms. Bagasra in reading drafts of personal statements in the November workshop. Initially conceived as workshops for students in the department, they were so well received that they ended up being attended regularly by juniors and seniors from all disciplines within the School of Humanities as well as students in the School of Business. The Graduate School Preparation Workshops will continue in the spring and will be directed at students in their junior year.

Augmenting the graduate school workshops in the spring will be the introduction of an informal GRE preparation program. The program responds to requests of students who participated in the fall workshops and the particularly low scores that even our better students have been making on the verbal section of the GRE. Ms. Bagasra will host a one-hour, once-a-week session in the GTK Writing Center, where students can come to learn GRE vocabulary, take practice vocabulary quizzes and GRE exams, and receive assistance in dealing with testing anxiety and building confidence in their ability to effectively approach the GRE. Students will develop skills on how to take the test, become familiar with the test format, and, most importantly, build their GRE vocabulary. These one-hour sessions are tentatively scheduled to start January 21 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in the GTK Writing Center and to continue every Wednesday at this time for the rest of the semester.

In November, Mr. David Eikerenkotter (Sociology) was named the School of Humanities and Social Science "Faculty of the Month" in recognition of his outstanding achievements in organizing the fourteenth annual Senior Citizens Awareness and Appreciation Day. More than three hundred local residents participated in this program. Also that month, Dr. Millicent Brown (History) hosted a symposium on Claflin's campus to introduce the "Somebody Had To Do It" project to the campus, the nearby academic community and lay community members. The symposium drew representatives from North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC), South Carolina State University (Orangeburg, SC), and Voorhees College (Denmark, SC). Columbia, Orangeburg, and Charleston residents present were recognized for their roles in the school de-segregation process in those cities. The forum was recorded for future viewing.

On the eve of the 2008 election, the department hosted its inaugural politics forum, which was planned and coordinated by Dr. Millicent Brown, Dr. Kema Irogbe, and Mr. Robert Nance. Students were given the opportunity to listen, ask questions, and discuss issues surrounding the Presidential campaign. Mr. Nance brought former State Senator Kay Patterson and former Congressman James Felder with him, and they offered their perspectives as well. Another politics forum, currently scheduled for February, will examine the lessons learned from the election. Departmental faculty were also called upon to bring their expert analysis on the historical events of the election; Dr. Brown served as a discussant on a program concerning election issues on the South Carolina State University radio network while I was fortunate to spend election night as a commentator on WIS-TV.



Department of Mass Communications

By **Dr. Cheryl Gooch**, Chair



Dr. Cheryl Gooch

Mass Communications Chair/Associate Professor Cheryl Renee Gooch has designed a new course, Multimedia News Writing and Reporting, to introduce all MCOM majors to media convergence, the production of multimedia news stories for online environments. Unanimously approved by the MCOM faculty and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences faculty, this course is the first step in the

Department's strategic plan to further integrate new/digital technology into the MCOM 200-, 300- and 400-level courses across all concentrations. Media convergence is a best practice in journalism education and the industry's expectation that today's media professional be skilled in producing news and information in multiple online and digital formats.

Dr. Gooch participated in the Poynter Institute's Multimedia Journalism for College Educators seminar February 9-12, 2009, in St. Petersburg, Florida. Dr. Gooch's paper "The Literary Mind of a Cornfield Journalist: Joel Chandler Harris' 1904 Negro Question Articles" has been accepted for presentation at the annual conference of the International Association of Literary Journalism Studies in May 2009.

Associate Professor Julian Williams has been named to the editorial board of American Journalism (the journal of the American Journalism Historians Association), serves on AJHA's board of directors, and attended the annual 2008 AJHA convention in Seattle, Washington. Dr. Williams has completed his manuscript "Shadow and Light: Photojournalist Cecil Williams 1956-1963" and submitted it for publication consideration.

Students enrolled in Professor Williams' Community Journalism course completed a two-part series of articles on domestic violence in the Orangeburg County area. They worked closely with Citizens Against Domestic Violence (CASA)

By **Michael Fairwell**, Senior Media Specialist

The Department of Mass Communications staff sets forth rigorous objectives to insure that students grasp all facets of the communications industry. As it pertains to facilities, the Department features a digital format, a 20-station computer lab and a 4-station AVID workstation with an AVID Unity Landshare unit. The Department of Mass Communications Computer Lab is operational between the hours of 10 am – 10 pm Monday – Thursday and 10 am – 4 pm on Friday. The lab is supervised by Senior Media Specialist Michael Fairwell and Production Specialist Ameen Hall. The Department's tele-

vision station (WCU-TV) and radio station (WCU-R) continue to provide practical, hands-on experience opportunities for students. WCU-TV is supervised by Ameen Hall; the station manager is Onyekachi Ogbra, and the program director is Erica-Nicole Gaines. WCU-R is supervised by Gary Dawkins, instructor; the station manager is LaToya Brown, and the program director is Patrick Bradley. The Clafin family is encouraged to tune in and support student programs. All programs air on channel 8. WCU-R airs every day.

during the semester, gathered research data, attended a workshop on domestic violence and interviewed abuse victims. Instructor Gary Dawkins wrote a proposal that was funded this past August by the South Carolina Broadcasters Association (SCBA). The funds are being used to award a scholarship in the name of the SCBA to a Clafin MCOM student concentrating in broadcasting, television or sound production. Mr. Dawkins conducted three Pro Tools workshops for students during the Fall 2008 semester. Pro Tools is the industry standard software for audio engineering, sound recording and audio for video applications.

Mr. Dawkins also produced, engineered, and mixed the CD entitled To: You, From: Free Verse, a Christmas recording released on October 1, 2008, by Superstar Entertainment, LLC. The group Free Verse includes several Clafinites, including current seniors Nykki Smalls (lead vocalist) and Quahn Marshall (keyboardist). The CD also features vocalists Damond Howard, asst. professor of art; Dr. LeKita Scott, director of development; Brandon Hicks, senior; and Bevis Gray (keyboardist) and Larry Sumpter (saxophonist), both alumni. Mass communications students who assisted in the promotional efforts of the CD release are Ashley Hickson, Sabrina Stewart, Onyekachi Ogbra, Erica Nicole Gaines and Jahrell Harrison. This CD was released worldwide and received national radio airplay from Baltimore, MD, to Phoenix, Arizona, and write-ups in the Times and Democrat and the Clafin University Panther.

Three mass communications students attended and covered the presidential inauguration in January. They are Rhonda Chandler, editor; Ja'Nel Johnson, assistant editor; and Desmond Moore, photographer.

Journalist-in-Residence/Advisor to The Panther Lee Harter and Dr. Cheryl Renee Gooch are designing a proposal to launch an online version of the Panther that will be available to Clafin alumni and a worldwide audience.

See MASS COMMUNICATIONS, page 10



Clafin University's Seventh Annual Pedagogy Conference

By Dr. Mitali Wong

Clafin University's Seventh Annual Pedagogy Conference in Language Arts Pedagogy in Post-secondary and Secondary Institutions was held on October 29-31, 2008 in Ministers' Hall. This year's theme was "Culture, Language, and Classroom Management". Several sessions addressed the subject of teaching in a country other than one's own. The importance of understanding culture as relevant to the teaching of the Sciences and Mathematics is this year's highlight. The two workshops by Dr. Gregory Phelps of Lindsey Wilson College, Columbia, Kentucky addressed the subject of classroom management as related to intercultural communication and intergenerational communication.

With the assistance of Dr. Miriam Chitiga, the workshops registered about 30 teachers from SC public schools, and about 30 college professors from SC institutions. With a number of students from Clafin and SC State, the conference had about 100 participants.

This was the largest turnout in seven years, and Clafin faculty who supported the event came from three schools.

Ms. Vivian Taylor, Teacher Support Specialist Manager, Visiting International Faculty Program from Gastonia, North Carolina wrote back as follows:

While attending, I spoke with the Visiting International Faculty attendees about the topics. They felt that the conference afforded them several opportunities and venues

for information and were especially impressed with the topic, "Negotiating the Turbulent Waters of the Classroom: Experiential Suggestions from Fellow Swimmers"... They expressed that they really would liked to have had a full day of the topic as it related so much to the issues with classroom management and how to effectively use communication skills and relationship building with students and parents. Please know that the wealth of knowledge gained will be used to better teach and make a difference in student success as well as build a bridge with our community through cross-cultural issues and language communication."

With the learning experiences from the 7th Annual Pedagogy Conference, Dr. Chitiga and Dr. Wong are planning a one-day symposium for K-20 partnerships in South Carolina.



Dr. Mitali Wong and Dr. Kamal Chowdhury with Conference participants

MASS COMMUNICATIONS -- continued from page 9

In mid-January, Production Specialist Ameen Hall held a workshop that emphasized the basic principles of television production. Twenty students attended the workshop to enhance their skills on the aesthetics of video, lighting, camera composition and movements. Additional workshops are scheduled for the spring 2009 semester to address AVID non-linear editing, advanced camera techniques and compression of video.

Mr. Hall and Mr. Fairwell afforded fifteen students the opportunity to visit the facilities of NBC affiliate WCBD-TV. Students toured the station, spoke with industry professionals and observed a live taping of the mid-day newscast. Malik Parler, chief photographer for channel 2, spoke to students about career opportunities in the television industry. Parler is a 2006 graduate of Clafin University.

The staff in the Department of Mass Communications continue to stay abreast of industry standards. Mr. Fairwell and Mr. Hall received certificates for mastery of coursework for the AVID Certified User program. The courses in the Media Composer Training program consisted of AVID 101,

Editing with Avid Media Composer; AVID 110, Introduction to Avid Media Composer; AVID 201, Advanced Techniques for Avid Media Composer; and AVID 239, Color Correction with Avid Media Composer. Mr. Fairwell and Mr. Hall are slated to take the ACU exam during the spring 2009 semester; upon their successful completion of this exam, their names will be included as AVID Certified users in a national database.

Mr. Fairwell attended the AVID Unity Media Network seminar sponsored by Clark Powell and Associates on January 12, 2009, in Charlotte, NC. The seminar featured sessions on media management and tapeless video workflow.

On January 20, Mr. Hall launched a community service program to initiate interest in media matters amongst youth. WCU-TV partnered with the Project Life Positeen program for the Movie City SC: Bringing Hollywood to SC program. The program aims to expose youth enrolled in the Project Life Positeen program, supervised by the president of Clafin University's International Alumni Association, Liz Zimmerman-Keitt, to the process of production for the purpose of producing a public service announcement.



The earns awards

By The *Panther* Advisor **Lee Harter**

The *Panther* earned awards from the S.C. Press Association for work in 2008.

Editor Rhonda Chandler and past editor Patrick Bradley were awarded a first place for design ideas and efforts involving displays in the Feb. 5 and Oct. 23 editions. The Specialty Page Layout and Design winners involved coverage of King Day at the Dome, which featured presidential candidates Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and John Edwards, and Panther Fest '08.

The judges wrote of the winning entry: "Excellent use of photo. The 'King Day at the Dome' was a real standout! Bobby Belton did a good job from the photo side." Winning a third place was *Panther* assistant editor Ja'Nel

Johnson for Best News Story. The Sept. 17 article "Solving a housing crunch" detailed how record student growth led to an early-semester problem with housing students and how Claxton solved the problem by leasing units in an apartment complex.

South Carolina State University's *The Collegian* also earned an SCPA award. Winning first place in the News Story category was Editor Dervedia Thomas for her story "Over 12 burglaries reported during Thanksgiving break."

The awards were presented during the SCPA's Collegiate Division meeting held at Clemson University on April 3. The *Panther* competes in the SCPA category that judges publications from institutions with fewer than 5,000 students.

By **Michael Fairwell**

An aspiring film director

In 2004, the South Carolina Legislature started a fund to promote the production of collaborative production and education efforts between institutions of higher learning in the state of South Carolina and motion picture-related entities. The goal of the project is to provide in-state film students and professionals with additional skills and practical experience to better equip them for the industry. For the 2008-09 period, the University of South Carolina Media Arts Department was granted funds to produce a film entitled *Civil*, and I worked in the Production Department of the project. Pre-production for the project began during the fall 2008 semester, and production took place during the week of February 23- March 1, 2009. This opportunity allowed me to further hone my skills in the film industry and interact with industry professionals from Hollywood, CA. The feature film *Civil* was shot in Columbia and Spartanburg, SC, with the company Wild Oaks Films, LLC, which is located in Hollywood, CA. In addition to the professional staff, students from the University of South Carolina and Trident Technical College worked on the production of the film.

Civil was shot using two Panavision 35mm cameras, and I was afforded the opportunity to work hand in hand with members of every department (Production, Camera, Grip, Electric, Sound, Art, Talent and Make-up). The plot of the film is centered on two primary characters and an ordeal; one of the characters wrestles with his conscience.



Mr. Michael Fairwell

On *Civil* I served in the role of the 2nd assistant director. My responsibilities included splitting tasks with the 1st and 2nd assistant directors, supervising base camp and completing the daily Exhibit G, Call Sheet and Daily Production Report. Additionally, I ensured that the production moved forward on time and on schedule. I also assisted with the management of the production assistants, coordinated background and performed various other catchall communication tasks.

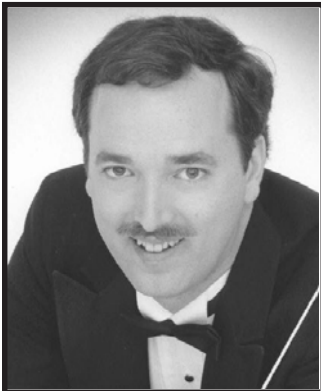
I worked with Hollywood professionals: Director Weston Middleton, who worked on the production staff of *She's Just Not That Into You*, and actor Keir O'Donnell, who appeared in *Wedding Crashers*. Also, Dan Kneece, the director of photography, has over twenty years of experience in the film industry and is known for his operation of the Steadicam. Kneece is credited with films and television programs such as *Bones*, *Without a Trace*, *Idlewild* and *Shallow Hall*, just to name a few.

Overall, this was a great opportunity for me. I want to emphasize that organization is essential to survive in the industry. The Production Fund is an excellent opportunity to train SC students, elevate skills, promote collaboration and create synergy among independent producers, schools, businesses and government. The fund aims to encourage private investment in South Carolina production facilities. *Civil* is now in the editing phase of production and is slated for completion in early summer. It will be shopped around to Sundance and other film festivals upon its completion.



Music Department

By **Dr. Richard House**, Interim Chair



Dr. Richard House

New Initiatives: The Dept. of Music is preparing for the site visit from NASM (National Association of Schools of Music) in Spring 2010 for reaccreditation. During the academic year 2008-09, the detailed self-study report is being drafted.

Faculty Accomplishments: Dr. Richard House, interim chair of the Department of Music and associate professor of music, performed the solo trumpet work *Enthusiasm*, composed by Dr. Allen Molineux, professor of music, at the College Music Society National Conference on September 26, 2008, in Atlanta, GA.

Ms. Stacey Holliday, instructor of piano, accompanied a violin recital with Melanie Pozdol in October 2008 at the USC School of Music Recital Hall. She was also an accompanist for several recitals at Claflin and opera scenes at Columbia College during the Fall 2008 semester. In December 2008, she was featured with the Columbia Choral Society as a vocal soloist for Bach's *Magnificat* at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Columbia, SC.

Mr. Drew Loeffler, adjunct instructor of music, performed in a jazz band concert on September 13, 2008, at Patriot Hall in Sumter, SC; other performers in that band included Skipp Pearson, Dick Goodwin, Fred Wesley (James Brown Band) and Jim Hall.

Ms. Krista Wilhelmsen, adjunct instructor of music, performed as a soloist with the Savannah Orchestra's Picnic in the Park pops concert this past fall.

Mr. Ryan Lewis, adjunct instructor of music and percussion, performed in a Faculty Recital at the USC School of Music on October 22, 2008. On November 6, 2008, he was a panelist at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, and he was a clinician at the North Carolina Music Educators Association Conference on November 9, 2008.

Outreach Efforts: Claflin's performing ensembles continue to perform on and off campus. In addition to the regular performance schedule of evening concerts, the Claflin Chamber Winds, Saxophone Quintet, and Jazz Combo performed at two high schools in Columbia, SC,

on October 20, 2008, and at two high schools in Augusta, GA, on October 21, 2008.

Claflin's music students are performing at Orangeburg-area nursing homes each semester as part of an effort to provide needed musical service to our community.

The Department of Music had a display booth at the South Carolina Music Educators' Conference from February 5 – 7, 2009. The booth is used for recruiting and networking with South Carolina's music teachers. (see attached photo).

The Department of Music's performance dates have been set for the remainder of the semester. (please see attached file for dates).

Music Department

Performance Calendar – Spring 2009

(as of February 18, 2009)

Choir, China Presentation –

Choir Saturday, January 31, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Concert –

Wind Ensemble Thursday, February 26, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Concert –

Chamber Ensembles Thursday, March 26, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Concert –

Choir, Conducting Students Thursday, April 2, 2009, 8:00 p.m.

Opera Production –

Lyric Opera Theater Monday, April 6, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

All the above events were held in WVM Auditorium

Recital –

Marissa DeBramaletta, tuba and Nathan Brown, euphonium

Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 7:30 p.m. – Ministers Hall

Senior Recitals –

Amanda Bailey, clarinet, and Charles Outen, trumpet

Monday, April 13, 2009, 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. – Ministers Hall

Concert – Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo

Tuesday, April 14, 2009, 7:30 p.m. – WVM Auditorium

Senior Recitals – Andre Lemon, piano, and Warren Cohen, tuba

Thursday, April 16, 2009, 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. – Ministers Hall

Concert –

Choir Monday and Tuesday – April 20/21, 2009 – 7:30 p.m. – Ministers Hall

Concert - Wind Ensemble

Thursday, April 23, 2009, 7:30 p.m. – WVM Auditorium



Fall 2008 Pre-Law Activities: Claflin Alumni are the Highlight!

By Dr. Gaynell Gavin



Dr. Gaynell Gavin

After a planning session in September, Claflin students who are interested in law school attended a Law School Preview Day at Charleston School of Law on Saturday, October 4, 2008. Administrators, faculty, alumni, and law students from Charleston, Charlotte Law, and the University of South Carolina provided information on:

- the importance of LSAT scores, GPAs, personal statements, letters of recommendation, LSAT and writing samples in the admissions process;
- financial aid, including the probable need for student loans;
- LSAT scoring, test preparation, and test-taking strategies;
- the law school experience from the perspectives of law school faculty, practicing attorneys, and current law students; and
- varied career opportunities in law.

The semester's pre-law highlight, however, occurred on Friday, November 21, 2008. Three Claflin alumni now in their second year of law school took time out from Homecoming festivities to present a panel, organized and chaired by Waverly Gordon, a law student at Duke University. Co-panelists were University of South Carolina law student Chyrra Greene and University of North Carolina law student Harriet Huell. As pre-law advisors, Dr. Chris Curtis and I joined Claflin students to hear panelists share their experiences of preparing for the LSAT, applying to law schools, choosing the right law school, surviving that first difficult year, and maintaining some balance in their lives.

Ms. Huell urged potential law students to prepare well for the LSAT "because you do not want to take that test twice. You want to be glad it's over and move on!" Ms. Gordon and Ms. Greene agreed emphatically. While one panelist took an LSAT preparation course, the other two did not, but all agreed that, with or without a prep course, disciplined study and practice test-taking are critical to success on the LSAT. Logic games can help too.

Although panelists emphasized the importance of the LSAT score and warned against overconfidence leading to lack of preparation, Ms. Gordon also warned against being so fearful that "you don't apply to law school just because you are disappointed in your score." She advised applying early to some middle-tier and less selective lower-tier schools along with highly selective top-tier schools to maximize the chance of being admitted "to the best law school you can get into." Regarding law school selection, all agreed there is some "trade-off" because going to a highly ranked law school may result in more student loan debt and less other financial aid, although the higher one's GPA and LSAT score, the less this observation applies. Nonetheless, they pointed out that it is rare to graduate from law school without incurring some student loan debt.

Ms. Greene advised that, once in law school, it is imperative to stay focused, especially during the first year "because if you fall behind you will just become completely overwhelmed." Her co-panelists concurred and pointed out that law school is far more competitive than undergraduate school. It is also more formal, although the degree of formality varies. For example, Duke and UNC do not require students to stand when called on in class, but USC does. Ms. Greene acknowledged that, although initially she found this requirement difficult, it has made her a better public speaker.

A question-and-answer period followed initial presentations from the panelists. Claflin students were so engaged that, although the panel was scheduled from 2:00–3:00 p.m., Ms. Gordon, Ms. Greene, and Ms. Huell generously answered questions for an additional hour. Despite conflicting meetings, Dr. Peggy Ratliff, dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, made it a point to attend a substantial portion of the panel for which she expressed great appreciation. Student Antoine Marshall described the panel as "very insightful" and added, "I am glad that these Claflinites gave back to their institution by educating us on how to gain acceptance and how to excel in law school." Dr. Curtis described the panel as "fantastic." I concur. Many thanks to these Claflin alumni for their gift to the university community.



AN AIM OF EDUCATION-continued from front page



Mandakini Hiremath

type of “social character” which is needed for its proper functioning. It forms men who ‘want’ to do what they ‘have’ to do.

The worker and employee are anxious because they not only might find themselves out of a job but also are unable to acquire any real satisfaction or interest in life. They live and die without ever having confronted the fundamental realities of

human existence as emotionally and intellectually productive, authentic and independent human beings.

Those higher up on the social ladder, highly competitive and insecure in some respects, are also more anxious and living emptier lives than their subordinates. To them promotion or falling behind is not a matter of salary so much as it is a matter of self-esteem. This constant need to ‘prove’ that one is as good as or better than one’s fellow-competitor creates constant anxiety and stress, the very causes of unhappiness and psychosomatic illness.

Pointing our rates of alcoholism, suicide, and divorce, as well as juvenile delinquency, gang rule, acts of violence, and indifference to life, Dr. Fromm calls them characteristic symptoms of our “pathology of normalcy.” Taking into consideration one’s probable argument that all these pathological phenomena exist because we haven’t yet reached our aim of being an affluent society, he asks, “Yet will we be happier then?” when we eventually produce a materially affluent society. He notes that Sweden, one of the most prosperous, democratic, and peaceful European

countries has one of the highest alcoholism and suicide rates in Europe despite all of its material security. “Could it be that our dream that material welfare per se leads to happiness is just a pipe dream?” asks Fromm. Certainly the humanist thinkers of the 18th and 19th centuries, who are our ideological ancestors, thought that the goal of life was the full unfolding of a person’s potentialities; what mattered to them was the person who ‘is’ much, not the one who ‘has’ much or ‘uses’ much. For them economic production was a means to the unfolding of a man, not an end. It seems that today the means have become ends, that “God is dead,” as Nietzsche said in the 19th century, but man is also dead; that it is the organizations, the machines, that are alive; and that man has become their slave rather than serving as their master.

Moreover, Sri Sathyasai Baba has often emphasized that the purpose of education is to instill virtues and character in every individual. “Education is for life, not for mere living. There are cores of people who are not educated in this country and who are still living a good life. Education should enable you to be an ideal example. Education should enable you to distinguish between right and wrong. It should promote humility in you and enable you to serve your parents and your country selflessly.” He says education must instill the fundamental human values; it must broaden the vision to include the welfare of the entire world. Education must equip man to live happily without making others unhappy, to evaluate everything correctly and without prejudice. Education should combine worldly and spiritual knowledge. Education cannot be confined to stuffing the head. It has to melt the heart as well.

Congratulations to our graduates



As we bid goodbye to our graduates, we wish them best of luck in their future endeavors and join with President Henry N. Tisdale in urging them not to leave home without the “Clafin Confidence.” Remember who you are, where you are coming from, and walk tall in every walk of your life. Clafin University is your home, so do come home as often as you can.

Goodbye for now. Have a safe, relaxing, and productive summer. See you soon.

The World Needs Visionaries



Remembering Dr. Syed K. M. Hassan

I first met Dr. Syed Hassan when he was employed at Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina. During the summer months he served as an adjunct professor. He was very knowledgeable and related to students well. Therefore, when a teaching position became available in the English Department, we did not hesitate to recommend him for employment.

During his tenure at Claflin, he was involved in a number of different scholarly activities. One project that he participated in was the Brown Bag Colloquium where faculty and students discussed an issue closely associated with composition, literature, or a foreign language.

I remember Dr. Hassan often coming to my office with suggestions that we collaborate on writing a book or some other writing project together. We would often agree to meet to get started on a writing project. However, there never seemed to be the time to get started. A lesson I have learned since his untimely death is that tomorrow is not promised to anyone. Do what you have to do today.

We will surely miss him; however, his gentle spirit in the pursuit of excellence will remain with us.

By **Dean Peggy S. Ratliff**

* * * * *

Besides poetry, Syed Hassan loved history. He loved to teach it, and drew lessons from it. For him, poetry, history, and other texts were a part of life. His life influenced his writing, and writing (his own and that of others) influenced his life. He viewed his own writings in the light of future generations. He wanted to write so that after his passing his thoughts would remain with others. Syed often told students that there is only one race, the human race. He said it was difficult to be human, that he was trying to learn to be a human being. He sought to understand others and valued their friendship: "We do not love what we do not understand / And we understand so little of what we love" (*Inner Edge* 34).

By **Dr. D. Gene Pace**

* * * * *

Syed Khwaja Moinul Hassan possessed a vast knowledge of English, Urdu, and Bangla language poetry. He was not only acquainted with poets as varied as Yeats and Allama Iqbal, he enjoyed an intimacy with their work that few obtain. His own poetry, rife with emotional outbursts and self-righteous indignation at the injustices and oppression riddling the world, captured the attention of readers from South Carolina to Dhaka, and points in between. It traversed the swift waters of the Ganges, the olive groves of Palestine, and the silent revolutions that grow restless in the hearts of would-be revolutionaries. This, my friends, is the characteristic of a true poet, and Syed Khawaja Moinul Hassan can be placed upon the shelves as one of them.

By **Anisah Bagasra**

My friend Syed Hassan was so modest that many of you may not know that his intellect was of the highest mettle, that he had graduated at the top his class, that he was a leading activist at Purdue who spoke eloquently for the downtrodden, that he is considered among the leading poets of Bangladesh who write in English. And one can see why! In "Whole Man on Fire", he wrote: "Anything that lives must be love/and anything that loves must live in pain/for what is laughter without tears and tears without the joy of suffering."

The Moinul that I have known for over 35 years since my days as a freshman at Dhaka University was the gentlest of persons and he was blessed with a smile that was as contagious as it was innocent. Beneath this façade was the passion that pervaded his life and indeed everything that he did or touched, including his relationships. He loved his family, he loved his friends, he loved his students, and he loved his colleagues with an intensity that only

a few have the capacity for. Indeed, he loved and felt for humanity for he often told me that he was a citizen of the world.

In a sense, he always felt he would go early. In "Final Sleep" he wrote, "There was a time, I could dream myself to sleep/And in my sleep would dream again/of dreams, gliding like clouds/.../ Bewildering in a variety of ways / It is sleep that prepares us for the final sleep".

This premonition was apparent in my last conversation with him a week before his death. And even in his final act on this earth-he asked forgiveness from his mother and asked to be taken to his wife and daughters -he retained this passion.

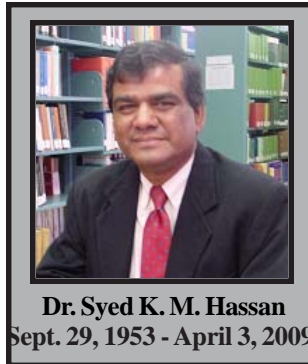
I miss you my friend - "I feel warmth around me like your presence is so near-" Rest in peace.

By **Dr. Zia Hasan**

* * * * *

I first met Dr. Hassan at a social event when he had just joined Allen University. I addressed him in Bengali as "brother", and over almost fourteen years, he became one of my closest friends. He was very close to my entire family. This summer, I had hoped to complete the book that he and I had begun writing together before he became seriously ill in 2008. During his illness, he often spoke of "passing into oblivion". A deeply religious man, his faith remained unshaken even as he suffered serious illnesses and setbacks. His birthday was on the same date as that of my first child. I do not think that in future years I will be able to celebrate my daughter's birthday without thinking of my departed friend and brother. May his soul rest in peace.

By **Dr. Mitali Wong**



Dr. Syed K. M. Hassan
Sept. 29, 1953 - April 3, 2009

Saying goodbye to a colleague

By Mandakini Hiremath

Clafin University had an Open House on Saturday, April 04, 2009. I volunteered to keep the Writing Center open. The day was passing by normally, as expected, and according to schedule until I learned from Dr. Zia Hasan, vice president for planning and assessment, about the passing of Dr. Syed Hassan. While staying in the care of his mother and brothers in New York, Dr. Syed Hassan died on Friday, April 3.

Dr. Hassan was a loving family man, renowned professor, cordial colleague and, above all, a very gentle, respectful soul. He resided in Columbia with his wife and three daughters. In the spring of 2007, he and his wife, who worked that semester as an adjunct at our university in the Department of English and Foreign Languages, commuted to the campus each day. Everything seemed to be going so well for the couple, and they seemed extremely happy, always walking around together with a smile and a greeting for everyone. However, in February 2008, Dr. Hassan suffered a cerebral hemorrhage while coming to work. He was admitted to TRMC by colleagues and then moved to Columbia. He remained under doctors' treatment.

The last time I saw Dr. Hassan was on the day he attended the Faculty Institute on Friday, Aug. 15, 2008. During the interval between the meetings, as I ran into him, I greeted him, saying, "How are you, Dr. Hassan? It's good to see you." Dr. Hassan seemed unwilling to talk about his health. A modest person, he did not like being fussed over.

Since the day's schedule was tight, we had to rush from one meeting to the next and then to the workshop. Not seeing him during the next two or three days at work, I asked my colleagues about his well-being and learned that he had to undergo a few more medical tests. Dr. Syed Hassan, a 55-year-old professor, had lost part of his memory when he suffered that fateful stroke. And everything, every aspect of his life, changed so rapidly and drastically for him. As a result, it seemed as though he lost his desire to live.

That one episode of illness exemplifies how life can change instantaneously. And no one is either immune or invincible.

Dr. Syed Hassan joined the Department of English and Foreign Languages at Clafin University in August 2000 as an associate professor of English. He had a master's degree in English literature and European history from the University of Dhaka. He received his Ph.D. in 1994 from Purdue University. Dr. Hassan wrote his dissertation on the poetry of William Butler Yeats.

Dr. Hassan's other publications are as follows: *Rubaiyats*, *Random Thoughts*, *Between Barbed Wires*, *Inner Edge*, and *Ashes and Sparks*. Provincial Books and the Writers Workshop Publications published his works. Dr. Hassan has

been recognized as a poet in the *Encyclopedia of Post-Colonial Literatures in English*, published by Routledge.

"Hassan is," writes Professor Leon A. Gottfried, chair of the English Department at Purdue University, "a potent poetic voice in the expanding network of East-West literary connections." The content of his poems, *Pakistan of Partition*, the *Portraits of Mussolini*, *Imperial Dragons*, and *Splintering of National Liberation*, though politically motivated, are not confined to one region or era. "His poems fluctuate impressively," writes Dr. Timothy A. Brennan, professor of English at Purdue University, "from scream to whimper without losing their intensity." Life hurts, but not every pain is painful; this human paradox is explored throughout his volumes. Under British rule, India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh were one country. In 1947, Pakistan bifurcated from India, and then, in 1971, Bangladesh separated from Pakistan. Dr. Hassan writes in his poem "Pakistan": My heart bled and I could not see / By raising walls how a people could be free / From Khyber to Teknaf the land is one / But you insisted on dividing the sun / Now the East is totally cut from the West / Like a cancerous lump from the mother's breast."

Though away from his motherland, Dr. Hassan still served his country as U. S. correspondent for *Holiday* (one of the leading English-language weeklies in Bangladesh).

I featured Dr. Hassan in The School of Humanities and Social Sciences Newsletter, April/May 2002 edition. Knowing how deeply he loved his mother, I had asked him to write a poem for his mother. He wrote: "Dear Mother: Madly in love and forever blessing / On the heavens of undying grace, wrapped in / Tenderness and with a radiance comforting like the setting sun / Here all that is human has a rendezvous with sublime / Embellished with secrets not yet revealed. / Replica of the angels on earth called 'Mom'."

Now what saddens me the most is that his 75-year-old dear mother has to bury her beloved firstborn. However, being as kind-hearted as Dr. Hassan was, he wouldn't want us to be sad. Reminding us that life hurts, but not every pain is painful, he would quote Thomas Browne: "Sleep is a death; oh, make me try / By sleeping what is to die / And gently lay my head / On my grave as now my bed."

We, the members of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, especially the Department of English and Foreign Languages, say goodbye to Dr. Syed Hassan, and we thank the Heavenly Father for sharing this good man with us. He will be missed.

May Dr. Syed Hassan's soul rest in peace. And may the God Almighty bless his family.