



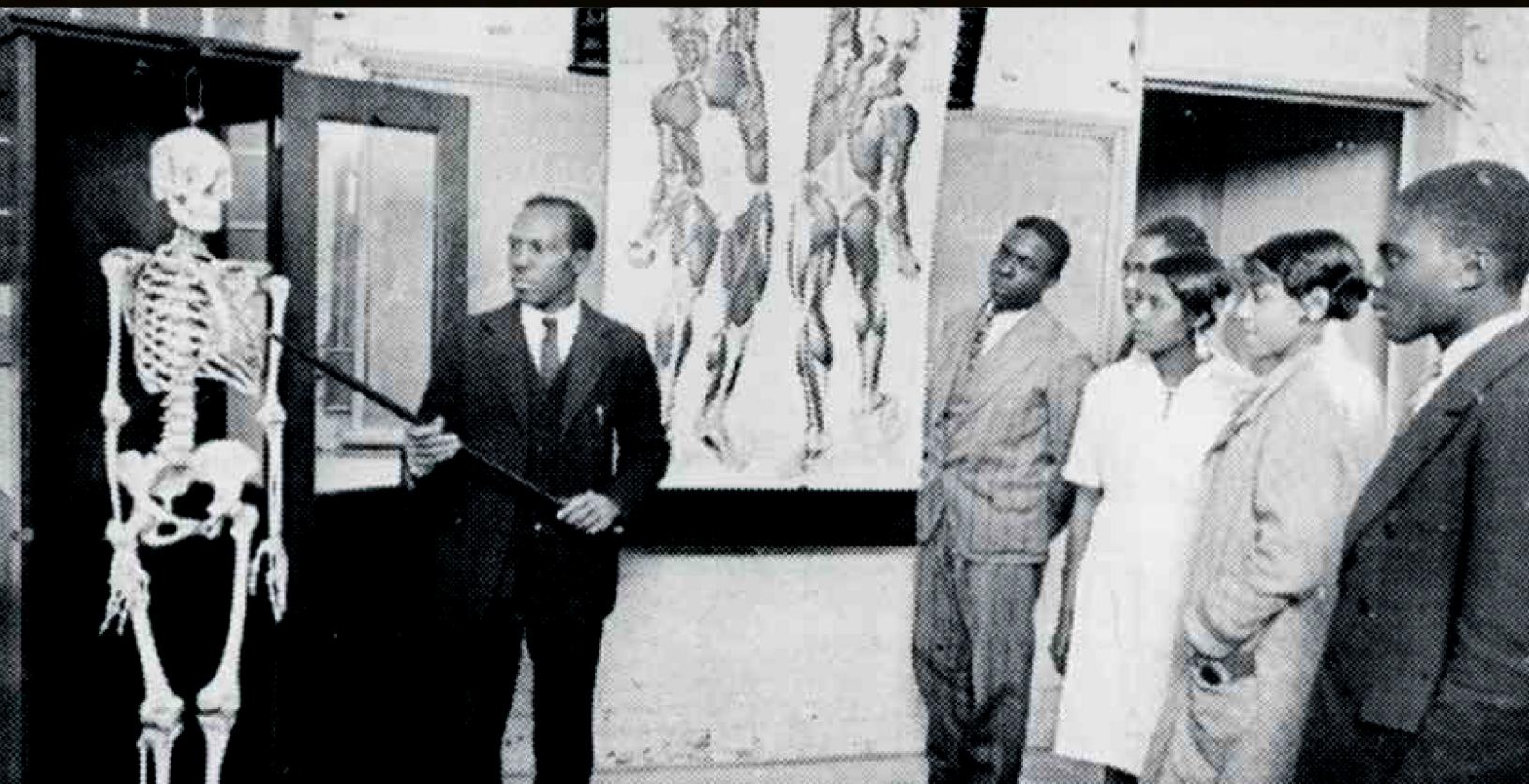
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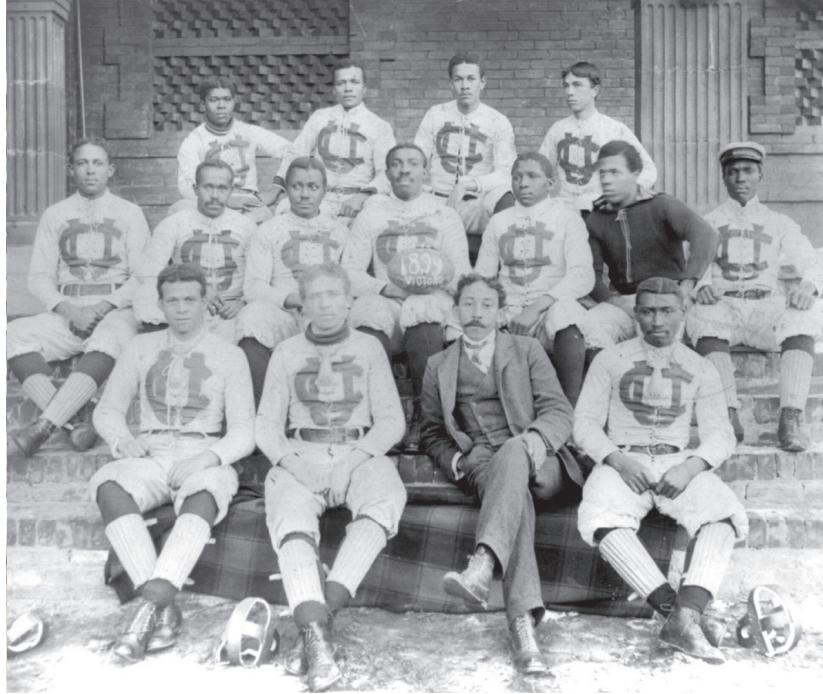


Claflin University

Founded 1869

A Brief Historical Reference







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VISION STATEMENT

Claflin University will be recognized as a leading 21st Century institution of higher education that develops a diverse and inclusive community of globally engaged visionary leaders.

MISSION STATEMENT

Claflin University is a comprehensive institution of higher education affiliated with the United Methodist Church. A historically black University founded in 1869, Claflin is committed to providing students with access to exemplary educational opportunities in its undergraduate, graduate and continuing education programs. Claflin is dedicated to providing a student-centered, liberal arts education grounded in cutting-edge research, experiential learning, state-of-the art technology, community service, and life-long personal and professional fulfillment.

Claflin is a diverse and inclusive community of students, faculty, staff and administrators who work to cultivate practical wisdom, judgment, knowledge, skills and character needed for globally engaged citizenship and effective leadership.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

At the center of everything we do is a system of values informing and guiding all policies and programs. These values, expressed through our decisions and actions, are defined by five over-arching guiding principles:

- **Commitment to Excellence:** We will strive for excellence through creativity, innovation and efficiency that allow for optimization of resources.
- **Commitment to Valuing People:** We will value people by providing a safe, wholesome and healthy environment that fosters mutual respect, diversity, and inclusion.
- **Commitment to Being Student Centered:** We will focus on all aspects of student life including student-centered education by embedding skills and praxis that foster life-long learning and independent problem solving and also translate their needs and expectations into actions that embody exceptional service.
- **Commitment to Exemplary Educational Programs:** We will provide exemplary educational programs and an effective learning community by ensuring that they represent the highest standards of academic excellence and by continuous quality improvement.
- **Commitment to Fiscal Accountability:** We will commit to financial accountability by promoting and fostering a culture of compliance, integrity, and fiscal responsibility throughout the University.

Quick Facts

- Claflin University is the oldest historically black college or university in South Carolina.
 - The origin of Claflin University may be traced to the founding of the Baker Biblical Institute in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1866.
 - Boston philanthropist Lee Claflin and his son, Massachusetts Governor William Claflin, provided initial financing for purchasing the Orangeburg Female Institute, where the University is now located.
 - Dr. Alonzo Webster and the Rev. T. Willard Lewis played prominent roles in securing the site of the institution.
 - Claflin University was chartered on December 18, 1869.
 - The Baker Biblical Institute was moved to Orangeburg in 1870 and merged with Claflin University.
 - The first class in the Normal Department of Claflin University graduated in 1879. The College Department granted its first diplomas in 1882 to William Lewis Bulkley and Nathaniel Middleton.
 - South Carolina State University emerged from Claflin University.
-

Presidents of Claflin University

Dr. Alonzo Webster (1869-1874)

Dr. Edward Cooke (1874-1884)

Dr. Lewis M. Dunton (1884-1922)

Dr. Joseph B. Randolph (1922-1945) – First African-American president

Dr. John J. Seabrook (1945-1955) – First alumni president

Dr. Hubert V. Manning (1956-1984)

Dr. Oscar A. Rogers (1984-1994)

Dr. Henry N. Tisdale (1994-)

The Claflin University motto, as decided by the Reverends Alonzo Webster and T. Willard Lewis, is:

***“As you would like that men should do to you,
do you also to them likewise.”***

- University mascot: The Panther
- University colors: Orange and Maroon



The World Needs Visionaries

The World Needs Visionaries

The Claflin Story

Claflin University, founded in 1869, was named in honor of Lee Claflin, a prominent Methodist layman of Boston, and his son William Claflin, the governor of Massachusetts. Ardent abolitionists, these men harbored a great concern for higher education and the uplift of African-Americans.

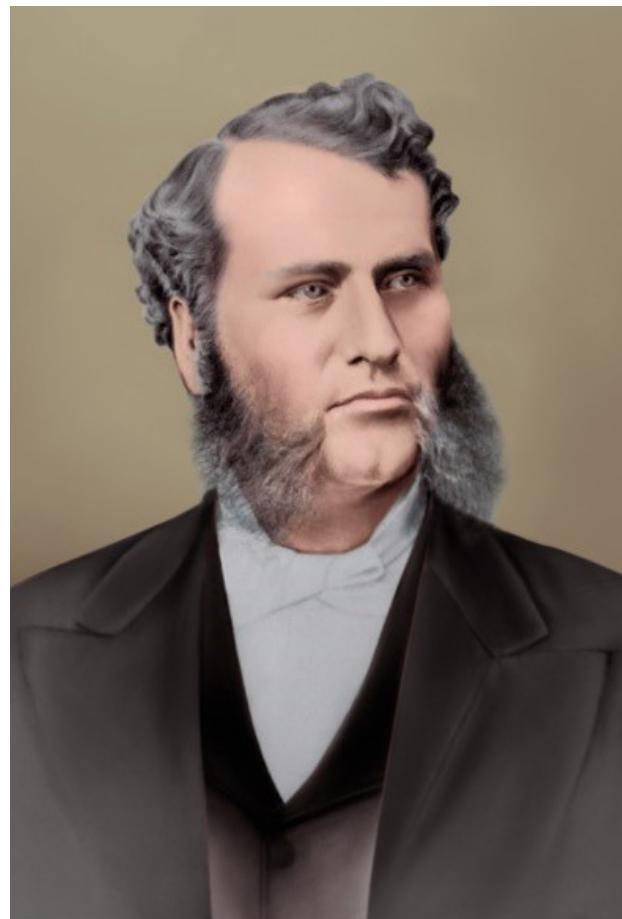
Just one year earlier in July 1868, the Rev. Timothy Willard Lewis, the first missionary sent by the Methodist Church to the emancipated people of South Carolina, and Dr. Alonzo Webster, a prominent Methodist minister and teacher at the Baker Theological Institute in Charleston, South Carolina, had acquired the property of the old Orangeburg Female Institute for \$5,000. With the substantial financial support of Lee and William Claflin, Lewis and Webster secured the foundation of what would become Claflin University.

In the following months, a Board of Trustees was named, a charter was secured in December 1869, and Claflin University was opened with the promise to “make Claflin University, by the blessing of God and the aid of our friends, worthy of the patronage of all classes and an honor to the state.”

Claflin’s founders made a commitment, which they stated in the charter, “to the effectual promotion of virtue, piety and learning.” With “the only admission requirements for prospective students being the possession of good moral character and a conscientious desire to learn,” Claflin University offered, for the first time in South Carolina, quality higher education for men and women “regardless of race, complexion, or religious opinion.”

Launching of a University

Dr. Alonzo Webster, D.D., was appointed Claflin University’s first president at the inaugural meeting of the Board of Trustees on January 31, 1870. In that year, Claflin was successful in the incorporation of the Baker Theological Institute into the University. In his devout commitment to and belief in the Methodist mission, Dr. Webster welcomed the opportunity to lead the University. He possessed the enthusiasm and vision that were imperative to securing the successful future of the institution. An outstanding leader, Dr. Webster not only served as Claflin’s president, but also as a member of the Board of Trustees, professor of systematic theology and moral and mental philosophy, and chief fundraiser. In his efforts to raise funds for the institution, Dr. Webster traveled the state extensively, speaking on the virtues of Claflin and the contributions of the institution to the state and to the world. One of Dr. Webster’s most ambitious



Dr. Alonzo Webster D.D.

plans for Claflin involved the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862. This act legislated the donation of public land to states and other territories to be sold, with the invested interest from the proceeds used to fund agricultural and mechanical colleges. In an effort to strengthen Claflin’s financial base, Dr. Webster was instrumental in establishing an agricultural and mechanical college at Claflin University on March 12, 1872, to assure state funding for the institution.

Agricultural and Mechanical Institute

Under Section 2 of the Morrill Land Grant Act, Claflin University was given “supervision and control” of a consolidated board consisting of Claflin University and the South Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical Institute. Dr. Webster maintained joint presidency of both Claflin University and the agricultural college. Although he remained steadfast in his pursuit of state funding for Claflin University, the government was not responsive to Webster’s requests, and the University was soon left without the support of the state government. Dr. Webster tirelessly solicited support for the University, seeking help from one of Claflin’s earliest benefactors, William Claflin, and eventually assumed responsibility for the debt himself.

Although Dr. Webster’s term lasted only five years – he resigned as president of Claflin University on June 5, 1874 – his greatest contributions to the institution are his efforts

for political and financial support, and the pride and determination he possessed and instilled in the students of the University. Dr. Webster served Claflin as a member of the Board of Trustees until 1886. He died in 1887 at the age of 70.

Following Dr. Webster's resignation, the Board of Trustees appointed the Rev. Edward Cooke, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Wesleyan University, Harvard University and McKendree College, as his successor.

Sustaining Claflin University

As Dr. Webster's successor, President Edward Cooke took over the huge responsibility of shaping an institution that was barely four years old. In 1874, Claflin had ownership of its campus as well as 116 acres of adjoining land that Dr.

Webster had purchased as an experimental farm for the Agricultural and Mechanical Institute. With more than 300 students, Claflin University saw a steady increase in enrollment from the elementary to the college levels. Despite financial challenges, Claflin was growing as an institution and gaining a reputation for its curriculum under the direction of President Cooke. Following in the tradition of Dr. Webster, Claflin's new leader continued the struggle for the political and financial support that the institution desperately needed.



Edward Cooke

The Fire of 1876

The year 1876 brought tragedy to the campus. On January 15, 1876, a fire destroyed the University's Main Building. The fire of 1876, coupled with the realization that the Agricultural and Mechanical School was operating at a deficit, added to the mounting fiscal challenges of the institution. In 1877, President Cooke found that contributions to the institution from Southern supporters were inadequate to meet the University's growing needs. That same year, President Cooke appointed Rev. Lewis Marion Dunton to resolve the fiscal problems of the University through fundraising. Rev. Dunton proved to be an adept fundraiser, and his efforts played an instrumental role in changing the climate of opinion in the South in regard to Claflin University.

By 1878, a new Main Building was constructed for the campus. Along with rebuilding the campus, President Cooke introduced a significant number of academic innovations. The University experienced enrollment of

students from across the state, an increase in faculty and curriculum, the introduction of extracurricular activities and the installation of a replacement library, which at one point held more than 1,200 volumes.



Bricklaying of Claflin Building

As Claflin moved into the 10th year of its commitment to the educational uplift, the institution continued to receive guidance from its founders and earliest supporters. Under President Cooke's administration, Claflin progressed with respect to the acquisition of equipment and facilities, and in 1879 bestowed its first honorary degrees. One of the recipients was the Rev. Dunton, who was honored with a Master of Arts degree.

President Cooke's tenure proved very productive, as the institution continued to prosper. The Board proposed the addition of a school of law and a school of medicine. The chair of the law school was former South Carolina Supreme Court Justice Jonathan Jasper Wright.

Claflin's First Four-Year Degrees

Another much celebrated occasion came in 1882, when the Board of Trustees approved the recommendation that two students, Nathaniel Middleton and William Bulkley, receive bachelor's degrees. Middleton and Bulkley became the first students to complete the four-year college course offered by the University. After their graduation, Middleton earned an M.D. degree and became a prominent physician in Texas, while Bulkley went on to receive a Ph.D. degree – only the third African-American in the country to do so.

Along with major fiscal accomplishments, several buildings were erected during the 1880s, including Haygood Polytechnic Hall, men's and women's dormitories, the Claflin Retail Store, the Matthew Simpson Industrial Home for Girls, the Slater Building and the Main Building.

In 1884, after 12 years of service to Claflin, President Cooke retired at the age of 70. Accepting his resignation, the Board elected, almost unanimously, Rev. Dunton as the third president of Claflin University.

President Dunton was a popular and widely applauded choice, as his dedication and commitment to Claflin had already been thoroughly demonstrated. Born in New York in 1848, Rev. Dunton was educated at Cazenovia and Talley Seminaries and Syracuse University.

As a member of the South Carolina Conference and pastor of Centenary Church in Charleston, South Carolina, Rev. Dunton took interest in Claflin University and knew many of its supporters and board members. As a special agent for Claflin, President Dunton traveled to the North and proved to be an outstanding fundraiser for the University. In 1879, Rev. Dunton, as secretary of the Board of Trustees, became one of the first recipients of an honorary degree from Claflin. With his wife, Mary Dunton, who immediately assumed duties as preceptress and faculty member in the Art Department, resident Dunton was poised to carry out the mission of the University.



Rev. Lewis Marion Dunton

Despite discernible hostility in the social climate, the number of graduates of Claflin's college and normal courses continued to increase, and students were encouraged to become professionals, especially doctors, lawyers, influential leaders and prominent role models. President Dunton, who understood the needs of students pursuing an education, maintained a delicate balance of sensitivity to the outside world and ambition for his institution amid the sensitive social and political climate of the time.

In 1896, the political activity that had for years threatened the alliance between Claflin University and the State Agricultural and Mechanical Institute (now South Carolina State University) finally gained sufficient support in the South Carolina General Assembly. By an act approved on March 9, 1896, the two institutions were permanently separated. In a show of support for Claflin, the General Conference officially undertook the same separation. President Dunton once again demonstrated his leadership and commitment to Claflin. Facing the challenge of his career, he began to plan a new strategy for the physical, financial and academic reconstruction of Claflin University. As a result of the efforts of President Dunton and the Board of Trustees, Claflin adjusted to the changes of the previous year and moved into a new one that saw the construction of the Lee Library, which housed nearly 5,000 books, and substantial donations.



Main Hall, Claflin College 1899

In 1899, tragedy struck the Claflin campus again when the Main Building was destroyed by fire. President Dunton, the consummate fundraiser, coupled this skill with his staunch reputation and raised \$38,000 to secure new and substantial buildings. In the next 16 years of his presidency, and with the full support of Claflin's trustees and sizable donations from wealthy supporters, the institution expanded with the erection of the T. Willard Lewis Chapel (1907), Tingley Memorial Hall (1908), Mary E. Dunton Hall (1907), the Slater Building (1900), Wilson Dormitory for Girls (1913), the Louise Soules Home for Girls (1904) and a new Manual Training Building (1900). A proud monument to Claflin's growth and progress, the Fisk Building, was tragically destroyed by fire on Jan. 9, 1913.

Claflin Improves and Expands

Consistent with President Dunton's philosophy to "Train the mind to think, the hand to execute and the soul to feel," expansion of Claflin became one of his first priorities, along with an expanded curriculum. As a result of expansion beyond the curriculum, Claflin's musical scholars became known nationally. Tours and recitals by the Claflin Singers, who traveled the country, proved profitable for the institution.

In 1888, with the help of longtime supporter William Claflin, the trustees endorsed the president's plans to expand the physical plant, adding several new buildings to the campus. These buildings, erected on newly available land, made it possible for Claflin to offer additional training in the areas of industry and trade.

The School of Military Tactics

Included among the many additions to the institution were the School of Military Tactics, which was organized for the promotion of good order, strict obedience, physical development, manly carriage and neatness in appearance; a printing press, which produced the institution's first publication, *The Claflin Miscellany*; and the organization of a YMCA.

Thirty-Eight Years of Service

Lewis Marion Dunton's tenure as president lasted 38 years, while his overall service to the institution totaled 47 years. Through his various fundraising activities and commitment to the fiscal and physical expansion of Claflin, President Dunton fulfilled his aims and ambitions. To secure Claflin's financial future, President Dunton launched efforts toward an endowment that he hoped would reach \$500,000. At the end of his administration, the endowment fund stood at more than \$400,000, with the physical plant valued at more than \$225,000.

President Dunton and his wife devoted more than half of their lives to Claflin University. Their generosity and dedication made a profound impact on the University and the surrounding world. Prior to his resignation, the Board of Trustees, with the approval of the president, selected Dr. Joseph Benjamin Randolph as Claflin's fourth president and first African-American president.

Culture and Liberal Arts Take Root

Joseph Benjamin Randolph, a former president of Sam Houston College in Austin, Texas, possessed strong academic qualifications and was well-respected for his accomplishments in African-American educational institutions. An attractive choice for president, Dr. Randolph's work was part of a growing trend that arose in the 1920s to elevate and support black history, cultural pride, and identification at black colleges and universities.

With the vision of turning Claflin into a liberal arts institution with strong cultural and classical affiliations, President Randolph prepared to move Claflin into a new and productive era.

Under his administration, Claflin's reputation soon changed. The institution was no longer known for its large and comprehensive Manual Training Department. With emphasis on high scholastic standards, the faculty and curriculum were substantially upgraded, and the number of courses in the Manual Training Department were reduced. As the standards of the institution conformed to the requirements of the Southern Educational Association, catalogues under Randolph began stating requirements for a student to graduate with a degree.

Dr. Randolph's determination for Claflin to attain higher academic standards resulted in an increase in the institution's enrollment. The student body numbered



Dr. Joseph B. Randolph

600 in 1928, double the number of students in 1923. The confidence with which President Randolph set about implementing his academic, extracurricular and cultural programs demonstrated his optimism for Claflin's advancement.

Dr. Randolph hoped Claflin would gain prominence as a liberal arts institution, and that increased enrollment would serve as a catalyst for financial stability. At the time, Claflin was supported financially by the Methodist Conference, the Board of Education for Negroes (formerly the Freedman's Aid Society), and large and small donations from supporters of the institution. The Board of Trustees offered some financial relief by tapping the endowment, and Dr. Dunton again assumed the task of fundraiser. However, President Randolph knew that there was only so much that they could do to meet the growing challenge.



Printing with presses at Claflin University

Although the Methodist Conference increased its financial support, the University was still threatened with closure as the institution and its leaders faced the worst depression the United States – and the rest of the world – had known. The seriousness of Claflin's financial plight during the 1930s did not dampen the institution's sense of pride, nor did it stall those academic improvements that could be undertaken without regard to resources or facilities. The dedication of the Claflin faculty and staff never faltered. The catalogues continuously announced educational innovation.

Many Innovative Improvements

The many innovative improvements inspired by President Randolph included an update of the aims of the college, the initiation of Freshman Week at the beginning of each academic term and the installation of a vocational guidance program through which visitors were invited onto the campus to talk to students about career opportunities. By the time the United States had committed to World War II, President Randolph had already given Claflin 21 years of service. The war effort gave a boost to the economy, but it reduced Claflin's enrollment by as much as 35 percent. Despite the reduction in enrollment and economic instability, Dr. Randolph managed to keep the institution afloat.

In 1945, as Dr. Randolph prepared to retire, the future of Claflin remained foremost on his mind. Having offered his heartfelt advice on the selection of his successor and the future of the institution, Dr. Randolph requested that, in light of his failing health, the Board accept his resignation.

Although his tenure saw no expansion of the physical plant and minimal improvements in equipment and facilities, Dr. Randolph's great success came in his ability to preserve Claflin and protect it from closure during one of the roughest times in the history of Claflin University and the United States.

Achieving Accreditation and Approval

John Jarvis Seabrook was selected by the Board of Trustees in August of 1945 as the fifth president of Claflin University. The Board was proud to be able to select a graduate of Claflin as its next leader. A well-respected educator and a Methodist minister, Dr. Seabrook was an example of Claflin's success in educating individuals who went on to launch outstanding careers and make significant contributions to society.

Dr. Seabrook went from Claflin – where he attended both high school and college – to Howard University Law School, where, in 1926, he received an LL.B. degree. The following year, he enrolled at Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta and simultaneously studied at Clark University. In 1930, he was awarded an A.B. degree from Clark and a B.D. degree from Gammon. Before coming to Claflin, Dr. Seabrook served as director of social services and later as president at Sam Houston College. He also served as professor of philosophy and director of the Christian Center at Morgan State College.

Upon returning to Claflin, Dr. Seabrook immediately understood the direction in which he wanted to take Claflin. It was his task to put Claflin on track financially and to upgrade the institution's academic standards. President Seabrook sought to win the approval and acceptance of the various educational associations whose accreditations were necessary to achieve funding and academic credibility.

Dr. Seabrook realized the urgency to ensure the success and stability of Claflin's future. Although encouraged by the fundraising efforts and optimism of Dr. Dunton, Dr. Seabrook, a realist, was well aware of the social and economic climate in which he and Claflin's students lived. Assistance to the institution was forthcoming, but in



Dr. John Jarvis Seabrook

the postwar era of self-initiatives and modern affluence, Claflin was expected to pull its own weight. For African-Americans who were still denied equal rights, the struggle for financial independence continued to be arduous. At this time, the Civil Rights Movement spearheaded political and social initiatives for African-Americans demanding to share the benefits of an era of prosperity. Dr. Seabrook, much in fashion with the rising Civil Rights Movement, assumed a proud and spirited posture. He envisioned a "bigger and better Claflin" that would include a broader curriculum, and a larger faculty with greater qualifications. Bringing a new enthusiasm to the institution, Dr. Seabrook began realizing his vision for his alma mater.

Dr. Seabrook convinced the South Carolina Conference to increase its annual giving to the University from \$10,000 to \$50,000, making this the largest single conference contribution to a historic institution supported by the Freedman's Aid Society. Only one year after assuming office, President Seabrook began expanding and improving the physical plant.

The Alumni Athletic Field was added to the University. The T. Willard Lewis Chapel was modernized, and the dining hall was converted into a cafeteria to increase its seating capacity. In 1947, the college infirmary, Pearson's Music Studio and the Davage Heating Plant also became impressive additions to the physical plant.

Academic Improvements

While the physical plant was being upgraded, Dr. Seabrook also devoted his efforts to academic improvements. In 1947, President Seabrook announced that the Committee of Approval of Negro Schools of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools had awarded Claflin University an "A" rating, and that the University had been approved by the South Carolina Department of Education for teacher training, by the Veterans Administration for veterans benefits and by the University Senate of the Methodist Church.

Fundraising activities continued as Claflin students, alumni and friends rallied for expansion of the University. As part of Dr. Seabrook's plan for academic expansion, the first summer school session was held in 1947. The following year, Claflin was approved for membership in the Association of American Colleges. By 1949, the academic program was finalized with four divisions: Economics, Humanities, Social Studies, and Science and Mathematics.

Disaster Strikes

On February 6, 1955, disaster struck the campus once more when the Mary E. Dunton Dormitory was virtually destroyed. President Seabrook, as saddened as the rest of the Claflin family, reported the disaster to the community and to those concerned for the institution. At the beginning of the 1955 academic year, Dr. Seabrook announced his

cceptance of the presidency of Houston-Tillotson College and resigned his position at Claflin after 10 years of service. The Board of Trustees named an interim committee to oversee the institution while a search for a new president was launched.

The year 1955 was historic for Claflin University. It was the first year in the institution's 86-year history that there was no president. During this time, the institution's financial problems seemed beyond resolution, and the fire in Mary E. Dunton Hall left the campus with only one dormitory. Outside of the campus, the social climate became even more tense than before. Members of Orangeburg's black community began to organize against social injustice. Many students became actively involved in this struggle, which embroiled the campus in social and political conflict.

The Interim Committee

With surmounting adversities facing the institution, five members of the faculty and staff were selected to jointly make decisions concerning Claflin. They were Hampton D. Smith, the group's chairman and acting chairman of the Division of Science and Mathematics; P. Palmer Worthy, acting chairman of the Division of Social Studies; J. Milton Shuler, registrar and acting chairman of the Division of Humanities; Robert Smart, bursar; and Leonard L. Haynes, dean of instruction.

While the interim committee carried out the duties of managing the institution, the members of the Board of Trustees formed their own committee to review and assess Claflin as an educational institution. Titled "A Study of the Future of Claflin College," this report listed three major aims of the institution: to elect a new president, erect a new dormitory and chart an academic course with the objective that Claflin become a "unique institution of quality, in both students and faculty." The reorganization of Claflin signified a sense of energy and purpose and a unified approach, which were also characteristics of the interim committee.

Building a Modern Campus

Implementation of the plan for Claflin eventually resulted in significant alterations to the institution and the campus. In 1956, Dr. Hubert V. Manning was chosen as the sixth president of Claflin. A graduate of and former instructor at Claflin, Dr. Manning was poised to lead the institution into a new era of academic and physical expansion. A strong advocate of combining religion and academics, Dr. Manning, at 38, was young enough to possess the energy and enthusiasm necessary to lead Claflin. After only a few months in office, Dr. Manning announced the initiation of the "New Program," which aimed to improve all aspects of campus life. He also announced that construction would begin on the much-needed dormitory to replace the one that had been lost to fire.



Dr. Herbert V. Manning

The tone that characterized Dr. Manning's approach and determination to improve Claflin academically was subsequently reflected in the initiation of numerous programs and projects during his administration. Though the core of his mission remained scholastic and philosophical growth, substantial growth to the physical plant also resulted from his endeavors.

In 1961, Dr. Manning was instrumental in establishing re-accreditation for the University with the Southern Association of Colleges and Institutions. Pressing the association to re-examine the second-class status imposed on black colleges, Dr. Manning and other black college presidents worked diligently to ensure that historically black institutions would be allowed full membership.

Students Join Civil Rights Movement

In 1960, Claflin students became a distinct component of the Civil Rights Movement. On February 25, students at Claflin were involved in a sit-in to desegregate the lunch counter at Kress, a store in downtown Orangeburg. A picket line was planned for two days later, but the city enacted an ordinance prohibiting the demonstration. In reaction, students from Claflin and South Carolina State Agricultural and Mechanical College entered the Kress store. As elsewhere in the South, they were met with resistance, armed police, water hoses, tear gas, beatings and arrests. Claflin students remained dignified, determined and convinced that they were justified and would succeed.

The civil rights struggle precipitated positive action by the U.S. government. The passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the Educational Improvement Act of 1963 helped expand and improve higher education, especially at black colleges and universities. As a result of these initiatives, Claflin was awarded \$48,300 from the National Education Improvement Act to upgrade the knowledge and skills of secondary school science teachers. As the struggle continued, Claflin began to participate in programs offered by the government under the 1965 Higher Education Act, particularly Title III, which provided aid to developing institutions.

By 1966, Claflin's enrollment exceeded 700. The institution needed to add and replace facilities, including the library. With the substantial funding received from the federal government, the construction of the H.V. Manning Library began in Dr. Manning's 10th year at Claflin.

Full Membership at Last

President Manning considered obtaining full membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools his greatest accomplishment. The faculty had been upgraded, with all holding graduate degrees and 13 percent holding doctorates.

Claflin continued to receive grants from the National Science Foundation and Upward Bound, and a campaign to secure 40,000 books for the library was under way. To expand the physical plant, Dr. Manning also planned for the completion of three additional buildings by the centennial. With the direction of its capable leader, Claflin was reaching new heights, growing academically, physically and culturally.

A Cultural Resurgence

Claflin's cultural pride surged through music, dance, drama and art. Prominent speakers and entertainers were frequent guests on campus. A historic honor was bestowed upon the University when the Claflin University Collegiate Choir was invited to perform at the 1965 World's Fair in New York. Claflin's eighth president, Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, was a choir member at this performance.

As the Manning administration entered its second decade, it continued to face the challenge of securing funding to modernize and expand the physical plant. However, many of the problems that had plagued Claflin from its inception were being overcome. A sense of wellbeing prevailed when, in 1969, Claflin University observed its 100th birthday. The centennial homecoming celebration took place in November, with festivities and entertainment planned by the board, faculty, staff and students.

During the first 20 years of the Manning administration, new buildings were constructed at a rate of one every two years. The library was completed in 1967 and named for Dr. Manning. The Fine Arts Center, named in honor of Whittaker V. Middleton, was completed in 1968. The High Rise Dormitory for male students was constructed in 1970, and the James S. Thomas Science Center was built in 1973. Dunwalton, the residence of the president, was constructed in 1971, and in 1980, Claflin opened the doors to the Jonas T. Kennedy Health and Physical Education Center, named in honor of one of Claflin's most generous benefactors during the Manning era and subsequent years. While Claflin's campus was being transformed through the periodic erection of imposing new buildings, its curriculum, faculty and students were improving. All were affected by events of the civil rights era, and Claflin, during the 1960s, was caught up in social and political circumstances that influenced and sometimes caused changes.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Visit

In February 1965, the leader of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., visited Claflin. Dr. King and

Claflin were aware that groups representing white interests in Orangeburg continued to hold sway in some areas. Dr. King's message promoted the peaceful pursuit of human rights and the maintenance of human dignity.



Claflin students became a distinct component of the Civil Rights Movement

Three years later, on February 8, 1968, while protesting against the continued segregation of the local bowling alley, three South Carolina State College students were killed, and 27 people – six of them from Claflin – were wounded when law enforcement officers opened fire on students on the campus of South Carolina State College.

Controversy still surrounds this tragedy, and an accurate account of events will probably never be given. However, aside from the deaths and injuries, one fact remains – this was the first time in the history of this country that law enforcement officers fired on and killed students on a college campus.

Two months later, Dr. King was assassinated, producing a time of bereavement and confusion. Dr. Manning and other members of his administration guided students with their newfound sentiments throughout this period. Claflin students, like students everywhere else, pondered the stream of violence that ran through the country, and began to find their own answers and express their own thoughts by acknowledging their African-American heritage and adopting an attitude of Black pride.

Throughout the 1970s, Claflin was affected by the economic and social changes brought about first by the Civil Rights Movement and then by the federal government's programs aimed at solving some of the social, financial and economic problems that black institutions of higher education faced.

Claflin's Unique Role

Dr. Manning and his administration worked diligently to enable the institution's curriculum and policies to meet the challenges inherent in the times. They were actively and constantly reassessing the role of Claflin as a small private college. Dr. Manning firmly articulated his belief that Claflin continued to meet the special needs of African-American students, and that individual attention and encouragement would remain a part of Claflin's cultural and historical role in higher education.

Encouraged to do their best by a president who remained accessible and innovative, students at Claflin actively participated in educational programs and student activities. Beliefs, feelings and sentiments found expression in art and music, always strong features on the Claflin campus. Each succeeding year of Dr. Manning's administration saw him add to his skills as an administrator and leader. In 1971, Boston University named him Alumnus of the Year, and in 1976 his prominence in higher education was again recognized when he became president of the South Carolina Association of Colleges and Universities as well as president of the Council of Presidents of United Methodist Black Colleges.

President Manning's achievements as an educator significantly enhanced Claflin's reputation. His involvement in the academic activities of the institution, beginning with the accreditation of Claflin and the launching of programs and projects to improve and expand the institution's faculty and curriculum, remained constant until the end of his administration. By then, he had given Claflin 28 years of devoted service.

Two Major Events

During the last five years of Dr. Manning's administration, two major events occurred that were historical for the institution. In 1979, Claflin was officially changed from a university to a college, and in 1983, Tingley Hall was recognized by the National Register of Historic Landmarks. This sought-after recognition entitled Claflin to federal funds to aid in the restoration of one of the campus's most beautiful and impressive buildings.

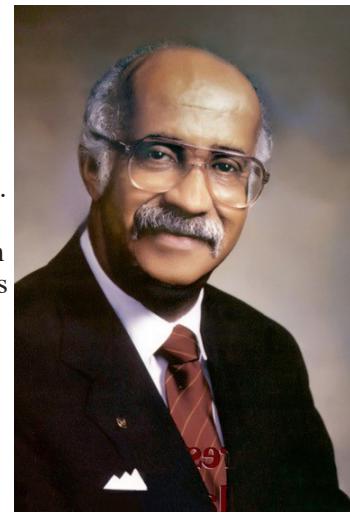
Dr. Manning retired at the end of the 1984 academic year. He had worked diligently throughout his term to place Claflin in a more positive financial and economic situation, and to strengthen the institution by improving its academic reputation and securing funds to upgrade a deteriorating physical plant. May 4, 1984, was declared "Dr. H.V. Manning Day" by Orangeburg Mayor E.O. Pendarvis. This was the town's tribute to the president for "building up

an admirable educational institution" and for "furthering educational opportunities for area youth."

A Man for the Season

Claflin's seventh president, Dr. Oscar Allen Rogers, Jr., came from Jackson State University. Serving as the dean of the graduate school, Dr. Rogers was asked to become Claflin College's president because of his outstanding academic credentials, his achievements in higher education – which spanned 30 years – and his religious qualifications and experience.

Earning the A.B. degree from Tougaloo College, Dr. Rogers then went on to become a student at Harvard Divinity School in 1953, where he received an S.T.B. degree in church history and practical theory. He then pursued graduate studies in social science education, earning an M.A.T. degree from Harvard Graduate School of Education. Dr. Rogers earned an Ed.D. from the University of Arkansas in 1960.



Dr. Oscar Allen Rogers, Jr.

When Dr. Rogers took office in July 1984, he proclaimed his vision and described the first part of his plan. He had two main priorities – he would institute better faculty salaries and create a stronger financial base. He told the Claflin family and the Orangeburg community that fundraising would be his primary function, and that he would be "cultivating the market place" to attract funds and students.

During Founders' Day of his first year in office, Dr. Rogers was inaugurated as Claflin's seventh president and presented his four-year plan for Claflin. Highlights included a fundraising campaign the following spring to reduce the institution's accumulated deficit and capital indebtedness, the renovation of buildings on which maintenance had been deferred, optimal enrollment of 800 students and training for staff in various areas.

Art Collection Established

While fundraising, faculty salaries and enrollment were his primary concerns, Dr. Rogers did not overlook Claflin's cultural legacy. In November of his first year, he established an art collection for the college with the assistance of two prominent artists and Claflin graduates. Arthur Rose, formerly professor of art and head of Claflin's Art Department, and Dr. Leo Twiggs, head of the Art Department at South Carolina State University, were to head the project to acquire works of art from other alumni artists. In December, after the original collection was compiled, an alumni exhibition featured the donated works.

Dr. Rogers involved the entire Claflin family in his first fundraising efforts – a phone-a-thon with the objective of raising \$60,000. Alumni and supporters across the country were telephoned and asked to pledge to help the institution reach its goals. Although the phone-a-thon exceeded its goals by \$7,000, Dr. Rogers had even more ambitious plans.

Dr. Rogers turned his attention to fundraising efforts that would secure a U.S. Department of Education Title III challenge grant. Soliciting the help of alumni, faculty, staff and the Orangeburg community, the institution was able to raise the \$150,000 necessary to match the grant.

Renovations and expansion of Claflin's physical plant were carried out under Dr. Rogers' administration. As had been planned, Wilson Hall was demolished, the construction of a temporary women's dorm was under way, and the Seabrook Gymnasium was converted into student center. Renovations also took place on the High-Rise Dormitory and on the Lee Building, where major interior work restored the beauty while retaining the structure's architectural integrity.

At the beginning of 1986, Dr. Rogers, who had closely monitored the institution's implementation of his plan, was able to assess the institution's financial standing and report on its progress. He reported that Claflin's endowment, enhanced by \$350,000 from the challenge grant, now stood at \$1,356,000 – the largest in the history of the institution.

Throughout the Rogers administration, Claflin's alumni increased their membership as well as their contributions to the alumni organization. They became significant supporters of the institution in many respects, and between 1986 and the end of the Rogers era, alumni contributed almost \$2 million to Claflin. Through the rest of the 1980s, Claflin reported one success story after another in fundraising, student growth, and additional projects and programs on campus as the result of grants and awards from government, private corporations and foundations. A major initiative during that time was the capital campaign, which was officially launched in April 1986. The \$3.5 million campaign was titled "Fulfilling a Special Need," and funds were used for campus beautification, with a substantial share earmarked for the endowment.

In 1987, a major policy change within the South Carolina Conference increased Claflin's share of funding through the Conference from 19 to 22 percent. In addition, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, which governs higher education funding for institutions related to

The United Methodist Church, recommended that funding levels be increased annually by 5 percent, beginning in 1989.

Grace T. Kennedy Business and Communications Building

A significant addition to the campus under the Rogers administration was the \$1.7 million Grace Thomas Kennedy Building. Named for the mother of Jonas T. Kennedy, an alumnus and a dedicated Claflin supporter, the building houses the Department of Business Administration and the Department of English and Foreign Languages. This attractive state-of-the-art facility became symbolic of the spirit of cooperation that existed under the Rogers administration.

New Organizations

Several new organizations were formed during Dr. Rogers' term. The president announced the formation of the Distinguished Board of Visitors, comprised of 48 professionals whose purpose was to provide ongoing assistance to Claflin. The Board of Visitors met twice annually to offer advice to the college in addition to expertise from a variety of professional areas.

At the end of 1989, Dr. Rogers was once again able to announce a success for Claflin, as this year marked the end of a three-year capital campaign raising an astonishing

\$3,688,000. These funds, matched with a Title III grant, were earmarked for campus renovations to include all four residence halls, property acquisitions and the endowment fund. The institution also conducted a second campaign, which raised a total of \$6.1 million.

The Claflin 2000 Study

With a broader and more secure financial base, the development of the physical facilities for the future became the focus of a 1990 study titled "Claflin 2000." This study provided a vision for physical development that, over 10 years, could become a reality. More importantly, it signified the confidence that Claflin had in its longevity as an institution of higher education. In 1992, President Rogers announced his plans to retire, effective June 30, 1994. Claflin's seventh president was credited with rescuing the college from financial hardship while still managing to upgrade facilities.

As the end of his tenure drew near, President Rogers could say – with every justification – that Claflin was on a sound financial basis. He had worked exceptionally hard, and his list of accomplishments reflects his success. The Board's search for the institution's next leader was for someone

who would help Claflin demonstrate its capabilities, enhance its confidence, encourage its students to strive for even greater academic achievements, encourage even more students to enroll in its programs and lead it into the 21st century.

Search for a President

After a yearlong search, the Board announced that Henry N. Tisdale, a 1965 graduate of Claflin, had been chosen as the college's eighth president. A popular candidate with the faculty, students and staff, Dr. Tisdale was also the front-runner with the trustees. In its announcement, the Board stated, "He has an excellent academic record and a proven track record of dedication in the area of higher education, and that's what we're looking for." President Tisdale officially took office on June 1, 1994. With the advantage of knowing Claflin quite well, he understood the backgrounds and environments of many of his students, having been born and reared in Kingstree, South Carolina.

A Vision for the 21st Century

Dr. Tisdale graduated from Claflin magna cum laude in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics. He began his graduate work at Temple University, where he received a Master of Education degree in mathematics. Concurrently, Dr. Tisdale taught mathematics from 1965 to 1969 in the Philadelphia school system before accepting a position to teach mathematics at Delaware State University. He obtained a Master of Arts degree in mathematics in 1975 from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, where he also served as a graduate teaching assistant. In 1978, Dr. Tisdale became the first African-American to graduate from Dartmouth College with a Ph.D. in mathematics.

Returning to Delaware State University, Dr. Tisdale rose through the ranks, serving as professor of mathematics; assistant academic dean for administration, planning and information management; and vice president for academic affairs. The Claflin Board's comments on his academic credentials were well-justified. Combining his mathematical expertise, administrative knowledge and aptitude for teaching, Dr. Tisdale had established and implemented numerous programs at Delaware State University and had demonstrated his expertise in strategic planning, institutional advancement and facilities enhancement.

In 1985, Dr Tisdale was selected as an American Council on Education Fellow in the Center for Leadership

Development in Washington, D.C. He served a one-year internship under University of Delaware President Dr. E.A. Trabant.

The newly elected Claflin president announced that he had "many plans for the college." He predicted Claflin College "will enter the 21st century with an eye to becoming a premier liberal arts institution," and that the Christian tradition and individual attention to students that the institution was known for would remain a part of Claflin. President Tisdale found it important to "create a sound fiscal system at the college, a dynamic strategic planning process, a link between the budget and planning process, an enrollment plan, and an academic plan for excellence."



Dr. Henry N. Tisdale

Four months after his arrival, Dr. Tisdale announced the establishment of the Center for Excellence in Science and Mathematics. With funding from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy, totaling nearly \$2 million, the president identified three areas of concentration: strengthening academic programs in science, engineering and mathematics; renovating the James S. Thomas Science Center; and upgrading the Summer Science Camp for middle-school students.

The Centers for Excellence

In addition to strengthening Claflin's academic programs, Dr. Tisdale's Center for Excellence in Science and Mathematics has as its primary goal a significant increase in the number of minorities receiving bachelor's degrees in science, engineering and mathematics, thus incorporating a strategy to reverse the decline in the number of minorities who enter graduate and professional schools in these disciplines.

In 1994, the honors program was restructured by the president and Mrs. Alice Carson Tisdale and renamed the Claflin Honors College. With higher entry standards, the Honors College, which is now known as the Alice Carson Tisdale Honors College, has as its goal to "respond to the national need for undergraduate colleges to prepare students to (1) enter and be successful in graduate and professional schools, and (2) assume leadership roles in their profession and society at large through a program that includes rigorous and coherent learning experiences, intense academic advising, cultural enrichment activities, community service experience, and other activities designed to develop the academic and leadership potential of Honors College students." Under the direction of Mrs. Tisdale, measures were taken to enhance the honors students' experience on every level.

President Tisdale's priorities for Claflin not only included the institution's academic achievement and financial growth, but also its presentation of and appreciation for arts and cultural programs. Dr. Tisdale led the college toward a new cultural awareness and at the same time rekindled pride in the talents and artistic traditions that held prominence during Claflin's history.

125th Homecoming

In 1995, President Tisdale presided over the homecoming celebrations, which culminated a yearlong series of events and activities in commemoration of Claflin's 125th anniversary. Homecoming weekend had among its highlights the inaugural Presidential Scholarship Gala, which raised more than \$65,000 for Presidential Scholarships.

Committed to the vision of making Claflin a premier liberal arts college, Dr. Tisdale implemented several programs. The College's state-of-the-art television production studio, which allows students in mass communications hands-on experiences in production, became involved in producing local shows through a collaboration with Time Warner Cable as well as the college's system.

The award-winning Freshman College was established in 1996 to ease the transition into college life, and the Professional and Continuing Studies Center, which offers two degree completion

programs, became a reality in 1997 after years of planning. Also, in 1997, the college's Academic Plan for Excellence – APEX – was implemented as a means to review all aspects of the academic program, and the Claflin College Leadership Development Center was established in order to spread leadership instruction throughout the curriculum and offer a minor in leadership studies.

Enhanced Facilities

An ambitious effort began in 1995 to improve and enhance the facilities throughout the campus. In 1996, a survey was completed that became a road map for the improvements that are so obvious on the campus today.

In addition to the restoration of several of the campus buildings, Asbury, Dunton and Corson residence halls for women were air-conditioned, and the HVAC system in High Rise residence hall was replaced. In 1995, the University developed its first fully functional bookstore, and in 1996, the Orange and Maroon Club became a first-class faculty and staff dining room.

One of the crown jewels of the facilities effort was the completion in 1998 of the three-building Living and Learning Center. Named for Peter and Eleanor Kleist,

the chief benefactors, this complex includes a four-story residence hall configured in suites with computer laboratories and study rooms, a leadership development center and a campus center. The center not only changed the face of Claflin, but also had a profoundly positive effect on the Orangeburg skyline.

With assistance provided by a grant from the National Park Service, historic Ministers' Hall underwent major restoration and now serves as a performing arts facility. In 1999, the interior of the building was named the Ernest A. Finney, Jr., Auditorium, in honor of former South Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Ernest A. Finney.

To complement the beauty of the Living and Learning Center, give better access to the campus and create a more appealing campus appearance, a new entrance was also completed. This had a tremendous impact on the city and won the statewide Outstanding Downtown Revitalization Award. In 2000, three new well-lighted and landscaped parking lots were developed. Also, a new and inviting Goff Street entrance was added.

President Tisdale and Claflin took another proud step along its "Journey to Excellence" with the official kickoff of the most ambitious capital campaign in Claflin's history. In October 1997, the College announced the five-year, \$20 million campaign. The Peter

and Eleanor A. Kleist Foundation made a \$1 million gift to Claflin in support of the campaign, specifically the Living and Learning Center. Claflin also received a \$1 million challenge grant from the Bush Foundation, a \$1 million challenge grant from the Lilly Endowment, a \$1 million gift from an anonymous donor, and gifts of \$50,000 and \$250,000 from Dr. and Mrs. James (Dorothy) Elmore.

With astounding support, the \$20 million goal was surpassed in three years and reached more than \$30 million in 2002. The campaign's theme, "Every Rung Goes Higher, Higher," captured the core of the president's vision of making Claflin one of the premier liberal arts colleges in the Southeast.

In 1999, President Tisdale and the Claflin College Board of Trustees again made history by adopting a resolution to restore the institution to its original historic name, Claflin University. According to Dr. Tisdale, the action was simply part of a strategic effort to ensure continuity and preservation of the institution's unique legacy. Also in 1999, the Arthur E. Rose Museum was established in honor of this distinguished graduate and professor.

In 2003, the University held the ribbon cutting for the Russell Street Campus, opened the Visitors Center, restored Tingley Memorial Hall and the Lee Library (home of the Arthur Rose Museum), and renovated the H.V. Manning Library. In 2004, with growing enrollment, the University constructed the \$15 million Student Residential Center comprised of four residential facilities and the new University Dining Center for students and faculty. The new \$2 million Music Center was constructed to house the nationally accredited music program in 2004. In 2005, Claflin broke ground for the new \$3 million chapel. The University earned the prestigious S.C. Preservation Honors Award for the restoration of Ministers' Hall, Tingley Memorial Hall and the Lee Library. In 2005, Claflin University launched its second graduate program – a Master of Science in Biotechnology. The operating budget stood at \$45 million, up from \$11 million in 1994.

In 2006, the University did a complete makeover of the Mary E. Dunton Residential Hall for women and began the construction of a new chapel to replace the T. Willard Lewis Chapel, which had been demolished in 1968 to make room the W. Vernon Middleton Fine Arts Center. In early 2007, the newly built chapel was consecrated and named the James and Dorothy Z. Elmore Chapel in honor of the husband and wife whose \$250,000 challenge grant inspired more than 2,000 supporters to contribute to the \$3 million building. A permanent marker was erected at the site of the old chapel.

In 2010, Claflin opened its Molecular Science Research Center, which features state-of-the-art equipment. The Center is home to the only Bruker BioSpin 700 Megahertz Ultrashield Plus in the state's higher education system. The Ultrashield Plus can completely breakdown the structural outline of any compound. In addition to the equipment, the 14,000 square foot Center has smart classrooms, multiple laboratories, faculty offices, study rooms and an atrium. A forensics lab is also housed there, in collaboration with the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety.

In fall 2013, Claflin held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new Student Health Center. The University renovated one of its existing buildings, Millwood A, into the Student Health Center after the center had to be relocated to make way for the new student housing complex, Claflin Commons, near Claflin's Goff Avenue entrance.



Ministers' Hall

Claflin Commons, a state-of-the-art 64,000 square foot upperclassmen residence hall that features a men's and women's wing with two- and four-bedroom suites and many amenities, was completed in fall 2014.

Well-Deserved Rankings and Recognition

Dr. Tisdale's contributions to Claflin's rising reputation were confirmed when it was announced that he was the recipient of the 2007 Milliken Medal of Quality in recognition of his demonstrated leadership, innovation, outstanding achievement and vision. This was another first for Claflin's eighth president. No other leader of a higher education institution in South Carolina had ever won this prestigious award. Dr. Tisdale was also recognized by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education with the 2008 CASE District III Chief Executive Leadership Award.

Claflin University's School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, in partnership with the University of South

Carolina, opened the Molecular Virology Laboratory on Claflin's campus. The School also graduated its first class in Master of Science in Biotechnology and awarded its first Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering. The School of Education graduated its first class in Master of Education in educational studies. The Center for Professional and Continuing Studies launched a degree

program at Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia, South Carolina, and at Fort Jackson.

In advancing its mission of community outreach, Claflin University, in partnership with the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety, established a forensic laboratory at DPS headquarters on Middleton Street.

By 2008, the student enrollment of 1994 had almost doubled, and the average freshman graduated with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students who enrolled came from 26 states and 15 countries, and the pool of applicants was more than 3,000. It was also noted that the campus had doubled in size, undergoing some \$50 million in renovations and classroom and office improvements, including the addition of major new buildings. And that the student-faculty ratio was 12-to-1 with 74 percent of faculty holding terminal degrees in their fields. That same

year, senior philosophy and religion major Aundreta Connor was named a Fulbright Scholar, thus bringing another first to Claflin. Her achievement was shortly followed by another first, when Claflin was ranked the top HBCU in the country by Forbes.com and listed in the top 4 percent of all colleges and universities in the country.

In November 2009, Claflin hosted its first Nobel Laureate Dr. Luc Montagnier. In April 2010, the University hosted Nobel Laureate Dr. Martin Chalfie. During that time, the University celebrated its 140th anniversary with theme “140 Years of Access and Success” by hosting a series of events for alumni and the community. The state-of-the-art Molecular Science Research Center was opened in April 2010 to further the institution’s vision of being a leader in STEM research areas. The University gained national recognition through three segments from Fox News Channel, which aired in 2011, chronicling the work of Dr. Tisdale, the legacy of iconic photographer Cecil Williams ('60) and highlighting the institution’s stellar academic offerings. On June 30, 2011, Claflin publicly announced the launch of its historic \$96.4 million capital campaign, reporting that \$57 million toward that goal had already been obtained.

The 2011-2012 academic year continued its successful momentum when assistant professor of biology Dr. Nicholas Panasik received the Faculty Career Development Program grant from

the National Science Foundation, an award that placed him among the nation’s top junior faculty. Then, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Claflin in the top tier of national liberal arts institutions, elevating the University from its previous categorization as a regional liberal arts institution. Most importantly, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaffirmed Claflin’s accreditation without any recommendations for improvement in January 2012.

Others continued to recognize the visionary leadership of Dr. Tisdale. He was appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley to the executive committee of her transition team and was inducted as a member of the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame.

Historic Travel, Status and Sports

The Claflin University Concert Choir also made history in 2008. Forty members of the choir and a sizeable support team traveled to China to take part in a choral tribute

to the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. The men’s basketball added to Claflin’s global reputation when they participated in the inaugural Trinidad and Tobago Hoops Classic. While there, the Panthers with staff from Enrollment Management and First Lady Alice Tisdale actively recruited prospective students.

In September 2008, history was made again when it was announced that Claflin had been granted NCAA Division II status. The University had successfully completed a process that had spanned four years. The men’s basketball team completed a 25-3 inaugural NCAA season, capturing the SIAC regular season crown and Coach Ron Woodard was named SIAC Coach of the Year. Ranked #10 nationally among NCAA Division II teams, the Panthers also competed in their first NCAA tournament and made it to the semifinal round.

The 2008 Matriculation Day Convocation for the fall semester was the occasion for unveiling the University’s new tagline, “The World Needs Visionaries.” The

brand platform and positioning statement supporting the tagline was also presented to students, faculty and staff at the convocation. “Claflin University develops men and women of vision who demonstrate extraordinary achievement, distinctive confidence and a lifelong desire to transform society through selfless leadership and service,” the statement says. The following brand promises

were unveiled, as well: Claflin requires excellence in academics, teaching, research and creative expression; Claflin empowers its students with confidence, character and pride; Claflin cultivates connections in a supportive learning environment characterized by close-knit relationships and individual attention; Claflin instills a lifelong responsibility to make positive and lasting contributions through visionary leadership and selfless service; and Claflin prepares students to compete and succeed in a global and technological society.

In 2009, Claflin celebrated Dr. Tisdale’s 15th anniversary as the institution’s leader. It was also an occasion for the University’s president to announce his vision for Claflin’s role in the 21st century: “My vision is that Claflin will be recognized as one of the premier teaching and research universities in the world that effectively prepares visionary leaders with a global perspective. We want a diverse population of outstanding students who are committed to



Claflin University Concert Choir

that they can make in the world. We envision a world-class faculty that can inspire students and contribute to scholarship in their disciplines, make a difference with the students that they send into the world and with the vital research that they and our students carry out."

The University established the Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009 for past Claflin student athletes who were exemplary in their respective sport.

On the volleyball court, the Lady Panthers were SIAC Eastern Division Champions for back-to-back seasons in 2010 and 2011. Junior Kathrin Fischer also led the NCAA in serving ace percentage in 2011. LaQuan Priest and Tanekka Brown continued the theme of 2011 being a banner year for Claflin athletics by becoming the institution's first NCAA Division II All Americans in track and field. And the Claflin cheerleading squad took home the SIAC crown for best team in competition that year as well. In 2012, the baseball team won its first ever SIAC Eastern Division Championship by sweeping rival Benedict College in the closing games of the regular season.

During the 2013-14 academic year, the Claflin University volleyball team finished first in the East Division of the SIAC and runner-ups in the SIAC post-season tournament. The Lady Panthers garnered four post-season awards, including head coach Vernell Keitt-Capers being named the SIAC Coach of the Year. Men's track and field hurdler Dennis Bain ran a 7.80 in the 60-meter hurdles, which was the fastest time among NCAA Division II competitors. He was also named the 2014 NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field South Region Male Track Athlete of the Year. The Claflin University 2014 softball team had a historic season under head coach Matisse Lee. The Lady Panthers captured the East Division of the SIAC with a 42-8 overall record – 12 more wins than last season and the most in NCAA Lady Panther history. For the team's efforts, Claflin was awarded the three top post-season honors and the Co-coach of the Year in the SIAC. Markea Sheppard (Utility Player of the Year), Chelsea Hall (Freshman of the Year) and Helen Keevy (Relief Pitcher of the Year) garnered top honors, as well as All Conference First Team honors. Lee was named the Coach of the Year and the 2013-14 Claflin University Coach of the Year. For the second straight season, the Claflin University cheerleading squad won the SIAC Cheerleading Champion for the All-Girls Division.

Striding with Confidence into the 21st Century

Claflin University celebrated the 140th anniversary of its founding in 2009, under the theme, "Celebrating 140 Years of Access and Success." A series of landmark events, many of them a first for the University, took place throughout the year and into 2010.

In November 2009, Claflin University received its first

visit from a Nobel Laureate, Dr. Luc Montagnier, who won the 2008 Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine for co-discovering the HIV/AIDS virus. Dr. Montagnier's visit provided students with the unprecedented opportunity to discuss their research with a Nobel Laureate. Dr. Martin Chalfie of Columbia University, the 2008 Nobel Prize winner for Chemistry, visited the campus a mere five months later to present a lecture and interact with faculty, staff and students. Dr. Chalfie said he was inspired by the enthusiasm of the students at the University. A third Nobel Laureate, Dr. Wolfgang Ketterle, the 2001 Nobel Prize winner in Physics, visited the campus and gave a lecture in September 2013.



2013 Hall of Fame Inductees

Claflin has not only garnered the attention of the world's top scientists, but the University continues to receive acknowledgements from the nation's top publications. In 2010, Forbes.com ranked Claflin University as the #1 HBCU for the second consecutive year. The highly respected online financial journal also cited the institution as one of "America's Best Buys in College Education." There were additional new rankings from U.S. News and World Report. As well as being ranked for the 13th year, this time in 12th place among Top Tier Baccalaureate Colleges in the South, Claflin was ranked #2 in the South as a "Top Up-and-Coming School." The publication also ranked Claflin #1 in the South for its "Strong Commitment to Teaching." Diverse Issues in Higher Education cited Claflin University as one of the most successful institutions to weather international economic downturn. Hispanic Network Magazine, in its hardcopy edition and on its website, included Claflin in the top 50 colleges and universities for Hispanic students.

Claflin University earned a top ranking among institutions in South Carolina and historically black colleges and universities from The Washington Monthly in its 2013 Best Liberal Arts Colleges rankings. U.S. News and World Report has consistently ranked Claflin as one of "America's Best Colleges" for the past 15 years. In the 2013 edition, Claflin was again ranked a top national liberal arts college. Claflin was also ranked #7 nationally

among HBCUs. Claflin was ranked #1 in alumni giving among HBCUs by U.S. News and World Report. Claflin students have earned national recognition for community service. In 2013, the University was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the seventh consecutive year. For the sixth year, Forbes.com ranked Claflin University one of the top colleges in the United States. Claflin was one of 13 ranked institutions in South Carolina.

In fall 2013, Claflin unveiled an additional University logo. The colorful C, designed by Creative Communications and Associates, serves as a brand refresher that is used mostly in the University's recruitment and marketing efforts.



In another historic first for the University, Hemingway, South Carolina, junior politics and justice studies major Emmanuel Pressley became Claflin's first-ever Harry S. Truman Scholar in April – and the only one from South Carolina for 2014. The Truman is a highly competitive, merit-based award offered to U.S. college students who want to go to graduate school in preparation for a career in public service.

On April 8, 2014, President and Mrs. Tisdale were recognized with a resolution from the South Carolina General Assembly for their visionary and transformative leadership in higher education for the last 20 years. The Tisdales were named The Times and Democrat newspaper's 2013 People of the Year.

In 2014, Claflin University launched GoToClaflin.com, a new, cutting-edge interactive view book that gives visitors the opportunity to explore the student experience at the University in a unique, innovative way. Claflin also launched Claflin Online, offering students an opportunity to receive the unique Claflin academic experience from anywhere, at any time. General education courses began in the summer, and three degree programs – Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice, Bachelor of Science in organizational management and Master of Business Administration – began in the fall.

Claflin University just capped another successful academic year with the conferring of 422 undergraduate and graduate degrees, a record for the University. But it was also a year filled with a number of accomplishments toward the University's rising reputation as a leading 21st Century institution of higher education.

As mentioned earlier, this was a superb year at Claflin due in part to our world class faculty, who mentored, nurtured and challenged our students to reach their full potential. And, of course, the staff of the University was equally nurturing and aided our students in acquiring additional funds to ensure our students graduate with as little debt as possible.

At Claflin, service and service learning is a core value as we prepare students for real world readiness after graduation. We are committed to maintaining our relationship with the various nonprofit agencies in our community.

In 2015, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awarded Claflin a \$1.2 million grant over 4.5 years to enhance student learning, accelerate student credentials, maintain access and close the equity gap. This collaboration focuses on the overarching goal of seeing underrepresented and underprepared students graduate at higher rates with high-quality credentials at affordable prices. Claflin received a previous grant of \$75,000 from The Foundation through the "HBCUs Pursuing Transformative Change Initiative," which challenges institutions to develop transformative changes that will ensure student access and success at institutions in the 21st century.

In April 2016, Claflin's laser-focus on developing strategies to prepare graduates for high-paying positions in the 21st century workforce resulted in the University receiving a \$100,000 planning grant from UNCF's (United Negro College Fund) Career Pathways Initiative (CPI), funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. The planning grant enables Claflin to submit a proposal for a much larger award. A winning proposal would build upon the University's history of offering strong academic programs in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and non-STEM disciplines, ongoing initiatives targeting credentials, and strategic partnerships with industries that secure high-paying jobs for graduates.

Claflin University's 146th Commencement Convocation held in May 2016 was a celebration for the 422 graduates who earned degrees. A record five students graduated with 4.0 grade point averages and six earned degrees through Claflin Online, the University's online degree program. All classes are 100 percent online and Claflin currently is the only historically black college or university in South Carolina to offer online degree programs.

Claflin University's growing reputation as a leading 21st century institution of higher education reached another historic milestone when in June 2016, the University received approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to launch its Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program during the 2016 Fall semester. Claflin becomes the only HBCU (Historically Black College/University) in the state of South Carolina to offer a bachelor's degree in nursing. The announcement also represents the dynamic progression of Claflin's increasing emphasis in STEM

(Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and online programs, while maintaining its distinction as a top-tier liberal arts university.

Claflin continues to be recognized as a top-ranked liberal arts college by Washington Monthly magazine. In the 2015 edition of the publication's annual College Guide Ranking, Claflin was ranked the number one liberal arts college in South Carolina and the top HBCU in the nation. Claflin was one of only six South Carolina colleges on the list of 248 ranked schools.

U.S. News and World Report has consistently ranked Claflin University as one of "America's Best Colleges" for the past 16 years. Claflin was again ranked a top national liberal arts college. The University was also ranked ninth nationally among historically black colleges and universities. Additionally, Claflin was HBCU Digest's HBCU of the Year in 2015 and ranked first in alumni giving among HBCUs by U.S. News and World Report. Also, Forbes.com listed Claflin as one of America's top colleges and one of 12 ranked institutions in South Carolina.

Claflin University's leadership in alumni giving was recognized in a U.S. News and World Report Short List article. Claflin was ranked No.1 with a 48.9 percent alumni giving rate during the two-year period of 2012-13 and 2013-14. Claflin's alumni giving percentage climbed back to 50 percent in 2015-16.

Claflin Athletics enjoyed a history making year in 2015-16, which included track standout Brandon Valentine-Parris becoming the University's first-ever Olympian. Valentine-Parris was named to the St. Vincent and the Grenadine's Olympic team and qualified to compete in the 400 meters. Claflin's track success in women's competition was highlighted by Trisana Fairweather who placed first at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. Fairweather, a two-time SIAC Women's Track Athlete of the Year (2015, 2016), earned All-American honors in addition to capturing the University's first-ever NCAA individual track title.

The Claflin baseball team continued the trend of "firsts." The Panthers won four straight games in the SIAC Tournament en route to capturing the school's first-ever SIAC championship title and a berth in the NCAA Division II Baseball Regionals. Jeturi Brown, Dillon Parker and Lyndale Morley were all named to the All-Tournament Team. Morley earned Most Outstanding Player honors while head coach James Randall was named the Outstanding Coach.

Today, the University enrolls approximately 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students from all regions of the United States and 17 other countries. Of Claflin's more than 120 full-time faculty members, some 80 percent hold terminal degrees. The student-faculty ration is 14-to-1. Over the past 22 years,



2016 Claflin Baseball Team was honored by the S.C. House of Representatives after winning first ever SIAC title

President Tisdale's intellectual energy and enthusiasm have heightened expectations and renewed a sense of unity in all members of the Claflin family. The University has been given a sense of academic purpose and an appreciation for its role in education for the 21st century. As a leader, Dr. Tisdale has brought the "Claflin Confidence" to the Claflin University family, and he offers both leadership and inspiration that will ensure Claflin's future rise in academic achievement.

CLAFLIN GUIDING PRINCIPLES

At the center of everything we do is a system of values informing and guiding all policies and programs. These values, expressed through our decisions and actions, are defined by five overarching guiding principles:

- COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE**
- COMMITMENT TO VALUING PEOPLE**
- COMMITMENT TO BEING CUSTOMER - FOCUSED**
- COMMITMENT TO EXEMPLARY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**
- COMMITMENT TO FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY'S VISION

Claflin University will be recognized as one of the premier 21st century undergraduate and teaching and research universities in the world that prepares effective and visionary leaders with global perspectives.

Campus Buildings

Administration

Tingley Memorial Hall – Constructed in 1908, this building was erected by Mr. Samuel Herbert Tingley in memory of his beloved wife, Mrs. Adella Malvina Tingley. This building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



Academic Buildings

Bowen Hall – Constructed in 1900, this building formerly housed the college library. It presently houses the School of Education, the Department of Teacher Education and the General Education Computer Laboratory.

Calhoun-Downs-Laymen Hall – Constructed in 1949 as a science facility, this building currently houses the University bookstore, the offices of Counseling and Placement and Cooperative Education, the Department of Art, and the Vice President for Student Development and Services.

Grace T. Kennedy Business and Communications Building – Constructed in 1992, this building houses classrooms and offices for the School of Business, the Department of English and Foreign Languages, and the Department of Mass Communications, and includes the mass communications studio.

Jonas T. Kennedy Health and Physical Education Center – Constructed in 1980 through the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Jonas T. Kennedy and The United Methodist Church, this building houses the Department of Health and Physical Education. The center also contains a 2,000-seat arena.

Lee Library – Constructed in 1898, this building is one of the oldest remaining structures on the campus. It has served as a college library and is currently the site of the Arthur Rose Art Museum.

W. Vernon Middleton Fine Arts Center – Constructed in 1968, this building contains an auditorium with a seating capacity of more than 750 people, classrooms, seminar rooms, dressing and practice rooms, and several well equipped offices.

James S. Thomas Science Center – Constructed in 1973, this building is named in honor of Bishop J.S. Thomas. The Science Center houses classrooms and offices for the biology, chemistry, mathematics and computer science departments.

The Music Center – Constructed in 2004, the building houses Claflin's nationally accredited music program.

The Molecular Science Research Center – Constructed in 2010, this 14,000 square foot building houses state-of-the-art laboratory equipment and classrooms for the University's science programs.

Residence Halls

C.L. Asbury Hall – Constructed in 1961, this three-story structure accommodates 140 women.

Fred P. Corson Hall – Constructed in 1964, this building houses a two-floor residence area for 62 women.

Mary E. Dunton Hall – Constructed in 1957, this residence hall for 116 women is named in honor of Mrs. Mary E. Dunton, wife of former Claflin President Lewis Marion Dunton.

High Rise Residence Hall – Constructed in 1970, this residence hall for 216 men rises six floors and contains modern living facilities



Kleist Hall

Student Residential Center – Constructed in 2004, this facility consists of four state-of-the-art residence halls: North Hall, South Hall, East Hall and West Hall. The Student Residential Center accommodates 300 students. The quad apartment-styled suites consist of four single-occupancy bedrooms, two full bathrooms, a common living space and a dining area. Each suite is technologically equipped with Internet, telephone and cable television connections. Also included are a series of computer study rooms for students and comfortable accommodations for residence hall managers.

Living and Learning Center Complex – Constructed in 1998, the Living and Learning Center Complex, an architecturally harmonious unit, includes one of the oldest buildings on campus (Ministers' Hall) and one of the newest (Kliest Hall).

Kleist Hall – This serves as the central residential tower for honors women. Rooms are in suites, and floors contain study rooms and computer labs. Kleist Hall honors the gift of Peter D. and Eleanore A. Kleist.

Other Buildings

Dunwalton – Constructed in 1971, this building is named in honor of the late Dr. Lewis M. Dunton. This building was retained for the residence of the president.

The Campus Center – This houses the counseling center, post office, student government offices, lounge, game room and snack bar. It is the campus home of non-residential students.

The Leadership Development Center – This houses the Center for Leadership Development and the Honors Center. **Ministers' Hall / Finney Auditorium and Library** – Constructed in 1913, this brick structure was used as the college dining hall until the fall of 1964. It currently serves as a performing arts building and in the future will house the library holdings of former South Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Ernest A. Finney.

Trustee Hall – Constructed in 1895, Trustee Hall is the oldest campus structure. This building currently houses the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Hubert V. Manning Library – Constructed in 1967, this building was named in honor of the sixth president of Claflin. The library maintains and circulates current holdings of approximately 140,000 books, bound periodicals, microfilm, and audio and video recordings. The library subscribes to more than 330 periodical publications and 24 newspapers, and manages extensive

multimedia resources.

University Dining Center – Constructed in 2004, the University Dining Center became the central connecting point of the Student Residential Center, providing the campus with a two tiered dining hall that seats 450 students at one time.

The 1869 Club – Constructed in 2004 adjacent to the University Dining Center, this space replaced the Orange and Maroon Club as a dining facility for faculty and staff. It provides a comfortable dining experience for employees, alumni and visitors, and offers an elegant environment for special University and community events.

The James and Dorothy Z. Elmore Chapel – Constructed in 2005, this \$3 million building replaced the T. Willard Lewis Chapel, which was razed in 1968.

Claflin Commons – Constructed in 2014 near Claflin's Goff Avenue entrance, Claflin Commons is a state-of-the-art 64,000 square foot upperclassmen residence hall that features a men's and women's wing with two- and four bedroom suites and many amenities.



James and Dorothy Z. Elmore Chapel



Claflin Commons

Notable Alumni

Many outstanding individuals have attended Claflin University. Here is a selection of alumni who have achieved notable success and recognition.

William Bulkley (1882) – One of the first African-Americans in America to receive the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD. from Syracuse University in 1893). He was one of two members of the first graduating college class.

Nathaniel Middleton (1882) – One of two members of the first graduating college class, he became a prominent physician in Texas.

Alice Jackson Moorer (1884) and **Annie Thortne Holmes** (1884) – Two of the first five black women in the world to receive college degrees.

Robert Bates – First African-American certified as an architect. He designed Fisk Hall, T. Willard Lewis Chapel and other campus buildings.

William Wilson Cook – Designed Lee Library (1898) and Tingley Memorial Hall. He went to Washington, D.C., to become the first black architect in the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of the Supervising Architect, planned and administered federal buildings.

Florella Fordham (1900) – First “trained” nurse in Orangeburg.

Nathaniel Frederick – First African-American admitted to the Richland County Bar. He practiced law in Columbia for 25 years.

Cassandra Maxwell Birney (High School, 1928) – First black female attorney admitted to the South Carolina Bar.

Thaddeus K. Bythewood, Sr. (1930) – Prominent Orangeburg businessman who served on the Board of Trustees for 47 years.

James S. Thomas (1939) – First African-American bishop of the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Dr. Hubert V. Manning (1940) – First alumni president of Claflin University.

Clemmie B. Hatchett (1943, honorary Doctor of Humane Letters) – Philanthropist.

Earl M. Middleton (1948, honorary Doctor of Humane Letters) – Philanthropist and owner of Coldwell Banker Middleton and Associates.

Ernest Newman (1948) – First African-American bishop of the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Arthur E. Rose (1950) – Internationally recognized artist and the first African-American educated as an art instructor in South Carolina.

Ernest A. Finney, Jr. (1952) – First African-American to serve as chief justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court.



Ernest A. Finney Jr.

Joseph B. Bethea (1953) – First African-American to serve as bishop of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Dr. Gloria Blackwell (1953) - An African-American civil rights activist and educator who was at the center of the Civil Rights Movement in Orangeburg during the 1960s. She was arrested for sitting in the “whites only” area of the regional hospital when her daughter needed emergency treatment. She sued the hospital and won, ending its segregation.

James Martin, Ph.D (1954) – First African-American to earn a PhD (biology) from the University of South Carolina.

Leo F. Twiggs (1956) – Internationally recognized artist and first African-American to receive a doctorate from the University of Georgia.



Cecil Williams

Cecil Williams (1960) – Internationally recognized photographer, author and publisher known for his extensive collection of Civil Rights photographs.

Dorothy Z. Elmore (1961) – Philanthropist.

James K. Davis (1962) – Senior Vice President for Corporate Affairs, Georgia Power Company.

James Hodges (1966) – First African-American to earn a pharmaceutical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina.

MacArthur Goodwin (1963, honorary Doctor of Humane Letters) – Past president of the National Art Education Association.

Henry N. Tisdale (1965) – Eighth president of Claflin University. First African-American to earn a PhD. in mathematics at Dartmouth College.

Nancy Wilson-Young (1965) – Professor, Miami-Dade Community College.

Rev. Charles Luther Johnson (1966, honorary Doctor of Divinity) – Greenville District Superintendent, The United Methodist Church.

Janice Marshall (1970) – Executive director of the James E. Clyburn Research and Scholarship Foundation.

Liz Zimmerman-Keitt (1970) – Founder of Project Life Positeen Mentoring Program, First African American Orangeburg City Council Member since Reconstruction; past president, Claflin University International Alumni Association.

Verlie A. Tisdale (1971) – Research scientist and Dean, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Claflin University.

Franklyn Scott (1974) – Oral surgeon and past president of the National Dental Association.

Moses Harvin (1975) – President and CEO of American Services Technology in Rockledge, Florida.

Vela McClam-Mitchell (1975) – President/CEO and Owner, Travel and Marketing Conglomerate Industry.

Cynthia V. Anderson (1980) – Chief Operations Officer for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management.

Lt. Col. Tony Memminger (1980) – Manages the Senior ROTC programs assigned to colleges and universities throughout the states of South Carolina and Tennessee, as well as at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, and Augusta State University in Augusta, Georgia.

Floyd Gordon (1981) – Acrylic artist and entrepreneur.

Col. Gloria A. Lee (1982) – Chief Transportation Branch, United States Army.

Brigadier General Twanda E. Young (1989) - First female commissioned from the Army ROTC program at Claflin to achieve the rank of Brigadier General.

Clarence T. Brown (1994) – Project Manager, NASA Curriculum Improvement Partnership Award Program, UNCF Special Programs.

Adam McFadden (1994) – Member of City Council, Rochester, New York, and social activist.



Kebra Moore

Kebra Moore (1997) – Gospel recording artist with MOKEB Entertainment.

Letisha Edwards (1998) – Dental surgeon at Coast Dental near Atlanta.

Lola Kelly Smalls (2000) – Research scientist, Proctor & Gamble Company.

Tish Archie (2000) – Vice President of Professional Recruitment, Citigroup Incorporated.

Uhriel E. Bedoya (2003) – Assistant Vice President, International Trade Finance Group, M&T Bank.

Pamela Antley (2003) – Intelligence Analyst, Equal Employment Opportunity Program Manager, Federal Bureau of Investigation.



Heyward Jean

Heyward Jean (2004) – Principal at Mellichamp Elementary School in Orangeburg and member of the first Call Me MISTER class at Claflin

Rebecca Karuiki (2006) – Financial Analyst, UBS Investment Bank.

Ernest Bevell Mensah (2006) – Investment Analyst, Goldman Sachs & Co.

Daniel Howard (2008) – New York Award Emmy Award Winner for Excellence in Teen Programming.

Steven Dial (2011) – Reporter for NBC news affiliate First Coast News WTLV/WJXX in Jacksonville, Fla.

CLAFLIN'S TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES

- The Freshman Parting Ceremony
- The Freshman Candlelight and Confirmation Ceremony
- Matriculation Day
- Homecoming
- Founders' Day
- Religious Emphasis Week
- Claflin Pride Day
- CALA-Bash
- Honors and Awards Convocation
- Baccalaureate
- Commencement

The Claflin University Alma Mater is sung at all ceremonial events on campus. The words of the Alma mater were written by Etta Butler Rowe, and the melody was composed by Annie Lisle. The song was later harmonized by Fredericka Young.

Assembly programs are designed to foster a sense of community that is open, nurturing, caring, celebrative and supportive of excellence in teaching and learning, and to enhance the intellectual, cultural, social and spiritual experiences of members of the Claflin family. Required of all students for the four semesters, assembly programs focus on issues pertaining to leadership, development, quality of life and Christian responsibility.

Claflin University International Alumni Association

Through the years, the Claflin University International Alumni Association has played a vital role in the history and growth of Claflin University. Because no specific history was recorded, it is assumed that the association had its beginnings in the early 1900s. Graduates of the university constitute a noble group of men and women who have gone forth imbued with the true spirit of the institution, ministering to the needs of humanity. The purpose of the organization includes:

- Developing and maintaining the spirit of the University.
- Bringing about a closer fellowship among the graduates, former students, administrators and friends of Claflin.
 - Promoting scholarship, education and culture.
 - Maintaining in alumni a sense of responsibility for the continued life and growth of Claflin University and its traditions
 - Promoting the organization of Claflin alumni chapters.

President: Ms. Natasha Carter, '06

Vice President: Ms. Harriet R. Young, '95

Second Vice President: Mr. JaQuez Gilliard, '16

Recording Secretary: Mr. Michael L. Ellis, '93

Assistant Secretary: Ms. LeKesha Barnes, '95

Corresponding Secretary: Ms. Tennille Jean-Paul, '00

Treasurer: Mr. Spencer Anderson, '99

Financial Secretary: Mr. Gerald Mackey, '74

Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Charles L. Johnson, '66

Parliamentarian: Dr. Liz Zimmerman Keitt, '70

Claflin University Since 1994

- 1994** Dr. Henry N. Tisdale accepts presidency.
- 1994** Claflin revives The Panther newspaper.
- 1994** The Honors College is established.
- 1996** A Claflin professor and research chemist is honored as the Governor's Professor of the Year among all senior colleges and universities in South Carolina.
- 1996** The Claflin Community Development Corporation is established as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization to revitalize nearby neighborhoods.
- 1996** The Center for Leadership Development is established.
- 1996/1997** The award-winning Freshman College is established to ease the transition of students into college life.
- 1997** Claflin expands and renovates the James S. Thomas Science Building.
- 1997** The Professional and Continuing Studies Program is established.
- 1997** The United Methodist Foundation for Christian Higher Education names a Claflin professor the Outstanding Educator of the Year. This was the first professor from a historically black college or university to win the award, as well as the first African-American woman to receive the prestigious honor.
- 1997** Division of Business earns national accreditation from the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs.
- 1998** The University establishes the Office of Information Technology to focus on technology and its importance to the academic programs and administrative operations.
- 1998** Claflin reinstates baseball after a 40-year absence.
- 1998** Claflin University constructs and dedicates the \$7 million Living and Learning Center.
- 1999** The Board of Trustees approves restoration of the institution's original and historic name, Claflin University.
- 1999** The Unit Accreditation Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education accredits the Teacher Education Program at Claflin, making the University the second private institution of higher education and the first private Historically Black College or University in South Carolina to achieve national accreditation.
- 1999** The John Templeton Foundation names Claflin University to its Honor Roll for Character-Building Colleges, and cites Claflin's Freshman College Program as one that instills character and moral values.
- 1999** Claflin establishes the Center for Excellence in Teaching.
- 1999** Ministers' Hall is renovated and restored. Ministers' Hall receives the South Carolina Historic Preservation Award.
- 1999** Corson Dining and Women's Residential Hall is renovated.
- 1999** Newly constructed front gate entrance wins the South Carolina Non-Commercial/New Construction award for architectural design.
- 1999** Dr. James and Mrs. Dorothy Z. Elmore make a \$250,000 challenge gift to construct a new chapel.
- 2000** Claflin University hosts the South Carolina Annual Methodist Conference for the first time since the 1972 merger of the white Methodist Conference with the African-American Methodist Conference.
- 2000** Nelson Brownlee, head coach for the Panterettes, captures the title of Winningest Coach in the NAIA with 612 career wins.
- 2000** A sprawling rear entrance, constructed on Goff Avenue, complements the design of the award-winning front entrance.
- 2000** Claflin gains membership in The Leadership Alliance, an academic consortium of Ivy League, national research institutions, and several historically black colleges and universities. The Leadership Alliance's mission is to help improve minority students' participation in graduate and professional schools.



Legacy Plaza

- 2001** Asbury Women's Residential Hall is renovated.
- 2001** The Abney Foundation Fund becomes the first Claflin University Endowed Scholarship to reach the \$1 million mark. The number of endowed scholarships increases to more than 100 in 2001 (from 10 in 1994).
- 2001** The University establishes the South Carolina Biotechnology Center, the first of its kind at an HBCU.
- 2002** Dr. Omar Bagasra, eminent molecular biologist, immunologist and Claflin professor of biology is named Faculty Scholar by American Association of Cancer Research.
- 2002** A Claflin professor is appointed associate editor of the Sixteenth Century Journal, the leading international journal for early modern studies.
- 2002** Human Race Relations Institute is established.
- 2002** The Center for End-of-Life Studies Program established.
- 2002** Claflin reinstates tennis.
- 2002** Dr. Shingara Sandhu, Claflin professor and research chemist, wins the National Millennium Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- 2002** Newly completed Legacy Plaza, a pedestrian-friendly walkway that connects the campus from east to west and north to south, is dedicated.
- 2002** Historic capital campaign exceeds its goal, reaching more than \$30 million.
- 2002** The Alice Carson Tisdale Honors College captures the only two national leadership appointments at the National Association of African-American Honors Programs Conference in 2002 and 2003.
- 2003** Claflin renovates and restores historic Tingley Memorial Hall and the Arthur Rose Museum. These buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- 2003** Claflin renovates the H.V. Manning Library.
- 2003** A sophomore track star captures the first-ever national championship in any sport for Claflin University, winning the NAIA National Track and Field Outdoor Championship. Claflin opens the new Visitors Center.
- 2003** Center for Vocational Reflection opens, funded by a \$2 million grant from the Lilly Endowment.
- 2003** Office of Government Relations and Research established
- 2003** The University wins the \$20,000 Pace Setter Award for achieving the highest percentage of alumni giving among South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities.
- 2003** Baccalaureate, a spiritual service held the day prior to a Commencement Convocation to celebrate the academic achievements of scholars, returns to Claflin University after being absent from the schedule of commencement activities for 30 years.
- 2004** The annual Presidential Scholarship Gala reaches over \$1 million in proceeds raised for academically talented students.
- 2004** Federal grants increase from \$4 million in 1994 to more than \$14 million.
- 2004** Claflin establishes the Department of Public Safety.
- 2004** Claflin renovates High Rise Residential Hall.
- 2004** The \$15 million Student Residential Center, comprising four residential facilities and the Student and Faculty Dining Center, is constructed to accommodate growing enrollment.
- 2004** Claflin University constructs the new \$2 million Music Building.
- 2004** Dr. Angela Peters, Claflin University research chemist and professor, wins the Millennium Award for Excellence in Teaching at HBCUs.
- 2004** The NCAA Division II approves the Claflin University intercollegiate athletic programs for full membership.
- 2005** Claflin University emerges as a leading undergraduate research-oriented institution.
- 2005** The university launches its second graduate program – the Master of Science in biotechnology.
- 2005** Claflin's MBA Program earns national accreditation from the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs.
- 2005** The Unit Accreditation Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education continues the accreditation for the University's professional education unit through 2011.
- 2005** Claflin's English Program receives recognition by the National Council of Teachers of English.



Claflin University Dining Hall

- 2005** The University's Mathematics Program receives recognition from the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics.
- 2005** The South Carolina Department of Education continues its approval of Claflin's Art Education Program.
- 2005** Claflin University strengthens its position among research institutions. For fiscal year July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006.
- 2006** The School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics brought in more than \$3,314,000 to improve its research infrastructure.
- 2005** Claflin's Chemistry Program earns national accreditation from the American Chemical Society. The program becomes one of only two nationally accredited programs at private institutions in South Carolina.
- 2005** Claflin breaks ground for the new \$3 million chapel.
- 2005** The University's Elementary Education Program earns national program approval from the Association of Childhood Education International.
- 2005** Claflin's Early Childhood Education Program earns national program approval from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
- 2005** A Claflin University mass communications major wins the prestigious Sundance Film Festival Award in the Short Documentary category.
- 2005** A Claflin professor becomes the first African-American woman to win the prestigious South Carolina Governor's Professor of the Year Award at a post-secondary institution.
- 2006** Claflin establishes its third graduate program, the Master of Governor's Professors Award for Scientific Awareness.
- 2006** Claflin does a complete makeover of the Mary E. Dunton Residential Hall for women.
- 2006** The University constructs the new chapel.
- 2006** A Claflin University professor becomes one of 20 professors nationwide to win the Woodrow Wilson National Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty.
- 2006** Claflin establishes the DNA Forensic Science Lab in collaboration with the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety and other law enforcement agencies.
- 2006** The university establishes the Jonathan Jasper Wright Institute for the Study of Southern African American History, Culture and Policy.
- 2006** A Claflin professor is appointed to the Government and External Relations Committee for the Council on Undergraduate Research.
- 2006** Claflin establishes faculty exchange program with Hofstra University.
- 2006** The Claflin University at Fort Jackson Program begins offering teacher education courses for the elementary and middle school curriculum.
- 2006** The Orangeburg County sheriff, plus nine county and city law enforcement agents, graduate in the Class of 2006 with Bachelor of Arts degrees in sociology/criminal justice.
- 2006** Two Claflin alumni, President Henry N. Tisdale ('65), and Cecil J. Williams ('60), are selected as honorees to appear on the BellSouth African American History Calendar.
- 2006** Claflin team of faculty and staff experts travel to India to conduct an HIV/AIDS awareness program underwritten by a grant from the Bush Foundation.
- 2007** Claflin consecrates the James and Dorothy Z. Elmore Chapel.
- 2007** Claflin constructs Legacy Plaza extension.
- 2007** Claflin opens new Molecular Virology Laboratory, where faculty and students conduct cervical cancer research.
- 2007** The *Chronicle of Higher Education* reports Claflin as having the second-highest retention rate among very selective HBCUs in the nation.
- 2007** *Consumers Digest* places Claflin third in a national listing of the five best-value private colleges and universities.
- 2007** The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education cites Claflin for exceptional rate of retention and graduation and ranks Claflin #2 in the nation among HBCUs for retention.
- 2007** Claflin establishes a partnership with Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia, South Carolina, to offer a degree completion program.
- 2007** Claflin's commencement speaker, U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, joins the Class of 2007 as a proud Claflinite when he receives the honorary Doctor of Laws degree during the Commencement Convocation.
- 2007** The Alice Carson Tisdale Honors College captures national leadership appointments at the National Association of African-American Honors Programs Conference, having won the awards in 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007.
- 2007** Claflin awards Master of Science degrees in biotechnology to its first cadre of graduate students.
- 2007** Claflin awards Master of Education degrees in educational studies to its first cadre of graduate students.

- 2007** Claflin University Center for Professional and Continuing Studies Degree Completion Program establishes a partnership with the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina, to offer higher education opportunities to employees of Wackenhut Savannah River Site.
- 2007** Claflin awards first Bachelor of Science in engineering degrees, and first Master of Education in educational studies degrees.
- 2007** Claflin awards first Master of Science in biotechnology degrees.
- 2007** Claflin's Center for Professional and Continuing Studies partners with Technical College of the Low Country to offer continuing education courses in Beaufort, South Carolina
- 2007** Claflin University continues to earn high national rankings in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2008 "Guide book to America's Best Colleges and Universities." Claflin ranks high, coming in at #10 in the category of "Best Baccalaureate Colleges" (South Region) in its 2008 listings of "America's Best Colleges," thus marking the institution's 10th consecutive year of being recognized by one of the nation's leading periodicals. For 2007, the University retains its position among the Top Five Best Value institutions, coming in at #2.
- 2008** Claflin University receives full membership into the NCAA Division II Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
- 2008** Forbes.com ranks Claflin University as the top historically black college or university in the nation and in the top 4 percent of the nation's colleges and universities in its inaugural list of "America's Best Colleges."
- 2008** The Claflin University Concert Choir travels to China to participate in a 10-day choral salute to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.
- 2008** Claflin University senior Aundreta Conner becomes the University's first-ever Fulbright Scholar.
- 2008** Former President Bill Clinton visits Claflin University to campaign on behalf of his wife, presidential candidate Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.
- 2008** Claflin University President Henry N. Tisdale is awarded the 2008 CASE District III Executive Leadership Award in recognition of his exceptional vision and successful stewardship of the University.
- 2008** Claflin University Men's Basketball Team travels to Trinidad and Tobago to compete in the first-ever Trinidad and Tobago Hoops Classic.
- 2008** Claflin University unveils its new branding campaign "The World Needs Visionaries" during the Matriculation Day Convocation.
- 2008** Claflin University is named to the *President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll* for its outstanding commitment to serving others.
- 2009** Claflin biology major Keiara Berry ('10) received the Outstanding Poster Presentation Award in Cellular Biological Sciences from the annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students.
- 2009** Thirty-eight Claflin University faculty, staff and students traveled to Washington, D.C., to witness the inauguration of Barack Obama as the nation's 44th president.
- 2009** For the first time in Claflin University's history, the University conferred two individuals as valedictorians; Sarah Pace, Claflin's first white valedictorian, and Johnny Walker, the first African-American male valedictorian at the University in 14 years.
- 2009** Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Eugene Robinson of The Washington Post delivers the keynote address during the Commencement Convocation.
- 2009** Dr. Luc Montagnier, the 2008 winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine, visits Claflin University to present his landmark research on the HIV/AIDS virus and meet with stakeholders.
- 2009** Claflin University partners with the Medical University of South Carolina to participate in the National Institute of Health-sponsored Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award, which is designed to usher post doctoral students into an academic career.
- 2009** The Claflin University Concert Choir embarks on a coast-to-coast national tour that visits nine states.
- 2009** Claflin University celebrates the 15th anniversary of the presidency of Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, commemorating a period of unprecedented success at the University.
- 2009** Claflin University Men's Basketball team finishes its first regular season as conference champions in the SIAC with an impressive 23-2 record. This feat enabled the Panthers to make the NCAA Division II National Championship Tournament. Head Coach Ron Woodward is named SIAC Coach of the Year.
- 2009** Claflin University alumnus Daniel Howard ('08) wins the New York Emmy Award for Excellence in Teen Programming for his documentary *Bullets in the Hood*.
- 2009** Claflin University President Henry N. Tisdale is conferred with an honorary doctorate from Hofstra University. He also serves as the keynote speaker at Hofstra's Honors Convocation.

- 2009** Claflin University's School of Humanities and Social Sciences is the recipient of the S.C. Governor's Awards in the Humanities for its exemplary support of public humanities programs, becoming the first HBCU in the state to be recognized in this regard.
- 2009** Claflin University is selected as one of 10 South Carolina institutions to participate in a \$20 million National Science Foundation grant designed to advance the field of biofabrication.
- 2009** Claflin University celebrates its year-long 140th Anniversary with the theme "140 Years of Access and Success." In April 2010, the University held its first- ever Claflin Annual Arts and Letters Bash, which featured a wide variety of artistic performances ranging from opera to jazz.
- 2010** For the first time in its illustrious 140-year history, Claflin University has three students, Racquel Whyte, Gabrielle Garbo and Nicola Whitley, finish with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Whyte is named the Class of 2010's valedictorian on the basis of accumulating the most credit hours.
- 2010** Claflin University President Dr. Henry N. Tisdale is named Man of the Year at the 18th annual Summit of Seven Mens and Boys Conference in Palm Bay, Florida. The Summit of Seven is the brainchild of Board
- 2010** Claflin University opens its state-of-the-art Molecular Science Research Center. NASA Astronaut Robert Satcher is the keynote speaker at the public unveiling ceremony.
- 2010** Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young visits the campus and meets faculty, staff and students.
- 2010** Claflin University Chemistry Department Chair Dr. Angela Peters is the first woman of color elected as chair of the South Carolina Section of the American Chemical Society.
- 2010** President Henry N. Tisdale is appointed to serve on the executive committee of Gov. Nikki Haley's transition team. The Concert Choir performs at her inauguration in January 2011.
- 2011** Junior Keiwon Brown is invited to attend the National Prayer Breakfast by U.S. Senator Jim DeMint.
- 2011** Dr. Omar Bagasra, professor of biology and director of the S.C. Center for Biotechnology, is selected to lead an effort to establish a first-of-its-kind vaccine center in Pakistan to aid in combatting diseases and venomous snake bites.
- 2011** Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Nicholas Panasik is awarded the Faculty Career Development Program grant from the National Science Foundation, an award that places him among the best junior faculty in the nation.
- 2011** Track and field star Laquan Priest is named Claflin's first NCAA Division II All-American.
- 2011** Claflin University is featured on three national Fox News Channel segments, which highlights photographer Cecil Williams ('60), President Dr. Henry N. Tisdale and the institution's academic programs.
- 2011** Claflin University publicly launches its historic \$96.4 million capital campaign in June.
- 2011** Claflin University is ranked as a top tier national liberal arts institution by U.S. News and World Report.
- 2011** President Henry N. Tisdale is inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame for his visionary leadership and contributions to higher education.
- 2012** Claflin University receives reaffirmation of accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools without any further recommendations.
- 2012** Former S.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Ernest A. Finney ('52) is inducted into the S.C. Hall of Fame. The Renaissance Cultural Arts Center Museum in Columbia was renamed the Ernest A. Finney, Jr. Civil Rights Museum in his honor.
- 2012** Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Leslie Wooten-Blanks receives the American Association for Cancer Research Minority Serving Institution Faculty Scholar Award for her chemotherapy research.
- 2012** The Claflin University student body reaches its fund-raising goal of \$100,000 for the capital campaign, becoming the first constituent group to reach its goal.
- 2012** Claflin University's catcher/designated hitter Donald Smith is drafted by the Boston Red Sox, making him the school's first-ever draft selection.
- 2012** Claflin biology professor Dr. Omar Bagasra, director of the S.C. Center for Biotechnology, is granted a U.S. patent for a process that could one day lead to a preventive HIV vaccine.



Dr. Omar Bagasra is recognized as Professor of the Year

- 2013** Dr. and Mrs. Henry N. Tisdale announce a \$250,000 gift to the University. Their gift will be used to endow a professorship in the STEM – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – disciplines; support two endowed scholarships, the Alice Carson Tisdale Endowed Scholarship in Education and the Henry N. Tisdale Endowed Scholarship in Mathematics; and provide scholarship support for students in other disciplines and student athletes.
- 2013** The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education's Unit Accreditation Board reaffirms Claflin University's School of Education accreditation.
- 2013** Claflin unveils an additional University logo. The colorful C, designed by Creative Communications and Associates, serves as a brand refresher that is used mostly in the University's recruitment and marketing efforts.
- 2013** Claflin University hosts "From Brown (1954) to Brown (1963) and Beyond: Achieving Educational Equality in South Carolina," a special daylong symposium to commemorate the 50th anniversary of school desegregation in South Carolina, to address the role the state, counties and communities play in providing quality education for all students.
- 2013** Claflin University breaks ground on Claflin Commons, a new student housing complex. The new 64,000 square foot residence hall – which establishes a new gateway to the campus from Goff Avenue – is comprised of two three-story wings, one each for men and women, with accommodations for approximately 200 students in two- and four-bedroom suites.
- 2013** Dr. Wolfgang Ketterle, the 2001 Nobel Prize in Physics winner, visits the Claflin campus to share his discovery of the Bose-Einstein condensate and passion for physics. He said he was impressed by the energy at Claflin University, and "the passion and the quality of the faculty, and also the quality of the research facilities I've seen here. This is really a good school." He is the third Nobel Laureate to visit the University.
- 2013** Claflin University hosts retired U.S. Ambassador James Irvin Gadsden as part of the University's Visionary Leadership Institute.
- 2013** Claflin University and Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College enter into memorandums of understanding in several academic areas so that students can earn bachelor's degrees in early childhood education, elementary education, mid-level education, and politics and justice studies. Also offered are academic tracks for professional and continuing studies students to earn bachelor's degrees in either sociology and criminal justice administration or organizational management.
- 2013** Sodexo, the corporation that provides integrated food and facilities management services for Claflin, becomes the largest single donor in the University's history when it contributes \$4.35 million to the Campaign for Claflin University.
- 2013** Claflin's Dr. Omar Bagasra, Dr. Verlie Tisdale and Dr. Kamal Chowdhury are awarded a patent for the development of a microorganism that will make it easier to transform cellulose biomass into butanol.
- 2013** Claflin holds a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new Student Health Center in one of its existing buildings, Millwood A, after the center had to be relocated to make way for Claflin Commons.
- 2013** Claflin University alumni giving percentage increases nearly 10 percentage points in 2013, from 43 percent to a record 52.2 percent, placing Claflin's alumni giving rate among the best in the nation.
- 2013** Orangeburg's The Times and Democrat newspaper names Claflin President Henry N. Tisdale and Mrs. Alice Carson Tisdale its 2013 People of the Year.
- 2014** Claflin University launches GoToClaflin.com, a new, cutting-edge interactive view book that gives visitors the opportunity to explore the student experience at the University in a unique, innovative way.
- 2014** The South Carolina General Assembly honors Dr. and Mrs. Henry N. Tisdale for their contributions to Claflin University, the state and the surrounding communities, as well as their visionary and transformative leadership in higher education for the last 20 years.



Dr. and Mrs. Henry N. Tisdale during presentation by the South Carolina General Assembly

- 2014** Junior politics and justice studies major Emmanuel Pressley becomes Claflin University's first-ever Harry S. Truman Scholar, and the only one from South Carolina for 2014.
- 2014** Claflin hosts its inaugural Entrepreneurship Business Competition as part of its third annual Business Week observance.

2014 Claflin University launches Claflin Online, offering students an opportunity to receive the unique Claflin academic experience from anywhere, at any time. General education courses began in the summer, and three degree programs – Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice, Bachelor of Science in organizational management and Master of Business Administration – began in the fall.

2014 *The U.S. News and World Report* ranks Claflin first among historically black colleges and universities on its Short List for the University's alumni giving rate.

2014 Claflin holds inaugural Henry N. Tisdale Visionary Leadership Pre-College Academy for middle and high school students from Williamsburg County.

2014 Claflin's Department of Music is approved for full membership by the Commission on Accreditation of the National Association of Schools of Music.

2015 Claflin University is named the AARP/ HBCU Digest HBCU of the Year. The Claflin University International Alumni Association was also named Alumni Association of the Year.

2015 The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awards Claflin a \$1.2 million grant over 4.5 years to enhance student learning, accelerate student credentials, maintain access and close the equity gap.

2016 Claflin Baseball team captures the 2016 Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) championship.

2016 Six members of the Class of 2016 were the first to earn online degrees through Claflin Online, the University's online degree program that launched in 2014. Claflin is the only HBCU in South Carolina which offers 100 percent online degree programs.

2016 Claflin University launches the RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program in the 2016 Fall Semester. Claflin becomes the only HBCU (Historically Black College/University) in the state of South Carolina to offer a bachelor's degree in nursing.



2016 Track and field standout Brandon Valentine-Parris becomes the university's first Olympian. Valentine-Parris, a rising junior at Claflin, traveled to the 2016 Olympics in Rio and represented his home country St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Valentine – Parris participated in the 400-meter dash.



A school-record five students graduates with 4.0 grade point averages during Claflin's 146th Commencement Convocation in May 2016.



The U.S. News and World Report ranks Claflin first among historically black colleges and universities

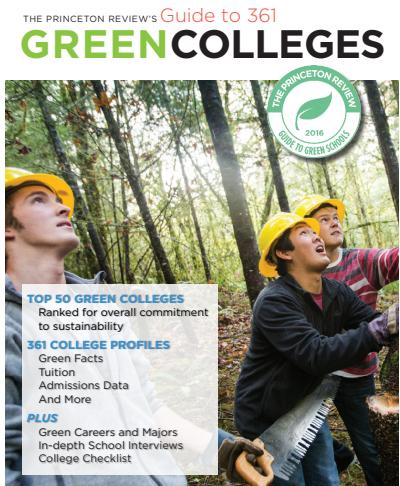
2016 Claflin University raises more than **\$105 million** and exceeded the \$100 million goal of its *Imagine the Possibilities* Capital Campaign. The campaign was the most successful in University history. The priorities of the campaign were Building the Endowment, Strengthening Academic Programs and Enhancing Facilities.



Imagine the Possibilities Capital Campaign celebration.

2016 Claflin University is listed among the most “heavenly HBCU campuses” by Black Southern Belle, a lifestyle magazine focusing on all things fashion, style, home décor and southern.

2016 Claflin University is listed in Princeton Review’s 2016 Guide to 361 Green Colleges. The guidebook profiles colleges with the most exceptional commitments to sustainability based on their academic offerings and career preparation for students, campus policies, initiatives, and activities. The profiles include information on a school’s use of renewable energy, recycling and conservation programs to the availability of environmental studies, and career guidance for green jobs. According to Princeton Review, 2,000 schools were invited to participate, and out of the responses, 361 schools were profiled.



2016 Claflin University, Benedict and Voorhees College receives part of a \$35.4 million grant under the UNCF® Career Pathways Initiative (CPI), funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. The grant will help the

institutions design and implement programs to improve employment outcomes for graduates. UNCF has allocated a \$6 million grant to these three universities: Claflin University (\$3.3 million), Benedict College (\$1.5 million), and Voorhees College (\$1.2 million). A portion of the Claflin University grant (\$1.8 million) will operate a jointly-established State Coordinating Office to direct and monitor all of the activities of the awarded institutions.



From left to right: Dr. Michael L. Lomax, President and CEO of UNCF; Dr. David H. Swinton, President of Benedict College; Dr. W. Franklin Evans, President of Voorhees College; and Dr. Henry N. Tisdale.

2016 President Henry Tisdale delivers State of the University Address and Claflin LEADS Initiatives at 147th Matriculation Day Convocation. “Claflin LEADS: A Shared Vision for the 21st Century” was the theme of the president’s message which affirmed the University’s growing reputation in higher education. LEADS is an acronym for Leadership Development, Experiential Learning, Academic Progress, Diversity and Student Success.

2016 Claflin University and the South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that offers a seamless pathway for associate degree graduates to matriculate at Claflin to earn Bachelors of Arts and Bachelors of Science degrees. The agreement also allows students who have earned associate degrees to enroll in Claflin as juniors with the possibility of graduating with a bachelor’s degree within 18 months.



Signing of the South Carolina Technical College System MOU.

2016 Claflin University is approved to participate in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) which allows Claflin to recruit and market its online programs in states outside of South Carolina. SARA is an agreement among member states, districts and territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. It is intended to make it easier for students to take online courses offered by postsecondary institutions based in another state. SARA is overseen by a National Council and administered by four regional education compacts. Claflin's approval by SARA comes only two years after the launch of Claflin Online – the University's online education program.

2017 Claflin celebrates its inaugural graduates of the Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing and the Master of Education Degree in Curriculum and Instruction programs at the 147th Commencement Convocation. Also, 10 graduating seniors achieved cumulative 4.0 grade point averages. These students, referred to as "The Talented 10," were members of the Alice Carson Tisdale Honors College.



The "Talented 10"

2017 Dr. Ananda Mondal, who receives the Attorney William H. and Annette B. Johnson Endowed Faculty Award for Innovative Scientific Research, and is awarded the prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) Early Career Development Award and a \$550,000 research grant. Mondal is an assistant professor of mathematics and computer science at Claflin.



Dr. Ananda Mondal receives the Attorney William H. and Annette B. Johnson Endowed Faculty Award.

2017 Claflin announces the launch of the Master of Science in Criminal Justice Degree Program for the 2017 Fall Semester.

2017 Claflin University is ranked on a list of the Best Colleges in South Carolina by BestColleges.com, a leading provider of higher education information and resources. "The Best Colleges in South Carolina ranking aims to promote higher education institutions in the state that are committed to excellent academic education and affordable, meaningful learning opportunities for prospective students," says Stephanie Snider, general manager at BestColleges.com. "Claflin University certainly deserves a spot on this ranking due to their rich history in east coast education as well as their offering of 36 undergraduate majors, four graduate degrees and six online degrees from fields such as business, education, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences and mathematics."



2017 Claflin University signs partnership agreements with Regional Medical Center (RMC) and Orangeburg-Calhoun Counties Technical College that will enable registered nurses and students who earn an associate degree in nursing to earn a bachelor's degree online through Claflin's RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Claflin is the only HBCU in South Carolina to offer a bachelor's degree in nursing.

2017 Claflin University's leadership in alumni annual giving is recognized by *U.S. News and World Report's* Short List. Claflin is ranked Number 1 with a 47.7 percent alumni annual giving rate during the two-year period of 2013-14 and 2014-15. The report is based on the 46 Historically Black Colleges/Universities (HBCUs) that submitted data to the publication in an annual survey. Claflin reached a historic plateau in 2013 with its 52.2 percent alumni annual giving rate. For 2016, the University had a 52 percent alumni annual giving rate.

2017 Claflin University dedicates its Veterans Monument to honor veterans who served in the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and Merchant Marines. The names of the veterans provide a historical narrative of the university's ROTC program. The monument was the vision of the late Charles H. Johnson (a former dean of student affairs) who wanted to honor veterans who attended or were employed at Claflin. Johnson was also Claflin's coordinator and director of the pilot ROTC Cross-Enrollment program.



2017 Claflin is ranked eighth among the 25 Best Colleges in South Carolina by College Choice, a leading online authority in college and university rankings and resources. Claflin University is the only historically black college or university (HBCU) listed in the ranking.

2017 Claflin University's "Throwing Shade" celebration on Monday, August 21, for the first total eclipse of the sun visible from the contiguous United States (excluding Alaska and Hawaii) since 1979, creates astonishment, excitement, and curiosity, throughout the campus community. Students and visitors donned their solar eclipse safety glasses as the much-anticipated moment of the total eclipse began at 2:43 p.m.



2017 Claflin University's music education program is ranked 10th nationally by College Magazine's "10 Cutting Edge College Music Education Programs." The list credits the Bachelor of Arts in Music Education degree program and its comprehensive coursework, clinical experience and world-renowned faculty for preparing the next generation of professional musicians and educators. Claflin is the only historically black college or university (HBCU) listed in the ranking.

2017 For the seventh consecutive year, Claflin University is placed among the top 10 in U.S. News and World Report's annual ranking of the nation's Top 20 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

2017 The ground-breaking ceremony of Claflin's new Health and Wellness Complex launches the construction of a dynamic, multi-purpose facility that will provide benefits for the campus community and area residents beyond the walls of the University. The Health and Wellness Complex is a 33,000 square-foot facility that will expand and renovate the existing Jonas T. Kennedy Health and Physical Education Center. The complex will provide holistic health, nutrition, and life-long wellness education to the campus community and local residents. The ultra-modern facility will include an auxiliary gym, fitness center, demonstration kitchen, walking track, office space, classrooms, and a farmer's market with locally-sourced foods. The project received funding from a variety of sources including Claflin's capital campaign, Orangeburg County, the United Methodist Church, Sodexo, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, AFLAC and other donors.



2017 Claflin University's music education program is recognized in an article published by College Magazine titled "6 Inspiring HBCUs for Music Education Programs." The Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education is designed for students who plan to teach music in levels K-12. It also prepares students to pursue graduate studies in music education and performing areas including piano, vocal, or instrumental music.

2017

A landmark study commissioned by UNCF titled “HBCUs Make America Strong: The Positive Economic Impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities” documents the significant economic contributions of Claflin University and the nation’s network of HBCUs by quantifying their impact on the economy, employment and increased earning power of their students. The study was underwritten by Citi Foundation and the economic estimates were prepared by the University of Georgia’s Selig Center for Economic Growth. Key findings of the study outlines that (1) Claflin University helps to make Orangeburg strong by generating \$79 million in total economic impact; (2) Claflin University generates 835 jobs for their local and regional economies; and (3) Graduates of Claflin University can expect to earn \$1 billion over their lifetimes, 70 percent more than they could expect to earn without a college credential.



2017

Claflin hosts the groundbreaking of the \$4.5 million Highway 601 Project funded by the South Carolina Department of Transportation. The construction will enhance pedestrian and vehicular safety adjacent to the campus. This project will work to retain the historic nature and ambiance of the campus from Boulevard to Magnolia Streets and from Goff Avenue all the way down to Clark Street.

2018

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution publishes a series of stories that examines Historically Black Colleges and Universities - their place in society, their future and their challenges. In this exposé, Claflin University was featured in two articles titled “Claflin University: Tiny South Carolina School Shoots for the Stars” and “Alumni Giving at Claflin University Sets National Black College Standard.”



**The Atlanta
Journal-Constitution**

2018

Claflin University President Dr. Henry N. Tisdale is featured in a New York Times article about Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos’s effort to tighten a wide-ranging regulation that offers federal debt relief to students who were defrauded or deceived by their higher-education institutions. Dr. Tisdale’s comments were related to the detrimental effect the policy could have on historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

The New York Times



Henry N. Tisdale, the president of Claflin University in Orangeburg, S.C., says his small, nonprofit school should not be lumped in with for-profit colleges under Education Department regulations. Sean Rayford for The New York Times

2018

Claflin University demonstrates its emphasis on global outreach during a visit by Dr. Munashe Furusa, vice chancellor of Africa University. Furusa and James Salley, Africa University’s vice chancellor for institutional advancement, traveled to Claflin for a meeting with President Henry N. Tisdale and other University administrators to discuss implementation of a partnership which includes a faculty/student exchange program. A memorandum of understanding was signed in March 2017 by Claflin and Africa University. The partnership aligns with the Claflin University Strategic Plan, “Claflin LEADS: A Shared Vision for the 21st Century,” which lists experiential learning and diversity and inclusion among its priorities. The relationship is also consistent with Claflin’s vision to “develop a diverse and inclusive community of globally engaged visionary leaders.” Both Claflin and Africa University are affiliated with The United Methodist Church.



2018 Claflin University is awarded a \$500,000 grant by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to revitalize the School of Humanities and Social Sciences General Education Curriculum. The grant supports Claflin's goal of addressing the needs of the 21st Century workforce by re-engineering the general education curriculum. The primary focus is to prepare graduates for career opportunities through classroom and internship experiences.

2018 Claflin University's men's basketball team (The Panthers) captures the 2018 Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) Tournament Title when they defeated Clark Atlanta University in the championship game. The win gave the Panthers the conference's automatic berth in the NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Regionals.



2018 Claflin University is elected to full membership in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) after its exit from the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC). Claflin sponsors men's basketball, women's basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, men's and women's indoor track and field, men's and women's outdoor track and field, and men's and women's cross country. Claflin raised the profile of its athletic program when it became a NCAA Division II member in 2008 and concurrently joined the SIAC.



2018 After serving Claflin University as its eighth president for more than two decades, Dr. Henry N. Tisdale on Tuesday, April 17, 2018, announces his retirement effective June 30, 2019. His tenure at his alma mater is marked by visionary leadership and remarkable accomplishments for the oldest historically black college or university in South Carolina.



2018 Distinguished author and White House correspondent April Ryan serves as the keynote speaker for Claflin University's 148th Commencement Convocation. During the ceremony, Ryan was also granted an honorary doctorate degree from Claflin University.



2018 Claflin University hosts the 11th Anniversary of the James and Dorothy Z. Elmore Chapel. The guest speaker for the anniversary worship service was Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, resident bishop of the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.



2018 Claflin University wins \$30,000 in the 2018 Home Depot Retool Your School Grant Competition. The program encourages and recognizes innovative projects that contribute to the beautification of HBCU campuses. Claflin University will transform an unused campus green space into an outdoor gathering and eco-friendly environment for students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors. The pavilion will include ceiling fans, lighting, built-in stone seating, and a built-in stone barbecue pit and serving counter.



2018 Claflin University celebrates its Sesquicentennial Celebration with a year-long schedule of events from November 2018-November 2019.



The Claflin University Alma Mater

Words by Etta Butler Rowe, 1896-1903 | Revised by Isaiah McGee, 2014
Melody by Annie Lisle | Harmonized by Dr. Fredericka Young

*When the sun of Carolina
Mounts the eastern sky
Proudly stands our Alma Mater,
On the hilltop high.*

*When the evening twilight deepens
And the shadows fall,
Linger long the golden sunbeams,
O'er the western wall.*

*When the Shades of night shall gather,
Dark the heart may be,
Still the rays of youth and love,
Shall linger long o'er thee.*

Chorus

*Orange, Maroon, float for aye
Claflin fair o'er thee,
*May we all be leal and loyal
To thy memory*

*original text "May thy sons be leal and loyal"



VISIONARY
CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

THE CLAFLIN CREED

As a community of visionary scholars at **CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY**, we dedicate ourselves to model the institution's **Guiding Principles** and to achieve academic excellence through: integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, excellence, civility, service and leadership.

INTEGRITY I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.

SCHOLARSHIP I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose and use rigorous, responsible, and critical inquiry to understand existing knowledge, acquire and share new knowledge, and apply what has been learned.

COMMUNITY I will promote an open and supportive campus and community environment by respecting the rights and contributions of others.

CREATIVITY I will share and use my talents to enrich the human experience.

EXCELLENCE I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor undertaken.

CIVILITY I will respect the rights of others and be mindful of the impact of my words and actions by being kind, courteous, and avoiding overt rudeness.

SERVICE I will work with others to improve the communities in which I now live and will touch in the future.

LEADERSHIP I will be responsible for my conduct, the results of my actions, placing respect above popularity, and honor above all else.

As a member of the Claflin Community, I pledge to uphold the values that guide my conduct, performance, and decisions set forth in the **CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY CREED**.



Claflin University *The World Needs Visionaries*





VISIONARY
CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

THE PANTHER SERVICE COMMITMENT

Our Service Commitment To You

"We will greet you professionally, listen effectively, and respond quickly."

GREET PROFESSIONALLY

- We will greet our customers in a courteous and professional manner.
- We will interact with each other in a courteous and professional manner.
- We will hold ourselves and each other accountable for addressing inappropriate comments and behavior.

LISTEN EFFECTIVELY

- We will listen effectively to our customers' request and promptly take the necessary actions to assist them.
- We will keep our customers informed of unexpected delays in service.
- We will work to resolve issues with co-workers and other departments by discussing problems directly and working toward agreed upon solutions.

RESPOND QUICKLY

- We will inform our customers of normal process times, when they can expect completion and any delays that may arise in the process.
- We will respond to website request questions/requests within 24 hours during normal business hours.
- We will respond within 24 hours of normal business process time to let them know when they can expect completion and any delays that may arise in the process.
- We will finish our encounters with our customers in a courteous and professional way.

Claflin University *The World Needs Visionaries*



